

6.811: Principles and Practice of Assistive Technology Mid-Semester Report

In addition to your mid-semester presentation, each team should submit a report describing their client, their contextual inquiry, and their early-stage design and prototyping work. The report should include the content in the presentation, along with additional supplementary content.

Instructions:

- Your report should be titled "Mid-Semester Report for Team [Client Name]."
- All team members should be listed as authors (and must contribute to the writing!).
- You should use one-and-a-half-spaced text and adhere to the length guidelines below.
- Roughly 60% of the document should be text, and the rest should be photos, video frames, or figures.
- Your report should be in PDF format.

Report Contents

Section 1: Contextual Inquiry (5-7 pages)

In this section, your document should focus exclusively on the client and on contextual inquiry around the task of interest using the HAAT model. Do not include your ideas about the assistive technology project that that might help the client.

Human

- Start the document by generally and briefly describing your client (age, gender), his/her living situation (independent, alone, in group etc.) and general level and type of activity, including occupational status. State where you met your client, and include a photo of him or her if possible.
- Describe your client's disability. How is this individual representative of others with this kind of disability? In what ways is this individual distinctive or unique? Describe any "meta"-issues (e.g. about communication or assumptions or fatigue) that arose during your meeting.

Activity

- Discuss the activity you identified that the client wishes to do (but currently cannot), or that the client wishes to do more of, do more independently, do faster or better or more reliably, or do in more places than s/he can currently manage.

Context

- What is the client's physical, social, cultural, and institutional context?
- How do elements of the context (including availability, or unavailability, of assistance) relate to or contribute to the functional impairment?
- What contextual aspects are salient in consideration of this client's situation, and how?
- Include one or more photos of relevant aspects of the physical context, if necessary for the reader to understand the nature functional impairment.

Assistive Technology

- Describe the strategies that the client has used or tried in the past to perform the activity of interest. What assistive technology or technologies, if any, has the client used or tried? In what way have those strategies or assistive technologies failed or only partially succeeded? Briefly describe what you understand to be the cause of this failure in terms of the disability, the activity, and/or the context.

Success Metric

- Define a "success metric" for your client and your project. The metric can have both qualitative and quantitative aspects. Define a monotonic scale (low to high) for each aspect of your metric,

and evaluate the client's current level of ability with respect to the scale you have defined for that aspect. Keep in mind that you will use your metric(s) as design constraints in the next phase of the class, and will evaluate them repeatedly during the term; define the metric(s) so as to facilitate this kind of engineering use.

Section 2: Project Organization and Progress (3-5 pages)

You should also describe your team's progress to date. In particular, you should include the following:

- How are you tackling the project, and what sub-tasks you are taking on in what order?
- Your initial design concepts, including a diagram, sketch or photo of each concept.
- Your client's reactions to the concepts and/or mockups that you presented.
- How you've used iterative design to narrow and revise those concepts based on your client's feedback.
- Your current documentation practices (including, if applicable, links)
- The resources and contacts (e.g. facilities, other advisors from outside the class, relationships with companies or organizations) that you require for your project, and your current contact status with them.
- An estimated budget for your project, including expenses to date.
- Finally, you should also describe the role and contributions to date of each individual member of your team, as well as their expected contributions for the remainder of the project.

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Fall 2014

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