# CS160: User Interface Design, Prototyping and Evaluation

Prof: John Canny

GSIs: Pablo Paredes

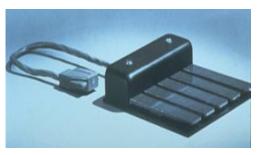
Anuj Tewari

# Where we were (1968)

#### Engelbart demo, NLS (oNLine System)

- Video screen, chording keyboard, mouse, videoconferencing, hyperlinking, word processing, email
- User studies







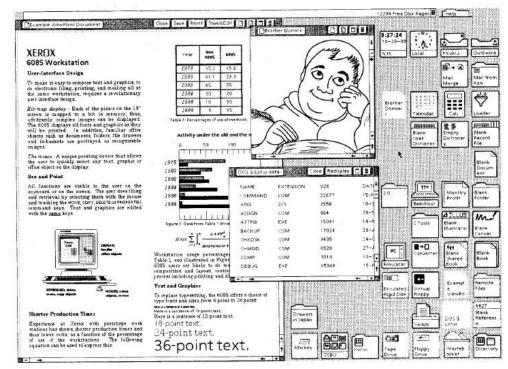






# Where we were (1981)

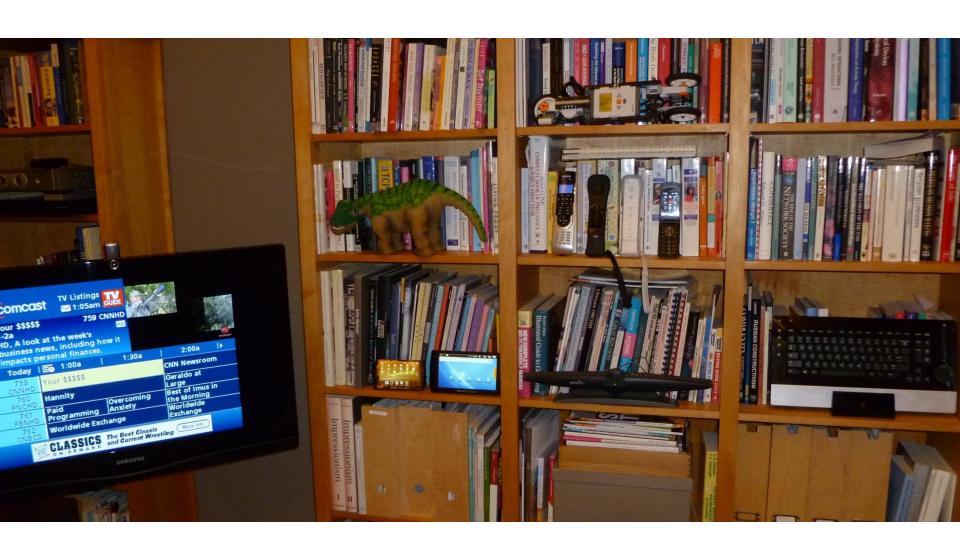




Xerox Star: Bitmapped display, windows, icons, menus, pointer, desktop, direct manipulation, WYSIWYG ...

Video: 1:11 - 8:20

#### Where we are now



#### Where we are now



Home and media control through voice, video

## Whole-body interaction





Microsoft Kinect

Whole-body interaction via 3D computer vision for gaming.

#### On Mobile Devices



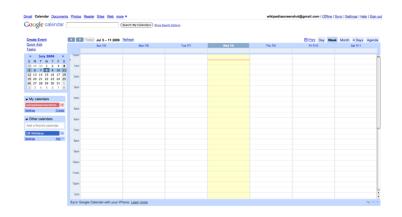




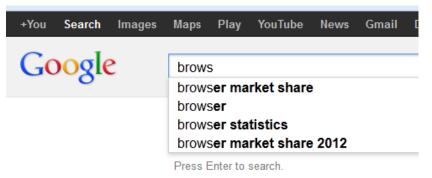
#### And on Web Browsers



Google Maps



Google Calendar



Google Search Bar



Angry Birds for Chrome

# Theme for this semester: Web Applications

Interfaces (and applications) which the user interacts with via a web browser.

