

The Users' Perspective



The HFES Potomac Chapter Newsletter

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Next POC Meeting *by Derek Schultz*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Speaker: Karl Groves, an expert in web site accessibility, will speak on "Accessibility Audit Methods"

Mark your calendars now -- for anyone involved in web site design/development, this will be a talk you don't want to miss!

Location: Positano in Bethesda, MD

Time: Networking at 6:00 PM, Dinner ordered at 6:30, Talk at 7:30

RSVP: to Derek Schultz -- mediadesign@att.net or 301-656-1897

Call for Nominations *by Tom Mayfield*

To all voting Members and Associates in good standing, nominations are sought for the following offices to be filled:

President-elect
Secretary-elect
Treasurer-elect
Directors-at-Large (2)

All qualified Members and Associates are urged to consider nominations for these positions so that the Chapter can continue to build on the current strengths. These positions form the core of the executive Committee, along with the current President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the previous year's Officers in those positions. This means that there is a wealth of previous experience to help the new incumbents settle into office. Help your Chapter and the region's human factors and ergonomics community at large, by volunteering your services or those of a worthwhile colleague. An infusion of new blood is much needed and you can help shape the future of the Chapter by getting involved as an officer.

(Article adapted from a similar one in the May 2008 HFES Bulletin)

The HFES Potomac Chapter presented a mini-symposium on March 30, 2008, entitled “Human Factors and Driving Safety Research” as part of the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS) Capital Science Weekend 2008. The event was held at the National Science Foundation in Rosslyn, Virginia. The Potomac Chapter’s driver safety presentations included “What Instrumented Vehicle Research in Naturalistic Driving Studies Tells Us About Crash Risk and Causation” (Ronald R. Knipling, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute); “The Costs of Shifting Attention After Being Interrupted While Driving” (Christopher A. Monk, George Mason University); “Effectiveness of Internal vs. External Cues and Knowing When to Switch From One to the Other While Performing Concurrent Tasks – e.g., Driving” (David M. Cades, George Mason University); and “Effects of Health, Wellness and Fitness on Commercial Driving Safety” (Gerald P. Krueger, Alexandria, VA).

The Washington Academy of Sciences’ biennial Science Weekend at NSF showcases advancements in research by members of almost 60 affiliated Washington, D.C. – area scientific societies. These societies represent researchers in such diverse fields as anthropology, plant biology, chemistry, forestry, and engineering. This year’s stirring keynote address, “The Future of U.S. Innovation: Fate or Fatality,” was presented by NSF Director Arden Bement. Other featured events included a thought-provoking talk, “Symmetry: From Human Perception to the Laws of Nature,” by Mario Livio, senior astrophysicist and head of public outreach at the Space Telescope Science Institute; and another, “Science and Size” by Maxine Singer, emeritus scientist at the National Cancer Institute.

In this multidisciplinary WAS forum, lively discussion about applications of human factors and driving safety research prompted invitations by the prestigious WAS Journal for submission of papers on these and other forms of human factors research. Opportunities like these, in which members showcase human factors studies to scientists in other disciplines, should be fostered. Other human factors scientists are invited to participate in this exciting WAS biennial event again in March 2010.

Visit <http://www.washacadsci.org> for more details.

The Potomac Chapter of HFES is an affiliate member of the WAS; and this constituted our Chapter’s third mini-symposium, as we continue to participate in the biennial WAS Capital Science Weekend. Our first symposium, in 2004 described what our discipline of human factors and ergonomics is about and how it applies to solving some national problems; our second symposium in 2006 was on human factors and medical error and resulted in three published manuscripts in the WAS journal.

Jerry Krueger has been doing consulting, research, applications and teaching on commercial truck driver alertness, fatigue, health and wellness for over a decade for the Department of Transportation and the NRC’s Transportation Research Board.

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Treemaps: From Classroom to Boardroom

Corporate adoption of enterprise treemapping solutions

Carter Wilson, Dan Struebel from The Hive Group

Presented as part of the Univ of Maryland Human-Computer Interaction Lab
25th Anniversary Symposium <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/soh>

This workshop examines corporate adoption of treemapping, a technology which originated at the University of Maryland HCIL. Attendees will gain insight into the process that transformed treemapping from an innovative interface into a mission important corporate offering. Attendees will learn about the widespread use of treemapping in commercial and government environments. The workshop will showcase several examples of treemap deployments, and will highlight specific methods that lead to successful implementations. The workshop will:

- Showcase innovative deployments in both private and public sectors
- Emphasize the importance of action: why treemaps are not just reports anymore
- Examine the shift from stand-alone treemapping to integration with other enterprise technologies
- Describe how organizations are building internal networks of related treemaps
- Explore strategic positioning of treemapping for corporate audiences

This workshop will be led by Carter Wilson and Dan Struebel of The Hive Group. It is suitable for anyone interested in deploying treemaps in an enterprise; and individuals that are interested in technology transfer.

For more information contact: Carter.Wilson@hivegroup.com or Dan.Struebel@hivegroup.com

MANPRINT Practitioner's Workshop

The date is soon approaching! Have you registered for the MANPRINT Practitioner's Workshop?

The U.S Army MANPRINT (Manpower and Personnel Integration) Program will hold its MANPRINT Practitioner's Workshop at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, 10 - 12 June 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to gather those in the MANPRINT communities, i.e. PMs offices, testing centers, various military organizations, contractors, etc., to discuss what is going on in the area.

Papers are still being selected, so be sure to check back to the MANPRINT website for additional information. Hotel Reservations can be made through the link provided on the MANPRINT website to ensure that you receive the negotiated Government Rate.

The MANPRINT Website is at <http://www.manprint.army.mil> There is no registration fee.

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