

Increasing the impact of usability work in software development

Call for participation – CHI 2007 Workshop – San José, April 29th 2007

Goals

A key challenge when producing usable and useful software is the lack of impact usability work has on software development. Despite at least 20 years of research into usability work, this challenge continues to exist. During those 20 years, HCI-researchers have been arguing that research should take into account the work of usability practitioners, but these arguments have had limited impact. The goal of this full-day workshop is to establish and thoroughly discuss a corpus of case studies from software development projects where usability work has resulted in a significant impact on software development, or where the expected impact from the usability work was not realised. The outcome of the workshop will be an edited book containing the case studies and a conference paper summarizing the workshop activities.

Format

Both industrial practitioners and academic researchers are encouraged to participate and hands-on experience from practical usability work is required. Each participant must contribute with his/her own case study. The participants are expected to actively take part in goal-oriented group work to establish a corpus of usability case studies to be published after the workshop. Fifteen to twenty participants will be ideal for the workshop.

Submission Details

Each participant must submit a case study that:

- is based on practical experiences from a concrete software development project,
- contributes to a better understanding of how usability work can impact software product design or the software development process,
- offers plausible methods for and/or innovative approaches to improving software product usability, and
- stimulates participants to share and discuss important and valuable experiences with usability work.

The case study is expected to be 2 - 4 pages in CHI2007 format, following the guidelines available at www.diku.dk/infosys/chiworkshop. Submissions should be sent to tobiasue@diku.dk. Please note, that at least one author of accepted papers needs to register for the workshop and for one day of the conference itself.

Important Dates

January 12th 2007: Submission deadline

February 1st 2007: Notification of acceptance

April 29th 2007: Workshop

Organizers

Tobias Uldall-Espersen, University of Copenhagen; Ann Blandford, University College London; Timo Jokela, University of Oulu; Erik Frøkjær, University of Copenhagen