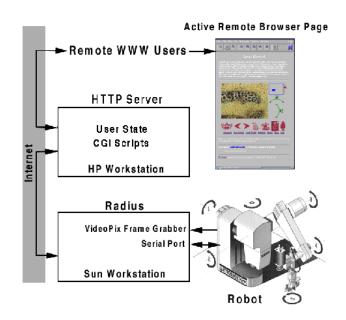
- Better interactivity, streamlined workflow, without the need to install a client program.
- The front-end of many cloud services.
- Highly portable the experience is similar (or different!) across devices.

## **Brief History**

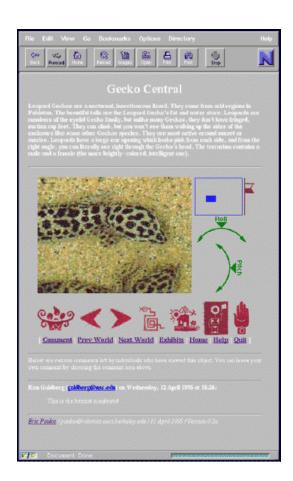
1995: Netscape introduces client-side scripting using Javascript.

"Hotjava" browser followed but is soon replaced by Java applet

support in other browsers.

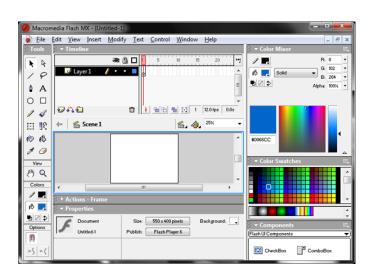


Telerobotic camera control using client-side scripting



## **Brief History**

- 1996: Macromedia Introduces Flash (later bought by Adobe)
- Much richer experiences, animation, sound, games.
- The web as an art form.



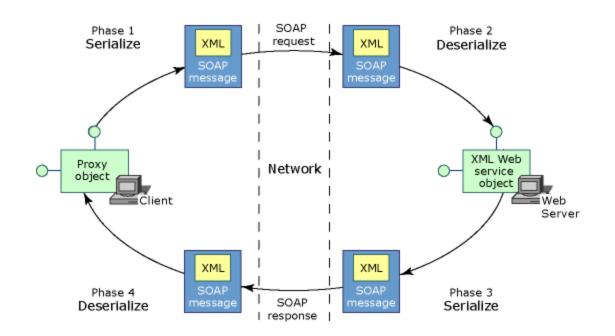


One web crawl (2011) found Flash files on 30-40% of all websites

## Web Interfaces History

1998: XML becomes the defacto standard for web app. communication.

SOAP messages, DOM, improve and simply app. design.



## Web Interfaces History

2005: The term "Ajax" is coined by Jesse James Garrett to describe the suite of technologies in use for web interfaces.Google Maps is created (acquisition from Where 2 Tech.)



## Web Interfaces History

2001-???: SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) standard – 2014?

