

## 110 – User Interface Assignment

A piece of software can be coded so all the functions and processes are executed perfectly, but if the software does not have a good user interface (UI), it is much less likely to be used. Creating a user-friendly interface is both an art and a science: general guidelines exist but no clear-cut formula has emerged.

### Purpose

The purpose of this activity is for you utilize an image-editing program to create a screen shot for a fictional game. In addition to the screen shot, you will also need to create a Word document that explains your user interface. This is a very common scenario for graphic designers. When a project manager asks for interface ideas, a graphic designer will often create several user interface storyboards and then present them to the project manager, describing why certain elements of the interface are placed on certain areas of the screen and how users will interact with various elements of the interface.

### Directions

To accomplish this lab, you will need to use an image editing package such as Adobe PhotoShop or Fireworks to create your user interface, then MS Word to write a short description of the UI. Your UI does not have to be created from the ground up. You can use a real-life picture or a screenshot from an existing software application, then modify the interface. Specifically, you will need to:

1. Have a clear UI with AT LEAST 5 elements. Elements can include things like navigation buttons, action buttons, pop-up menus, gauges, etc.
2. Provide a Word document with the UI that covers:
  - At least two UIs you used as guiding examples and why those UIs work well in your opinion
  - Why you chose to include each UI element
  - Why you decided to place specific UI elements in specific areas of the screen
3. The UI image should be either a JPEG or GIF and be no larger than 1024x768
4. Send both your UI image and Word document to [bpursel@ist.psu.edu](mailto:bpursel@ist.psu.edu) "IST 110" should be in the subject line.

Resources:

**Grading Rubric**

<b>Checklist</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Scored</b>
Provided a user interface screenshot, no larger than 1024x768, in JPEG or GIF format	20	
Provided a Word document that covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two UI's you used as guiding examples/inspiration and why those UIs work in your opinion</li> <li>• Why you chose to include each UI element</li> <li>• Why you decided to place certain UI elements on certain positions on the screen</li> </ul>	25	
Submitted your screenshot and Word document to <a href="mailto:bpursel@ist.psu.edu">bpursel@ist.psu.edu</a> with "IST 110" in the subject line by 5pm on the due date.	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 pts</b>	

Comments: