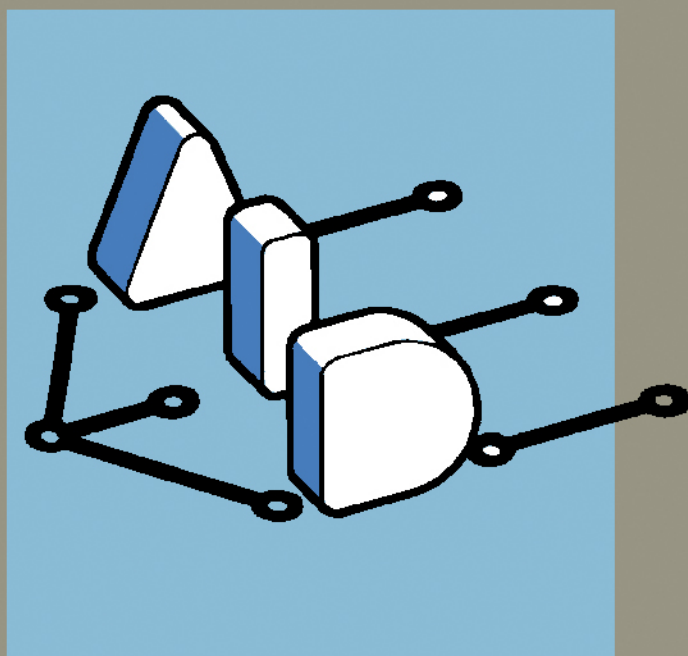


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# Adaptive User Interfaces



Edited by

D. Browne  
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M. Norman

# **Adaptive User Interfaces**

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## Preface

It is widely believed that "everyone should be computer literate" and as a consequence vast human and financial resources are being expended internationally on training individuals to adapt to using computers within their lives. The premise of the research that is reported in this volume is that "computers should be user literate". Comparatively small resources have been devoted to building flexibility into computers; flexibility which would enable computers to adapt to the diverse needs of the individuals who use them.

The research reported here was part of a project which looked at the problem of designing adaptive computer interfaces. An adaptive computer interface is one which can change its behaviour to suit the individual or group using it. This can range from an interface which switches fonts to suit the preference of a user, to an interface which builds and evaluates a model of the user in order to improve the effectiveness of communication between the computer and the user.

The Adaptive Intelligent Dialogues project, also known as the AID project, was a four-year project which researched and developed techniques for designing and building adaptive computer interfaces. The AID project was part of the United Kingdom's Advanced Technology Alvey Programme. The collaborators on the project were: STC Technology Ltd, Data Logic Ltd, British Telecommunications plc, The University of Hull, The University of Strathclyde and The University of Essex.

Special mention should go to the project managers Phil O'Donovan and his successor Paul Cooper of STC Technology Ltd who managed to keep the project on course. We would also like to thank Tom Stewart of System Concepts Ltd who was the external monitor for the project. His contributions at workshops were always very positive, apt and well received.