IELM 330: IT for Logistics and Manufacturing
Assignment 1, MODEL

Q1. Nielsen's fourth guideline states that an entire IT application should use consistent color, layout, font etc.

(i) Give an example of an application where this rule does not apply (you may make up an example, or you may refer to some IT system, website, etc.)

-Many websites with multiple functions would have multiple designs of color, layout and layout, etc. For example, www.ust.hk mainly works like a website link collector and most links on that website would link to another totally differently designed website.

- Artistic websites may choose different layout for different moods;

- Portals may use different colors to discriminate it's sub-pages, e.g. UST website may use different BG color for links to different schools, etc.

(ii) What programming or formatting technique would you use to achieve consistent color/layout/fonts etc in a website? Write the method you will use (1 line) and how it can be used (5 lines max).

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets), which defines how HTML elements are to be displayed. Styles are normally saved in external .css files and you could change the appearance and layout of all the pages in your Web, just by editing one single CSS document. The following is an example of how to set the text color by CSS. This is the definition of CSS style:

```
<style type="text/css">
h1 {color: #00ff00}
</style>
The following is how to put the style into use:
<h1>This is header 1</h1>
```

In FrontPage software, you could also set a template for the html you are designing and that could also help you to accomplish consistent style. However, with the template defining the format, you could not conveniently change the style of several existing pages.

Q2. In the older Mac operating system (on Apple computers), deleted files would be moved to a folder called Trash. When Microsoft borrowed the windows-based interface for PC's, the deleted files were moved to a folder called Recycle bin. Comment on which name is better, and why?

Trash is better according to Gerhardt-Powals guideline # 5. Files to be thrown are not all to be re-cycled (which implies they will somehow be re-used).

Q3. Gerald Powals' first guideline (in the lecture notes) states that mental workload of the user should be minimized. Give two examples from your experience (e.g. you can refer to

some commercial, University, or Government website, or some other computer program but not video-games) where this principle is violated.
[You cannot use the calendar example that is given in the notes].

Some Chinese input method has really bad association function, especially not updated to the newly developed language.

LaTeX is a popular text editor (many technical writers prefer to use LaTeX instead of MS Word because of its ease of input of mathematical equations). However, LaTeX editor on Windows is not "what you see is what you get" -- the text and mark-up are typed into a text editor, followed by the use of a compiler to create PDF files: therefore any modification of formatting etc. is quite cumbersome.

Q4. Give an example of poor GUI in your mobile phone's operating system (suggest how to improve it).

-I need to hit 'back' four times after I set the alarm, instead of just one 'home' button' (on Sony-Ericsson, running Symbian OS)

-There are only two shortcut keys in my mobile: "phone ring" and "contact list". Factually, I do not need to adjust the "phone ring" from time to time. Thus it is a waste of shortcut key resource. I think, if the mobile could give the user the authority to choose the shortcut function as they like, it would be more humanized and better.

Prepared by Xu Ying