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National Capital Region

In Search of Touch-Typing Touchscreen Keyboards

Speaker: Prof. Leah Findlater
University of Maryland, College Park

Friday, November 9, 2012
1:00PM-2:00PM, NVC 325

Abstract

Touchscreen devices have exploded onto the commercial stage in the past decade, most prolifically in smartphones, but in other forms as well, including tablets and interactive tabletops. While touchscreen devices have enormous appeal, one drawback is clear to anyone who has entered more than a few characters on one: Typing is slow, uncomfortable, and inaccurate, and it generally pales in comparison to typing on physical keyboards. A touchscreen's flat surface means that even expert typists have to look down at their fingers instead of feeling for the home row keys to situate their hands. This talk will cover a series of investigations we have conducted to improve 10-finger touchscreen typing through adaptation and multitouch gestural interaction. Ultimately, our goal is to support fast and accurate touch-typing with limited visual attention on touchscreens by employing a combination of improved design, personalization, and gestures.

Biography

Leah Findlater is an Assistant Professor in the College of Information Studies and an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research in human-computer interaction focuses on lowering barriers to technology use and information access by supporting users with a range of abilities and educational levels. This work has led to a number of publications in top-tier academic venues and has been recognized with two best paper awards and five honorable mentions at the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (ACM CHI). Prior to starting at the University of Maryland, Leah worked as an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Information School at the University of Washington. She received her PhD in Computer Science in 2009 from the University of British Columbia.