INFOST 691 – User-Centered Interaction Design
Best and Worst Interfaces Assignment
Instructions

Overview
Prior to starting this course, many of us had strong opinions about the goodness or badness of the interfaces that we encountered in our everyday life. Some of these opinions may have been based on prior coursework in human-computer interaction (HCI). Others may have been based on our natural reactions as users.

One important goal of this course is for each student to master the interface evaluation skills of the interaction design practitioner. Toward that end, we have done extensive reading of text book (ID4e) chapters and journal articles. Our objective has been to develop the point-of-view, the theoretical framework, and the vocabulary that will allow us to evaluate interfaces more thoroughly, more objectively, and more constructively.

The purpose of this assignment is to practice our evaluation technique by writing evaluations of two interfaces (one good, one bad) based upon the material covered in the class to date:

- ID4e Chapters 1 – 6
- Journal articles assigned through Week 3

Choice of Interfaces
Choose two interfaces: one that you believe is notably good, and one that you believe is notably bad. These can be Web sites, Web applications, mobile applications, dedicated desktop applications, digitally enhanced physical devices, or system software products that include a significant user interaction component. Because you are not comparing these interfaces to each other, you need not worry about choosing them both from the same type of application or interface. Here are a few further considerations to keep in mind while making your choices:

- Pick an interface that can easily be shown either by including a screen shot or by including a URL.
- Pick an interface about which you can easily make observations that relate directly to the material covered so far in the course.

Expected Length and Style
Your submission should be a typewritten paper of approximately 1,000 words (roughly 500 per interface chosen). The writing should be professional prose that would be appropriate for a term paper. While bulleted or numbered lists may be included, they should not dominate the content. While your discussion should use terms and concepts from the material covered in the course, formal footnotes and references are NOT required.

Format
Submit 1 **PDF** document.

Due Date
Please see the Weekly Schedule for the date and time when this assignment is due.