

GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Special Issue on Usability of IT Applications: Issues and Implications

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Usability is an important parameter in fostering the successful usage of Information Technology (IT) artifacts. Human factors are an important aspect when designing and implementing IT artifacts. The focus of this special issue is to consider all relevant aspects of usability on successful adoption of IT applications in domain settings. The objective is to discuss mechanisms for better design to meet the user expectations and satisfaction. The aim is to provide opportunities for dissemination of good practices that will be of interest to academics and practitioners from a range of fields including information systems, human computer interaction, computer supported cooperative work and organizational science.

The papers published in this special issue were received as a result of open call and accepted after careful review. The realization of this special issue would have not been possible without the kind support and help of Dr. Ali Zo-

lail, Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Technology Diffusion* and IGI Global publisher. I would also like to thank reviewers and authors to realize this special issue.

In the first paper Ting Zhang and his colleagues have looked at mobile applications and compared usability aspects in low and high fidelity prototypes. They highlighted how the types of prototypes affect the usability evaluation process.

In the next contribution, Surendra Sarnikar and Maureen Murphy present a usability analysis framework for IT applications in health care domain. In health care domain error rate should be very low so the authors emphasize that this framework will help in designing more secure IT products in health care sector.

In the third paper Saqib Saeed and his colleagues evaluate the website of different hospitals in Pakistan to understand underlying usability deficiencies.

In the next contribution, Emad Abu Shanab looks at e-learning application in the context of digital divide. Author has also carried out an empirical study with students from rural areas to understand their perception about digital divide and its relationship with e learning and education.

In the last contribution, Syed Hassan Faraz and his colleagues look at the security and privacy aspects of Facebook. Security and

privacy are important characteristics of highly usable system so the authors mainly take the viewpoint of Pakistani users to understand their point of view.

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Guest Editor

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Saqib Saeed is an assistant professor at the Computer Science department at Bahria University Islamabad, Pakistan. He has a Ph.D. in Information Systems from University of Siegen, Germany, and a Masters degree in Software Technology from Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences, Germany. He is also a certified software quality engineer from American Society of Quality. His research interests lie in the areas of human-centered computing, computer supported cooperative work, empirical software engineering and ICT4D.