Literature Review: Disability-friendly kiosk interfaces

MotionInput 3.2 - COMP0016 Team 37

Interactive Kiosks

Interactive Kiosks

- Computer systems, commonly with a touchscreen, that combine specialized hardware and software
- Enable several unique tasks such as ordering, navigation and transactions^[18]
- Provide many benefits such as selfservice, improving customer experience, reducing staff workload, and managing a larger volume of customers^[7]



Kiosk Hardware

- Most are bespoke and there is a lack of standardization due to wide range of business requirements^[7]
- Common customizations include screen size, orientation, and enclosure design and construction^[17]
- Can also include additional hardware^[9]:
 - Telephones
 - Cameras
 - Payment Terminals
 - Thermal Cameras



Kiosk Software

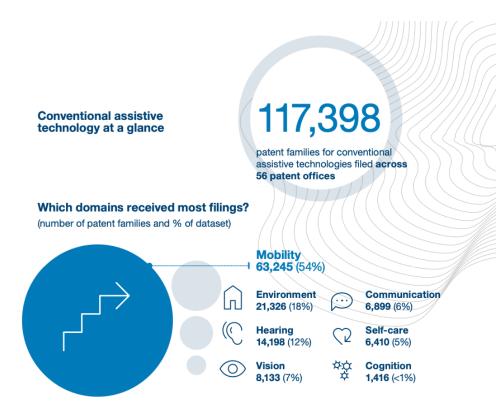
- Are usually standard websites running in sandboxed browsers or operating systems^[5]
- Commonly recommended design guidelines^[13]:
 - Main menu
 - Hierarchical menu structure
 - Limited menu nesting (< 3)
 - Separating functionality into panels
 - Dedicated navigation buttons (back, info, home)





Accessibility features in kiosks

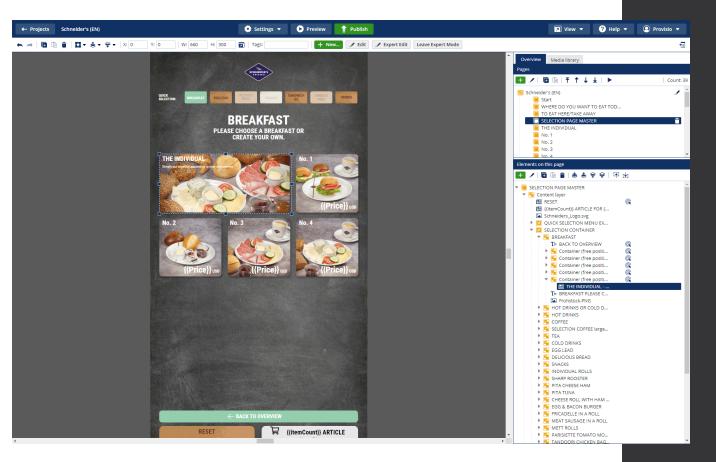
- Still lacking in accessibility features and disproportionally focused on one type of disability^[10]
- Common recommendations for improvement^[13]:
 - Larger text and images
 - Avoiding small clickable zones
 - Color-blind adjustments
 - High contrast
 - Text-to-speech



Kiosk Software Development Tools

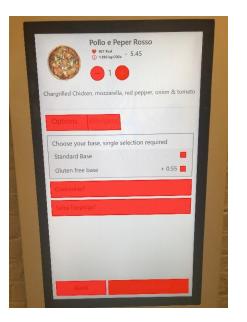
Example: SiteKiosk^[5]

- Focus on large, clickable elements
- Menus and pages connected in clear hierarchy (< 3 layers of nesting)
- Include predefined templates to encourage recommended design patterns
- Allow users to import structured file formats (JSON) and generate menu hierarchy



Evaluation of real-life examples





UCL Pizza

- Used for ordering. Multiple layers of sub-menus, with many options on each page
- Elements are large, clearly distinguishable, and easily clickable
- Navigation buttons (home, back, info) and menu panels are present
- Interaction with each element is limited to just tapping it
- Illustrates design of kiosks being guided by responsiveness and simplicity

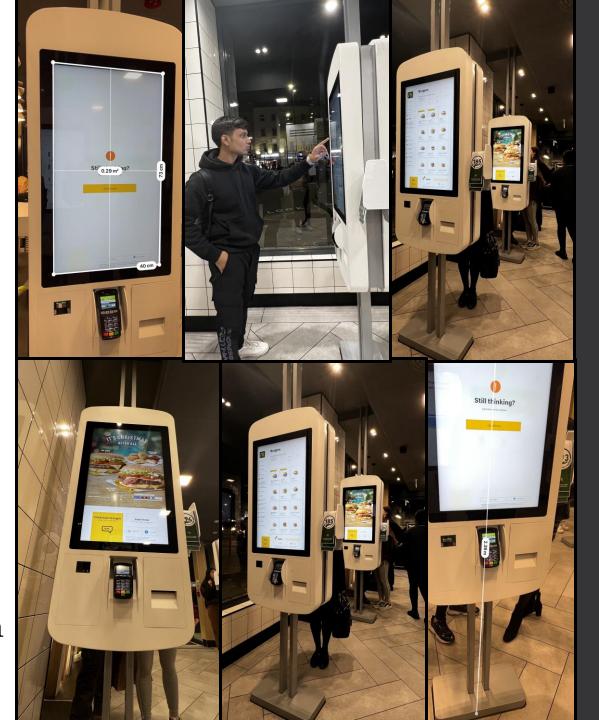
Tesco Supermarket

- Includes additional hardware (barcode scanners, weighing scales) but largely similar to previous example
- Menu items must be validated by scanning and weighing
- Prominent staff assistance feature for unauthorized tasks (removing items, reweighing, adding bags)
- Staff assistance is also required for legal reasons (purchasing alcohol, cigarettes, other prohibited items)



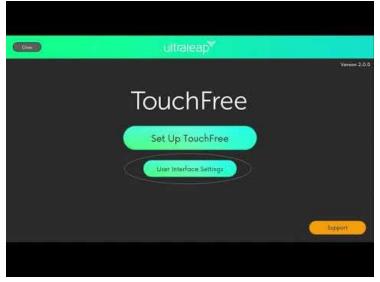
McDonalds

- Extremely similar to UCL Pizza kiosk since it serves the same purpose (ordering food)
- However, the user interface is more complicated (smaller elements, a lot more scrolling involved, automated suggestions etc.)
- Kiosk hardware is also less accommodating. The touchscreen is extremely tall (73 cm) and is significantly raised off the ground, making it inaccessible to most children and wheelchair users



Improving accessibility

- Existing kiosk design principles (large elements, single taps) make them amenable to alternative modes of input
- Existing software allow mappings between hand, eye and face gestures to mouse input^{[19][20]}
- A lot of complications (distinguishing start and end of gestures, smooth scrolling, when to map clicks) have been ironed out with increased research into the field^[4]
- However, direct implementation with kiosks still raises some questions (determining staff input vs customer input, non-standard distance and height)





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