1995-2000: PHP evolves to public release

1996: CSS style sheet standard published

1997-2000: HTML 4 Standard

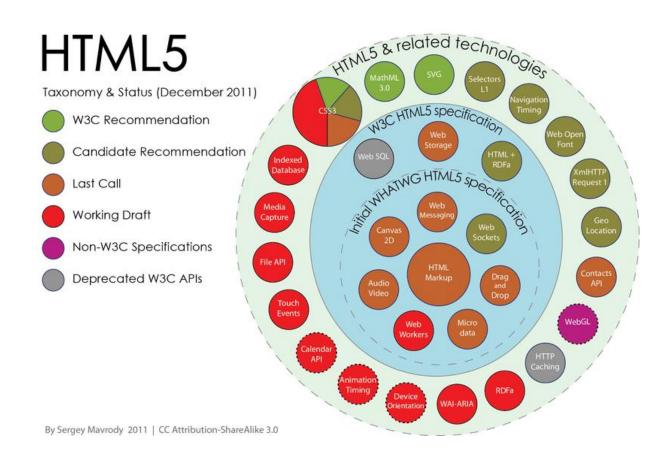
1999-2006: XHTML standard

2004-????: HTML 5 standard

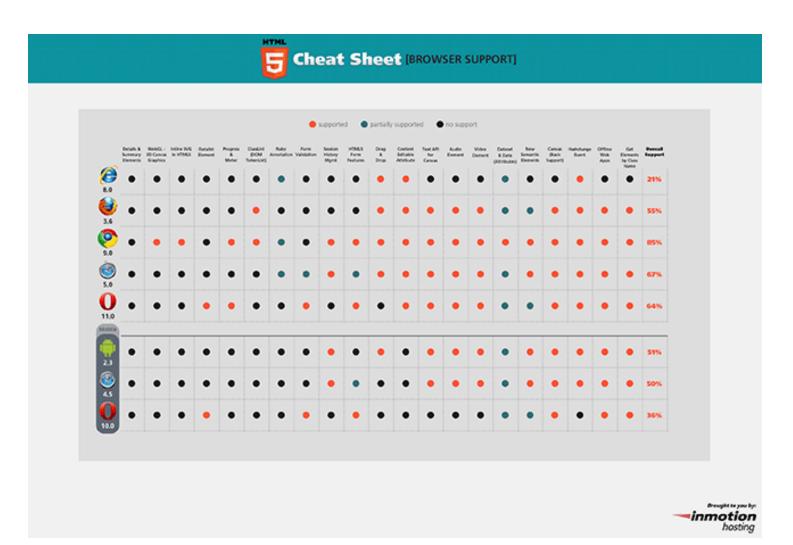
2002: Microsoft ASP.NET released

2004: Ruby on Rails released

## Web Interfaces Challenges



## Web Interfaces Challenges



## **User Interface Design**

We're studying the science of UI design, and a little of the art.





## The Impact of Design



This is a visual representation of most all the products Apple has launched. This image documents the ever changing form factor and industrial design of Apple's products, not every single model number or slight change made to a previous model. ~ Enjoy



#### **Misc. Apple Accessories**





Cinema Display



























Cinema Display HD

### This course

Is about the science of **Usability**.

It's also about the process of user-centered design.

This semester the focus is Web Interfaces.

The goal is not to build a working system, but an "interactive prototype."

Emphasis is on rapid prototyping and user testing to avoid obvious and not-so-obvious mistakes.

### Platform: Web Interfaces

We wont constrain your project beyond the theme, but there will be programming assignments with specific tools.

#### These will likely include

- AJAX
- XML/SOAP/DOM
- Scripting languages
- Ruby on Rails
- Adobe/Apache Flex
- Scala/LIFT/Comet

# Instructor: John Canny

#### **Professor in EECS**

Joined Berkeley in 1987

#### Work in HCI, Education, Health, Data Mining

Language learning games
Persuasive technologies
Mobile applications





## **GSI**

Name: Pablo Paredes

Areas: Behavior Change Technology

 Focus on inner circle and long term engagement

Engaging CBT (Cognitive Therapy)
Machinima, Narrative and Gaming
Tangible devices for emotion

- Happy Cube
- Tangible devices for calming technologies

Advisor: John Canny



## **GSI**

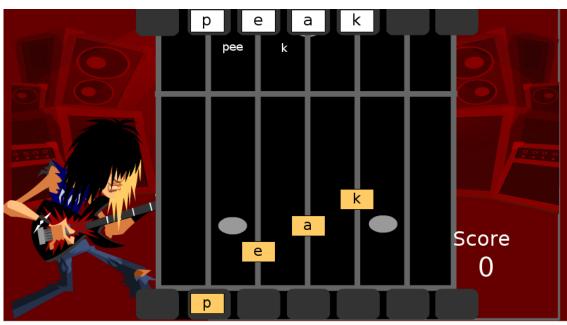
Name: Anuj Tewari

Areas of interest: Educational technology, Speech recognition, Game design

Research topic: Speech and Pronunciation Improvement via Games, for Hispanic Children

