Assignment 1: Your Observations of Multi-Touch Usability

Out: Thursday, 27 January 2011
Due: Thursday, 3 February 2011

In class tonight, you will have the opportunity to use the Microsoft Surface and 3M Capacitive Multi-touch displays. While using the devices as well as when you are observing others use the devices, pay attention to the ease of use (or lack thereof) and the ease of learnability (or lack thereof) for each of the devices as well as for the applications on the devices.

For next week, please write 1-2 pages on your experiences with the two devices. Some questions you may wish to address include the following. You need not answer all of them nor feel limited to this set of questions.

- Is one easier to use than the other?
- Does one system’s interaction method seem better than the other?
- How did you know when you were interacting in the right way or in the wrong way?
- Did some of the applications have an orientation that allowed for interactions on all sides or did some seem to have a clear “top” to the interaction screen?
- What implications could the different touch detection systems have to application developers?

In addition to turning in your write up, we will discuss these topics in class next week.