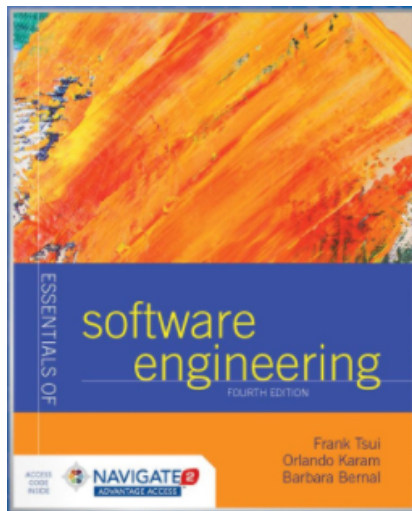


Design Characteristics and Metrics

CSC 355, Software Engineering II

Chapter 8: Design: Characteristics and Metrics



Characteristics of Good Design

- Besides the obvious “design should match the requirements,” there are two basic characteristics:
 - 1 Consistency across design
 - 2 Completeness of the design

Consistency

- Common user interface (UI)
 - Looks and logical flow
 - Location of buttons, etc.
- Common error processing
- Common reports
- Common system interfaces
- Common help

Completeness

- All the requirements are accounted for (Requirements Traceability Matrix)
- All parts of the design are carried to completion
- All design carried to the same depth level

Good Design Attributes

- Easy to:
 - Understand
 - Change
 - Reuse
 - Test
 - Integrate
 - Code
- We can get many of these if we consider:
 - Cohesion
 - Coupling

Cohesion

- Cohesion addresses the “degree of relatedness” within a unit, module, object, or component
- Degrees:
 - 1 Functional (best: performing one single function)
 - 2 Sequential
 - 3 Communicational
 - 4 Procedural
 - 5 Temporal
 - 6 Logical
 - 7 Coincidental (worst: performing more than one unrelated function)

Coupling

- Coupling addresses the “degree of independence” between software units, modules, or components
- Degrees:
 - 1 Content (worst: accessing the internal data or procedural information)
 - 2 Common
 - 3 Control
 - 4 Stamp
 - 5 Data
 - 6 None (best: passing only the necessary information)

Sneiderman's Golden Rules of Interface Design

- 1** Strive for consistency
 - Is the style of this element maintained across your site/app?
 - Does it follow the conventions for your chosen platform?
- 2** Enable frequent users to use shortcuts
 - Are there shortcuts available for your more experienced users?
 - Who is this product designed for?
- 3** Offer informative feedback
 - Does the user know where they are in the process?
 - How are you communicating feedback to your user?

Sneiderman's Golden Rules of Interface Design

- 4 Design dialogues to yield closure
 - Does the user have to do any guessing here?
 - Is it clear and obvious enough for your intended audience?
 - Are there any next steps?
- 5 Offer simple error handling
 - Have you done everything imaginable to prevent this error from happening on your end?
 - If the user does make an error, how easy is it to fix it?
- 6 Permit easy reversal of actions
 - How many steps does the use have to take to reverse their actions?
 - Will the user quickly realize they need to reverse the action?

Sneiderman's Golden Rules of Interface Design

- 7** Support internal locus of control
 - Will the user feel in control at this specific touch point in your app?
 - Will the user be surprised in an unpleasant manner?
 - Does the site feel easily navigable?
 - Does the user feel safe and in control?
- 8** Reduce the short-term memory load
 - Are there enough visual clues here for the user to find the functionality or item?
 - Do they have to remember things to understand what is going on?

Mandel's Golden Rules of Interface Design

- 1 Place the user in control
- 2 Reduce the user's memory load (Miller's 7 plus or minus 2)
- 3 Consistency (as described earlier)

UI Design Prototypes and Testing

- UI Prototypes
 - Low fidelity (with cardboards)
 - High fidelity (with storyboard tools)
- Usability “laboratories test” and statistical analysis
 - Number of subjects who can complete the tasks within some specified time
 - Length of time required to complete different tasks
 - Number of times help functions are needed
 - Number of times redo functions are used and where
 - Number of times short cuts were used

Law of Demeter

- A design guideline for Object-Oriented systems that originated from the Demeter system
- Addresses the design coupling issue through placing constraints on messaging among the objects
- Limits the sending of messages to objects that are directly known to it

Law of Demeter

- An object should send messages to **only** the following kinds of objects:
 - The object itself
 - The object's attributes
 - The parameters of the methods in the object
 - Any object created by a method in the object
 - Any object returned from a call to one of the methods of the object
 - Any object in any collection that is on of the above categories

Books About Design

- The design of everyday things, Don Norman
- Don't make me think, Steve Krug
- 100 Things Every Designer Needs to know about design, Susan M. Weinschenk