Appendix A: Experimental Tasks

Postgraduate Participant Tasks

Tasks A (Lookup tasks)

- A1: You have forgotten the pin code for the laboratory door. Find the pin code.

- A2: You would like to order a free software from Microsoft through the University scheme. You need the appropriate URL to do this. Find the URL in your emails.

- A3: A friend has spotted you filling in the diary form from the task recording experiment and asks what you are doing. You explain. She asks how long you have been recording tasks. When did you start recording tasks for this experiment?

- A4: You are completing a laboratory exercise for the Internet Programming class that involves using a MySQL database. What is your departmental Database username?

- A5: Which member of staff gave the seminar about the events at Mobile HCI this year?

- A6: You are completing an essay for the IR class and you cannot remember how to correctly reference a paper. Name a referencing style and explain its key features.

Tasks B (Item tasks)

- B1: You are taking part in the task recording study again and you want to record a task, but you cannot remember the link to the diary page. Find the email with the information.

- B2: Find the most recent email that you have received that has java source code as an attachment

- B3: Find an email with details of the class representatives

- B4: Find an email reminding you about this experiment appointment

Tasks C (Multi-item tasks)

- C1: You would like to file all of your emails relating to the Internet programming class. Find all of the emails that you would like to file.

- C2: Now that this experiment is finished you want to delete all of the emails associated with the experiment. Find them all to delete them

- C3: You would like to file all of your emails relating to the Internet programming class. Find all of the emails that you would like to file.

Undergraduate Tasks

Tasks A (Lookup tasks)

- A1: You have forgotten the pin code for the laboratory door.   Find the pin code.

- A2: You would like to order a free software from Microsoft through the University scheme. You need the appropriate URL to do this. Find the URL in your emails.

- A3: A friend has spotted you filling in the diary form from the task recording experiment and asks what you are doing. You explain. She asks how long you have been recording tasks. When did you start recording tasks for this experiment?

- A4: You are completing a laboratory exercise for the Database class that involves creating and modifying an Oracle database. What is your departmental Database username?

- A6: When was the last time System support emailed you and what was the email about?

Tasks B (Item tasks)

- B1: You are taking part in the task recording study again and you want to record a task, but you cannot remember the link to the diary page. Find the email with the information.

- B2: Find the most recent email that you have received that has java source code as an attachment

- B3: Find an email with details of the student representatives for your year

- B4: Find the email reminding you about this experiment appointment

- B5: Find the electronic receipt for your first assignment hand-in using the electronic submission system

- B6: Find the last email a group member sent you about the Boston subway problem

Tasks C (Multi-item tasks)

- C1: You would like to file all of your emails relating to the Internet programming class. Find all of the emails that you would like to file.

- C2: Now that this experiment is finished you want to delete all of the emails associated with the experiment. Find them all to delete them

- C3: You would like to file all of your emails relating to the Group project class. Find all of the emails that you would like to file.

- C4: You are starting to think about employment after your university course has finished and want to get an idea of the companies who might be recruiting.   Find any email in your inbox to do with job opportunities, placements or recruitment.

Researchers Group Tasks

Tasks of type A (Lookup tasks)

- A7: You urgently need to talk with Ian Ruthven.   What is his telephone number?

- A1: When was the pin code for the labs changed?

- A8: What was the topic of discussion at your first research group meeting?

- A6: When was the last time System support emailed you and what was the email about?

- A9: Where was mobileHCI held last year?

Tasks of type B (Item tasks)

- B7: Find an email which provides information about the Euan Minto prize

- B8: Find the email about the most recent Researcher's Digest.

- B9: Find the email with the Christmas lunch details last year.

- B10: Find the email about your last talk to researcher's digest.

Tasks of type C (Multi-item tasks)

- C8: You want to file all of the emails about your research group into one folder. Find the messages that you would want to file.

- C9: Of the recent talks and lectures in the department, which did you find the most interesting and why?

- C10: Each year the CIS department gives a talk to school children at Christmas time. Which staff members have given the talk in recent years?

- C11: Which social events have been organised in the department in the recent past?