

PDTG 7th Annual User-Centered Product Design Award

The HFES Product Design Technical Group presented two awards at the 52nd HFES Annual Meeting in New York City to winners of its competition for innovative and user-centered product design approaches to human factors and industrial design. The award committee of Dianne McMullin and Stan Caplan received a broad diversity of product nominations. A panel of six judges evaluated nominations based upon their product design (functional obviousness, ease of operation, and creativity) and the user research methodology involved during concept development, design, and evaluation.

At a well-attended PDTG special session, the winning award went to Motorola for its WT4000 Wearable Computer, an arm-mounted mobile computer/scanner used by warehouse workers to pick and handle orders. Human Factors Lead Chandra Nair along with team members Jaeho Choi and Eric Johnson accepted the award for Motorola's Innovation and Design Group. Chandra gave a comprehensive presentation of the Human Factors/Industrial Design features of the product and the process used to achieve them.



Chandra Nair wears computer/scanner as he, Jaeho Choi, left, and Eric Johnson, right, receive award.

Also presented at the special session was an Honorable Mention award given to the Sage Software User-Centered Design and Usability Team for its Peachtree Accounting 2007 application that enables people to perform a wide variety of complex accounting and financial management tasks. Accepting the award was Team Leader Paul Sherman.

Thanks go to PDTG members David Aurelio, Hugh McLoone, Beth McGough, Karen Piegorsch, Tonya Smith-Jackson, and Michael Tschirhart who diligently evaluated all of the nominations for both the design and the methods used to achieve the design.

Purposes of the award are to (1) recognize user-centered and innovative product designs as well as research and design methods and (2) raise visibility of the PDTG and promote new membership. Previous winners of the award and other PDTG information can be found at <http://cptg.hfes.org/>. Currently at 543 members, PDTG invites you to become a member of this growing group and to participate in its activities.

Early next year look for a call for nominations for the Eighth Annual Award. In the interim you can contact Dianne McMullin (dianne.l.mcmullin@boeing.com) or Stan Caplan (scaplan@usabilityassociates.com) for details.



Computer/scanner can be
Worn on either arm.