

What is usability?

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Usability - Usable

- What do we mean?
- For who?
- Absolute or relative?





What does it mean that something is usable?

Satisfactory

Learnable

Simple

Forgiving

Nice

Easy to learn

Efficient

Inexpensive

Error preventing

Inspiring

Useful

Self explanatory

Doesn't require a manual

Intuitive

Neat design

Anyone can use it

Effective

A total experience

Grandma can use it!

Immediate

ISO 9241:

Definition of usability:

"The extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use"



Usability is contextual

- What is "contextual"?
- Usability must always be related to
 - ✱ *a specific product*
 - ✱ *specified users*
 - ✱ *specified goals*
 - *with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction*
 - ✱ *specified context of use*



Usability cont.

- Product
- Users
- Context



IT in professional work

*To use computers and technology
in a work environment*





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Complex systems



Efficiency, safety, comfort

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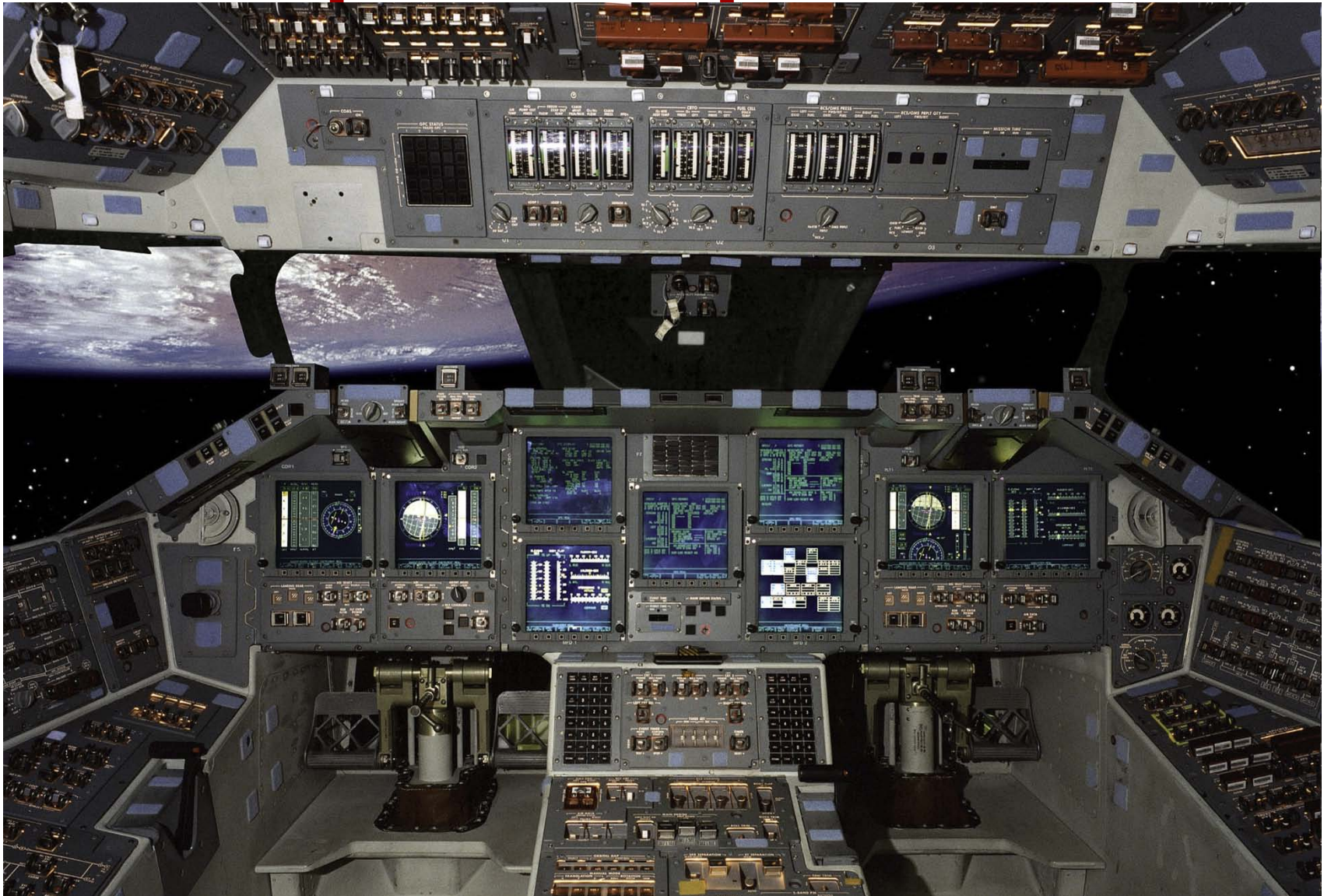




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In a spaceship

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Products and systems

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Everywhere...