Advisor: John Canny





# **Topics**

- Course Mechanics
- Course Overview
- Project Description

## **Course Mechanics**

## **TAs, Office Hours, Sections**

#### **Teaching Assistants**

Pablo Paredes, Anuj Tewari: EECS grad students

#### **Office Hours**

- John Canny: MW 2:30-3:30, in 637 Soda Hall
- Also by appointment

#### **Sections**

- Friday 10-11AM, 11-12N, 405 Soda Hall (this week)
- Friday I-2PM, 320 Soda
- Will cover new material. You should attend!

## Reaching Us

Email: cs | 60@imail.eecs.berkeley.edu

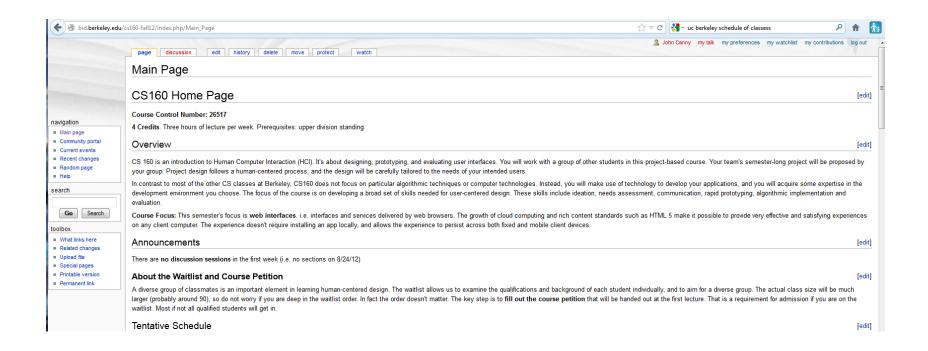
- Mail sent here will get the fastest response
- Please avoid mailing us directly

## **Admission: Course Petition**

- Due by this Weds, bring to next class
- All waitlisted students should submit
- Information will determine admission

We're looking for diversity – i.e. qualified non-majors as well as majors.

## Class Wiki

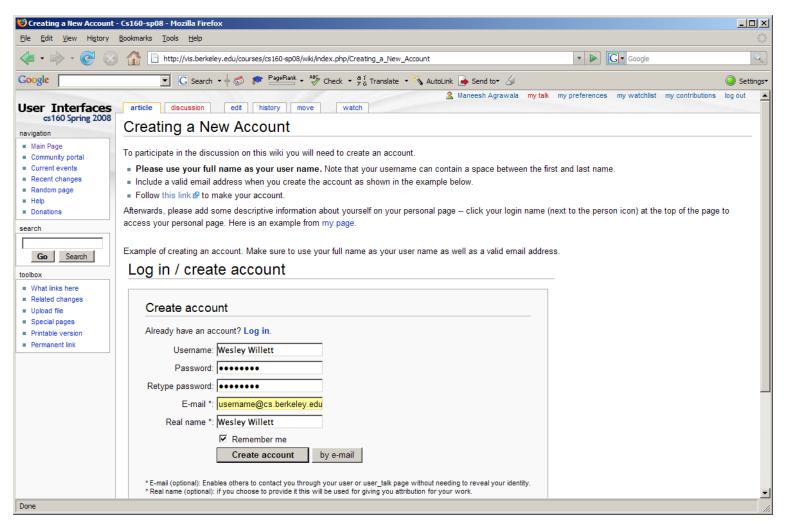


#### http://bid.berkeley.edu/cs160-fall12/

Link from John Canny's page Link for CS160 from EECS instructional page

#### Create Wiki Account

Your Ist assignment (due by this Weds)



# Readings

#### Readings are very important to the class

- Make sure you do the reading before class
- Midterm/Final will include things only in readings

#### Most readings will be posted on wiki

- Require username/password:

#### Online reading discussions (ongoing assignment)

- Must post one substantial comment per lecture
- We will **not** accept late comment
- Will be the major factor in you class participation grade

#### Content

This is a design-oriented course which focuses on several skills:

- User-centered design, needs analysis etc.
- Problem formulation
- Brainstorming
- Rapid prototyping and iterative design
- Usability evaluation
- Interactive system design and programming

# Grading

Class participation (5%)
Individual (non-programming) assignments (15%)
Pair Programming Assignments (15%)
Group project (50%)
Midterm (20%)

Score distribution is high with small variance. So every point counts! Make sure you turn in all the reading comments.

