Static, Adaptive, and Adaptable Menus

L. Findlater & J. McGrenere, CHI 2004

- Compared three types of *split menus* with fixed split sizes (four on top)
  - *Static* (top items are the most frequent prior to study)
  - *Adaptive* (top items chosen dynamically by algorithms during study based on frequency/recency)
  - *Adaptable* (top items chosen by user prior to timed study block)
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- Within-subject, counterbalanced for order
- Static faster than adaptive
- Adaptable faster than adaptive, except when adaptable used first (was slower then)
- Adaptable not slower than static except when adaptable used first (was slower then)
  - Why? Top item list initially empty in adaptable menus and participants who used adaptable menu first were less likely to customize. (Were asked to customize without seeing the advantages of customization.)

Subjective: Majority of participants preferred adaptable and thought they were most efficient with adaptable menus.

Menu Map

- Visual representation of graph structure of a system’s menus
- D. Parton et al. 1985 experiment
  - Use of menu maps for 12 mins better than practicing for 12 mins, when followed by 10 mins working with 3x3 menu
  - “Big picture” of a menu map has advantages for learning over “peephole” experience of real navigation with a menu
Site Map

- Representation of web site structure
  - Often hand curated, showing only the top level

See http://www.nngroup.com/articles/site-map-usability

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Mostly superfluous in this case, courtesy of this "mega menu"

See http://www.nngroup.com/articles/site-map-usability
Site Map Variation: Showing Page Links

- Can be
  - Created automatically
  - Included on all pages

http://www.bricklin.com/history/intro.htm