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For everybody.....







Stand up!

- Going by taxi from the city to the airport takes about 1 hour
- Latest check-in is 1 hour before departure
- You may sit when you know at what time the taxi should pick me up at the hotel?



03 PASSENGER TICKET AND BAGGAGE CHECK SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT				PASSENGER COUPON			
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Välj belopp eller
kontouppgift.

Använd snabbvalstangenter eller
sifvertangentbordet och tryck på
"KLAR".

2000

3000

5000

Konto-
uppgift



Although the Democrats are listed second in the column on the left, they are the third hole on the ballot.

(REPUBLICAN)	
GEORGE W. BUSH - PRESIDENT	3 →
DICK CHENEY - VICE PRESIDENT	
(DEMOCRATIC)	
AL GORE - PRESIDENT	5 →
JOE LIEBERMAN - VICE PRESIDENT	
(LIBERTARIAN)	
HARRY BROWNE - PRESIDENT	7 →
ART OUIVIER - VICE PRESIDENT	
(GREEN)	
RALPH NADER - PRESIDENT	9 →
WINONA LA DUKE - VICE PRESIDENT	
(SOCIALIST WORKERS)	
JAMES HARRIS - PRESIDENT	11 →
MARGARET TROWE - VICE PRESIDENT	
(NATURAL LAW)	
JOHN HAGELIN - PRESIDENT	13 →
NA GOLDHABER - VICE PRESIDENT	

Punching the second hole casts a vote for the Reform Party.

(REFORM)	
PAT BUCHANAN - PRESIDENT	4 ←
EZOLA FOSTER - VICE PRESIDENT	
(SOCIALIST)	
DAVID McREYNOLDS - PRESIDENT	6 ←
MARY CAL KOLLIS - VICE PRESIDENT	
(CONSTITUTION)	
HOWARD PHILLIPS - PRESIDENT	8 ←
J. CURTIS FRAZIER - VICE PRESIDENT	
(WORKERS WORLD)	
MONICA MOOREHEAD - PRESIDENT	10 ←
GLORIA LA RIVA - VICE PRESIDENT	
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE	
To vote for a write in candidate, follow the directions on the long stub of your ballot card.	



Is IT useful and efficient?

- Are there problems? -Yes
- What are the problems? - Many
- How to build better IT, information systems, computer tools?

How to make things usable?

- Knowledge, understanding....
- Design – for usability
- Processes – how things are made



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Design for usability?

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Design for usability?





Design for usability?



