

Proposed Name and Purpose Change

Product Design Technical Group

The leadership committee of the Product Design Technical Group has proposed changing the name and purpose statement of the group.

Background

The current purpose of the PDTG is to, “support its members in advancing their knowledge and implementation of principles and methods from user experience disciplines in the development of consumer, business, and medical products and services that are useful, usable, safe, and desirable.” This has historically involved support for the development of both hardware and software products and systems. However, the recently formed User Experience Technical Group (UXTG), has a similar purpose to the PDTG, and, “is concerned with advancing the research, design, and evaluation of user experiences in products, systems, and services, aiming to improve their design and functionality while fostering rich interactions between users and technology.” As the term “UX” scopes this group to have a stronger focus on software, the PDTG leadership proposes that we shift the focus of the PDTG to be primarily hardware research so that the respective TGs can both provide different, yet extensive and complimentary, resources to our communities.

Proposed name

The “Product Design Technical Group’s” name would change to the “Design Ergonomics Technical Group” (DETG). This name highlights that the group will focus on designing hardware in an ergonomic way.

Proposed purpose

“Formed in 1976, The [DETG] provides research and expertise to advance outstanding product design. With an emphasis on **hardware and physical interaction**—while acknowledging that many great products include software and systems—we integrate insights from industrial design, biomechanics, anthropometry, physiology, and usability to ensure hardware aligns with human capabilities. We focus on achieving outcomes such as fit, comfort, ease of use, performance, safety, usefulness, efficiency, and satisfaction.”

Proposed collaboration with UXTG

The new DETG would focus more exclusively on hardware design, and the TG will support hardware design and research methods competitions for students within HFES, as it has in the past. The UXTG will provide increased emphasis on software design and continue the work done by the PDTG to promote activities such as the mHealth Student Design competition associated with the Healthcare Symposium. The leadership committee proposes that moving forward, the PDTG and UXTG co-sponsor the Stan Caplan User-Centered Design Award and the annual PDTG/HCTG Networking Event held at ASPIRE.

Proposed Path Forward

The dues for DETG will stay as \$6, with all funds in the PDTG being transferred to the DETG. The primary officers will continue as specified in their original roles with PDTG until the end of their terms.

At this time, we request the members of the Product Design Technical Group indicate whether they approve of the proposal to change the TG name and purpose.