

Draft Standard on Software User Interfaces Released

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society will release documents as part of the ANSI/HFES 200 project, *Human Factors Engineering of Software User Interfaces*, to a canvass list that is currently being defined. HFES plans to release all five parts of HFES 200 in the second quarter of 2005 to a canvass committee formed under the essential requirements procedures of ANSI.

The objective of the HFES 200 standard is to provide design requirements and recommendations that will increase the accessibility, learnability, and ease of use of software. The ultimate beneficiaries of HFES 200 are the end users of software. The application of this standard is intended to provide user interfaces that are more usable, accessible, and consistent and that enable greater productivity and satisfaction.

Human Factors Engineering of Software User Interfaces consists of five parts: HFES200.1: Introduction, HFES200.2: Accessibility, HFES200.3: Interaction Techniques, HFES200.4: Interactive Voice Response, and HFES200.5: Visual Presentation and Use of Color.

Part 1 provides an overview on the content of the HFES 200 parts, explains relationships among the individual parts, and provides guidance on the relevance of individual parts to the development process, so that designers may understand where and when to use the parts.

Part 2 provides recommendations on features and functions of computer operating systems, drivers, application services, other software layers on which applications depend, and applications that increase the accessibility of applications for users with disabilities. Hardware is not specifically addressed by any recommendations, but many hardware assistive devices may utilize recommended functions that are provided by operations system and application software. Part 2 has been extensively harmonized with the ISO 9241-171 Software Accessibility Committee Draft released in the first quarter of 2005.

Part 3 incorporates material from the International Standards Organization (ISO) 9241 Parts 13 through 17 and is compatible with those ISO standards.

Part 4 consists of completely new material that has not appeared in ISO 9241 standards.

Part 5 incorporates material from ISO 9241 Part 12 and includes new recommendations on the use of color.

The HFES 200 Committee is seeking qualified technical experts to contribute to the specification of design requirements and address comments as part of the ANSI consensus-building process. Please contact HFES 200 Committee Chair Paul Reed at hfes200@hfes.org for further information about joining the committee as a permanent member.

To request participation in the canvass for HFES 200, please contact HFES Executive Director Lynn Strother, P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369, 310/394 1811, fax 310/394 2410. Please use your company letterhead and explain how you are materially affected or directly affected by this potential national standard. ☒

2005 HFES Election

This year's nomination ballots have been tallied, and the following candidates have agreed to run for office. Ballots are now being mailed to all Members and Fellows in good standing. Check your ballot for voting deadline information.

President-Elect

- John F. "Jeff" Kelley, SA Technologies, Marietta, GA
- Waldemar Karwowski, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- Michael James Smith, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Secretary-Treasurer-Elect

- Kevin B. Bennett, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
- D. Kristen Gilbert, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL
- William S. Marras, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Executive Council Member-at-Large

- Andrew S. Imada, AS Imada and Associates, Carmichael, CA
- Mark M. Brauer, Amencie Consultants, Corpus Christi, TX
- Donald L. Lassiter, Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC
- Arnold M. Lund, Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, WA
- Patrick E. Patterson, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- Brian Peacock, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ (as of August 2005) ☒