

Software Engineering Design II

Tutorial 1

In this tutorial, you will be choosing and describing two products that require human interaction. The goal is to practice describing and analysing a product's interface as well as to develop an awareness to different kinds of users and to what constitutes good or poor design.

Choose two simple interactive systems: one that you find particularly easy to use and one you find difficult to use. Simple software applications (e.g. software calculators, image viewers, text editors) or Web sites are examples of possible choices, as are tangible products such as (physical) calculators, ATM machines or ticket dispensers are acceptable too. However, avoid complicated office and business software such as word processors, database systems, or spreadsheets or complex gadgets such as DVD recorders.

For the product you find easy to use, describe or answer the following (each in a couple of sentences):

- What is the product?
- What task does the product perform?
- Present one way in which this product is easy for you to use
- How would someone else find this product difficult to use?
- How could this difficulty be resolved?

For the product you find difficult to use, describe or answer the following (each in a couple of sentences):

- What is the product?
- What task does the product perform?
- Present one way in which this product is difficult for you to use
- How could this difficulty be resolved?
- How would someone else find this product easy to use?

With a few sentences, summarize an important difference between the two products that affected your answers.