

This assignment will bridge the world of HCI research with practical interaction design. You will redesign an existing classical interface through the lens of a design inquiry.

Your redesign should address an interesting research-appropriate question rather than focusing on designing an artifact that is better looking or easier to use. In other words, your work should explore generalizable research relevant ideas rather than improving aesthetics or usability. One starting point may be flipping through the the design implications section in research papers that you have read or want to read. You may also draw from ideas from reading the Norman book and try unique metaphors or affordances. Focus on novel design-based thinking rather than iterative improvements of the interface you are redesigning.

Some examples¹ are dontclick.it which explores what happens when you take away the click on a standard website, the boarding pass redesign examines "how can we apply chronology to boarding passes?", and the automative interface looks at a potential automotive interface that is gesture-based to address the visual attention problem. Try to work with an interface that people have forgotten they hate: nutrition labels, the country selector in forms, student ID cards, ticket stubs.

Your report should describe what the overarching question you will address through your redesign, show the designs you generate, how your ideas relate to the knowledge generated from existing HCI research, and the process you went through for the redesign. You are encourage to show intermediate steps and if relevant, discuss how it fits in the readings or the research vs. design discussion from March 7.

Submit your final report by copying to `/pro/web/web/courses/cs2951-1/[yourcsid]/redesign.html` which becomes visible online at [http://cs.brown.edu/courses/csci2951-1/\[yourcsid\]/redesign.html](http://cs.brown.edu/courses/csci2951-1/[yourcsid]/redesign.html). Then share your redesign on a social news website sometime in the next two weeks (e.g. Slashdot slashdot.org, Hacker News news.ycombinator.com, Designer News news.layervault.com, Reddit reddit.com).

You have three weeks to do this assignment but start early! Think about what to redesign, and what questions your design will address. On March 19 (midpoint), you should be ready to share 3 distinct ideas in class and how you will approach the redesign (during class you will get feedback to help you choose between the three). The final report is due before class time on April 2 so that we can examine each others' designs as a class.

The assignment grade will be 40% based on the redesign itself, 40% based on your writeup of the redesign process, and 20% based on whether your redesign addresses an appropriate inquiry.

¹Examples are linked from the course homepage.