Distributed Experiences

Multi-Device Strategy Last updated on March 16, 2011

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Distributed Experiences in Multi-Device Ecosystem

A key goal is to create a "unified" service experience

Devices have outgrown one-size-fits-all design. Distributed designs do not mean "consistent" ones. Different functions feel appropriate in different contexts and on different devices. One-off design solution does not provide the flexibility and scalability in a fast-growing multi-device world.

True distribution is not duplication

Distribution is the system by which designers deliver the right things at the right place at the right time. Forced extention of a web paradigm to mobile devices won't work: there are important differences between devices: (1) screen's resolution, (2) viewing distance, and (3) control methods.

Context is everything

Effective distributed experiences must accommodate the appropriate depth, features and interface components into one fluid experience spanning a variety of devices and contexts.

Continutiv is the new consistency

Experiences must be selectively adapted only where they are relevant, and flow together across a series of devices and contexts. Groups of devices (constraints), people (behavioral), services (functions) and spaces (environmental) interacting together to support one another.

How Do We Help Multiple Devices Work Better Together Rather Than Coexist?

Success depends on understanding how users will approach and utilize a particular device. Just having a website, mobile app and television widget does not qualify as having created a distributed experiecne. To be truly distributed, these experiences must be adapted to the unique contexts that individual devices introduce.



PC/Mac

Promise productivity and effectiveness (task execution or completion) Provide deeper control than other devices Confined to a desktop

Smart Phones

Promise efficiency (quickly checking in or making real-time updates) Support the most immediate tasks with streamlined functions Confined to a pocket

Design for Mobile Devices

Tailor the experience

Native or customized UIs have the authority to answer how a device should be used, and where it fits among other devices.

Capitalize on connections

Mobile devices and their applications must take advantage of their ability to elevate other device experiences by adding companion or continuous interactions

Invest in the hero experience

Don't try to be everything to everyone. Aim to be remembered



Tablets

Promise richest portable experiences (by enabling users to take content to new places) A new class of device that excel where the computer doesn't belong and the phone doesn't perform Ambient exposures in living spaces (continually invite users to engage)



Television

The central convergence point of media - where media is most readily consumed Provide most rich and engaging experience Confined to a living room