Assignment 02 – Interface Critique – Digital Interfaces

Find a digital interface out and about in the real world. As in the physical interface field study, this can include appliances, vending machines, self-serve kiosks (services, government), information booths, ATMS. Look for something that does not have any analogue inputs and is primarily a touch screen.

Take a picture of the interface with your phone. Look at the interface and think how intuitive it is to use. Is it hand/finger ready? How long do you have to think about what the necessary steps to complete a task?

Once you have done some research, write up a how to fix the interface to simplify the overall interface, how to simplify or improve the steps to complete the tasks and what kind of affordances does the interface provide or needs to provide? Look at the labels, types of inputs the interface communicates, does the order of steps make sense?

Number your observations in relation to the interface. Some points to consider:

- Procedural: What does the app/website do? (composed of executable rules)

- Participatory: What can I (the user) do? Calls to Action/Feature sets (invites human action and manipulation of the represented world)

- Encyclopedic: What information is conveyed and how much in relation to the whole? (containing limited or high capacity of information in multiple media formats)

- Spatial: What are the boundaries/physicality? (navigable as an information repository and/or a virtual place)

Submission

Write up of your changes, improvements with annotations on the interface and submit the document to the Dropbox on Slate.

Rubric:

Submission of an image of your interface in question (1point)
Create a user flow to complete the main task on the interface (2 points) Write up your analysis of the interface and areas of improvement (2 points) Sketches and wireframe of your suggested improvements (5 points)

Points are based on the level of detail and completeness of the elements.
Examples discussed in class **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Readings:

http://dpicchie.wordpress.com/2012/06/11/affordances-of-digital-media/

http://inventingthemedium.com/four-affordances/