
Human Computer Interaction

Assignment (For Class Presentation)

1. Find out all you can about natural language interfaces. Are there any successful systems? For what applications are these most appropriate?
2. What influence does the social environment in which you work have on your interaction with the computer? What effect does the organization (commercial or academic) to which you belong have on the interaction?
3. The typical computer screen has a WIMP setup (what does WIMP stand for?). Most common WIMP arrangements work on the basis of a desktop metaphor, in which common actions are likened to similar actions in the real world. For example, moving a file is achieved by selecting it and dragging it into a relevant folder or filing cabinet. The advantage of using a metaphor is that the user can identify with the environment presented on the screen. Having a metaphor allows users to predict the outcome of their actions more easily.
Note that the metaphor can break down, however. What is the real-world equivalent of formatting a disk? Is there a direct analogy for the concept of 'undo'? Think of some more examples yourself.