

Exercise

Evaluation of Technologies for Collaborative Interaction



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Summary & Learning goals

In this exercise, students learn about the DECIDE framework and apply it to evaluate their own developed or existing collaborative technology. As a result, they can make changes in the design of said collaborative technology.

- Students are able to apply the DECIDE framework to evaluate a collaborative technology
- Students are able to make changes in the design of a collaborative technology based on their own findings

An evaluation framework

An evaluation framework

1. Determine the goals
2. Explore the questions
3. Choose the evaluation approach and methods
4. Identify the practical issues
5. Decide how to deal with ethical issues
6. Evaluate, analyze, interpret, and present the data

Determine the goals

- Who wants it and why?
- Goals help determining the scope
- These goals influence the approach used

Explore the questions

- Making goals operational
- Which questions should your evaluation study answer?
- Those can be broken into sub questions for fine-grained evaluation

Choose the evaluation approach and methods

- Evaluation before (formative) or after (summative) development of the collaborative technology
- Evaluate without users (analytical evaluation) or with users (user testing)
- Choose a method that falls under the chosen category

Identify the practical issues

- Identify them *before* starting the study
 - Useful to do a pilot study
- Identify the appropriate users
 - Representing the user population
- Facilities and equipment
 - How to record the data appropriately

Decide how to deal with ethical issues

- All data gathering requires you to consider ethical issues
 - People are put in unfamiliar situations
 - They need to provide informed consent
 - Your handling of their data considers privacy

Evaluate, analyze, interpret, and present the data

- Think about how to analyze the data
 - You may be biased in collecting data collection
 - Your findings might not be ecologically valid
 - The generalizability of your data could be narrow

Evaluation task

1. Pick a technology for collaborative interaction
 - This can be developed/designed yourself, or an existing one
2. Go through the 6 steps of the evaluation framework
3. Report your findings
 - This can be in a written report or a presentation in class
4. Include implications of your findings in the reporting
 - What (if any) changes should be made in the design of the collaborative technology based on your findings?



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