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Ergonomics of human-system interaction —

Part 940: Evaluation of tactile and haptic interactions

Ergonomie de l'interaction homme-système —

Partie 940: Évaluation des interactions tactiles et haptiques

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Foreword

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A list of all parts in the ISO 9241 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

Tactile and haptic interactions are becoming increasingly important as interaction modalities in special purpose computing environments and assistive technologies. This document explains how to evaluate attributes of the haptic device and the user interface, and the outcomes of interaction with a haptic device, along with an assessment of human-centred quality and other and more specific usage qualities.

This document can be used to identify the measures to be used when establishing requirements for haptic interaction, and to evaluate haptic interactions to identify problems, to establish benchmarks or to evaluate whether a haptic system meets requirements.

A haptic interaction involves sensory or motor activity in the skin, muscles, joints and tendons; a tactile interaction refers specifically to touch (sensory activity in the skin).

In a haptic interaction, a user typically employs a device to manipulate objects in the virtual world of the computer and also to feel the result of the manipulation through sensors in the skin and joints. This is the bidirectional sense of haptics. Haptics is important in the design of switches in traditional keyboards and mice, but here, we consider computer interaction by means other than keyboard, mouse and passive joysticks.

Haptic interactions can also work in a passive unidirectional sense, conveying information to the skin without active motion or exploration on the part of the user. A cell phone on vibration mode is one such unidirectional tactile device. They can also work in an active unidirectional sense, as the user makes gestures that send commands or data to a device.

Tactile and kinaesthetic haptic interactions are being developed in university and industrial laboratories in many countries, and a variety of commercial products exist that incorporate tactile and kinaesthetic interactions. Both the developer and the prospective purchaser of such interactions and their associated devices and software need a means of making comparisons between competing choices.

Other International Standards are cross-referenced in order to understand and point out the specific differences in evaluating haptic interactions. The nature of these interactions, whether bidirectional, unidirectional from the device to the skin or body of the user, or unidirectional as gestures from the body of the user to the device, sets them apart as a group of interactions that needs special consideration in relation to the forms of evaluation which are appropriate.

ISO 9241-910 provides a common set of terms, definitions, and descriptions of the various concepts involved in designing and using haptic interactions. It provides an overview of the range of haptic applications, objects, attributes, and interactions.

ISO 9241-920 provides basic guidance in the design of haptic interactions.

ISO 9241-960 provides guidance for the definition of gestures in human-machine interactions. It explains how to describe their features and what factors to take into account when defining gestures.

This document provides evaluation processes specific to haptic interactions and the devices that enable them. It shows how requirements set out in ISO 9241-910, ISO 9241-920 and other International Standards can be applied to actual haptic systems and specific interactions. In a parallel way, it shows how the usability of a haptic system can be evaluated, taking into account quality attributes such as effectiveness, efficiency, user satisfaction and avoidance of harm from use.