

Title: Mouth stick to facilitate quadriplegics' use of computer keyboard

Team Members:

Liz Thottakara
Dan Hartman
Yim Chan
Emily Putzer

Client:

Prof. John Doyle
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(608) 263-4807

Reporting Period:

Jan. 25-Jan. 30

Problem Statement:

Computers and the Internet provide an important vehicle for communication and entertainment for quadriplegics. A "mouth stick" is currently used to aid these individuals in operating a standard keyboard. This device consists of a mouthpiece that is manipulated by motions of the lower jaw. These devices, however, cause pain in the facial muscles due to the exertion in operation. An improved device would be a considerable benefit to a great number of individuals.

Restatement of Team Goals:

Schedule time to meet with client to discuss project specifications.

Summary of Accomplishments:

Established team member roles: Liz Thottakara (Team Leader), Yim Chan (Communications), Dan Hartman (BWIG), Emily Putzer (BSAC)

Statement of Team Goals:

Meet with client to discuss project goals and expectations.
Research current designs of mouth sticks used for operating keyboard.

Project Schedule:

Week	Date	Activities
1	25 January	form teams, select project, contact client
2	1 February	literature search
3	8 February	Meet with client; develop understanding of project; develop PDS
4	15 February	brainstorm
5	22 February	brainstorm; evaluate designs
6	1 March	evaluate designs; decide on final design
7	8 March	work on design
8	15 March	work on presentations; advisor review of design notebooks
9	22 March	Mid-semester presentation hand in written report
10	29 March	SPRING BREAK
11	5 April	work on design
12	12 April	work on design
13	19 April	work on design
14	26 April	work on design
15	3 May	prepare poster
16	10 May	Final Poster Presentation Hand in final report and notebook to advisor
17	13-17 May	final meetings with advisors

Difficulties:

Client is out of the country and will not be back until Monday, Feb. 4th. We will not be able to schedule a meeting with him before this date.

Activities:

Group meeting in class (1/25/02): 1.5 hours
Individual time spent researching topic: 1 hour.