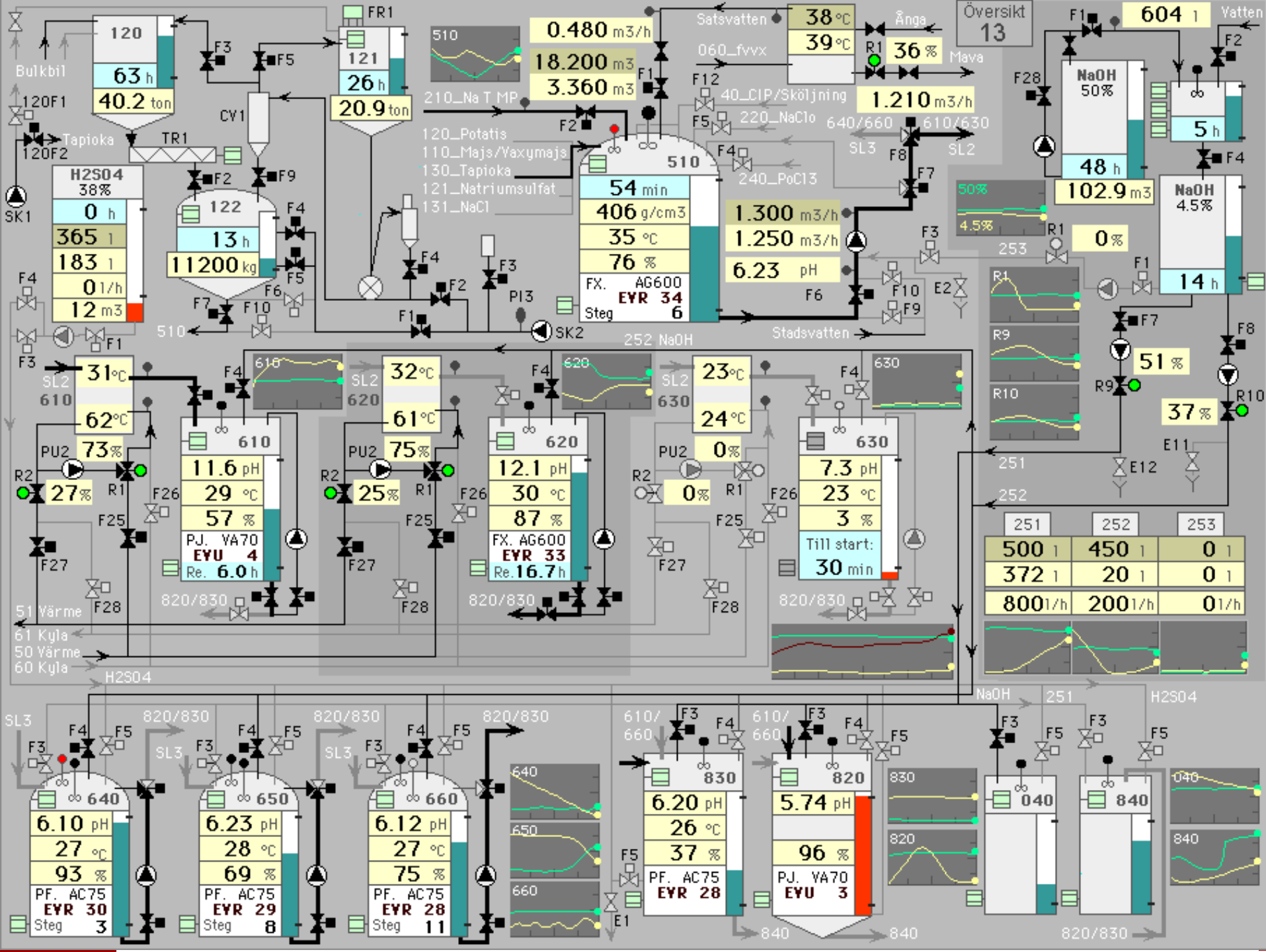
Design for usability?





Design for usability?





The process

- Usability is for users
- Users must be involved in the process
 - ✱ Why?
 - ✱ How?
- We must have a user centred process to build usable systems!
- -> This course!

ISO 9241:

■ Definition of usability:

"The extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use"



Usability according to ISO 9241-11

- ❖ **Usability** – "The extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use."
- ❖ **Effectiveness** – "accuracy and completeness with which users achieve specified goals."
- ❖ **Efficiency** – "resources expended in relation to the accuracy and completeness with which users achieve goals."
- ❖ **Satisfaction** – "freedom from discomfort, and positive attitudes to the use of the product."
- ❖ **Context of use** – "users, tasks, equipment (hardware, software and materials), and the physical and social environments in which a product is used"



Usability according to Jacob Nielsen (1993)

- ❖ **Easy to learn:** In order for the user to quickly get on with his/her work.
- ❖ **Efficient to use:** Once the user has learned to use the system it must be efficient to work with.
- ❖ **Easy to remember:** It should be possible to return to the system after a period of absence and still remember how it works.
- ❖ **Few errors:** The user should do as few errors as possible. If errors are made it must be possible to easily recover and get back to the situation where the user was before the error occurred.
- ❖ **Subjectively pleasing:** The user should feel good about using the system, like to work with it.



Measures of usability in ISO 9241-11

Usability objective	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Satisfaction
Overall usability	Percentage of goals achieved. Percentage of users successfully completing task. Average accuracy of completed tasks.	Time to complete a task. Tasks completed per unit time. Monetary cost of performing the task.	Rating scale for satisfaction. Frequency of discretionary use. Frequency of complaints.

Usability is....

- A necessity for a good work situation
 - Quality
 - Efficiency
- To have control over the work situation
- Work environment
- Satisfaction
- Wellbeing and health



Usability is not (only)

- "User friendly"
- Surface, interface
- Performance
- Luxury
- Cosmetics
- Something to add afterwards
- Something we can avoid