## **Policies**

#### **Late Assignments**

- Most assignments will be due before class on the due date
- Group assignments will not be accepted late
- Individual assignments lose 20% per day

#### **Cheating (official)**

- Will get you an **F** in the course
- More than once can get you dismissed from Cal

### **Assessment**

Goal of cs 160 is to teach you to design and evaluate interfaces

- There is often more than one good design
- But, there are also lots and lots of poor designs
- Be critical of your own work (point out pros and cons)
- As in many design disciplines, grading will be qualitative

Specific assessment guidelines will be given in each assignment

Good communication expected in oral & written presentations

#### Groups self-assess participation

- Should monitor it throughout the project
- Meet with us as soon as problems emerge

## **Course Overview**

### **Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)**

#### Human

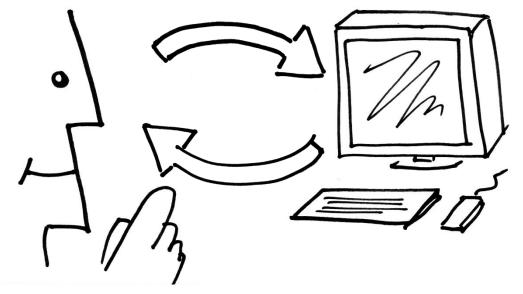
- User of program
- Others (friends, collaborators, coworkers)

#### Computer

- Machine program runs on
- Often split: clients & servers

#### Interaction

- User tells the computer what they want
- Computer communicates results



# User Interfaces (UIs)

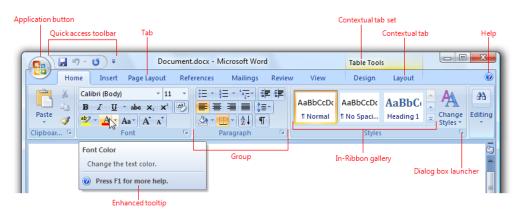
Part of application that allows

- People to interact with computer
- Computer to communicate results

Can include hardware design

Buttons, sliders, other sensors

HCI = design, prototyping, implementation & evaluation of UIs







http://www.reactable.com

# Why Study User Interfaces?

Major part of work for most commercial programs

Approximately 50%

You will work on software for a market

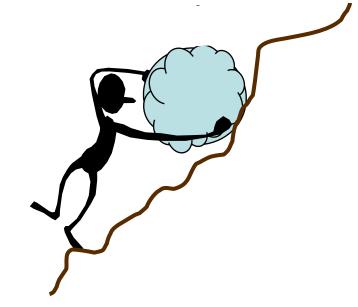
Intended for people other than yourself

Bad user interfaces cost

- Money (5%  $\uparrow$  satisfaction  $\rightarrow$  up to 85%  $\uparrow$  profits)
- Lives

User interfaces hard to get right

People are unpredictable



# Life-Threatening Errors

- 1995 American Airlines jet crashed into canyon wall, killing all aboard
  - On approach to Rozo airport in Colombia
  - Pilot skipped some of the approach procedures
  - Pilot typed in "R" and system completed full name of airport to Romeo
  - Guidance system executed turn at low altitude to head for Romeo airport
  - 9 seconds later plane struck canyon wall



Is the pilot to blame?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\_Airlines\_Flight\_965

# What is Usability?

#### Intuitive

The design should seem natural

#### Ease of learning

Faster the second time and so on...

#### **Productivity**

Perform tasks quickly and efficiently

#### Minimal error rates

- If they occur, good feedback so user can recover

#### High user satisfaction

Confident of success

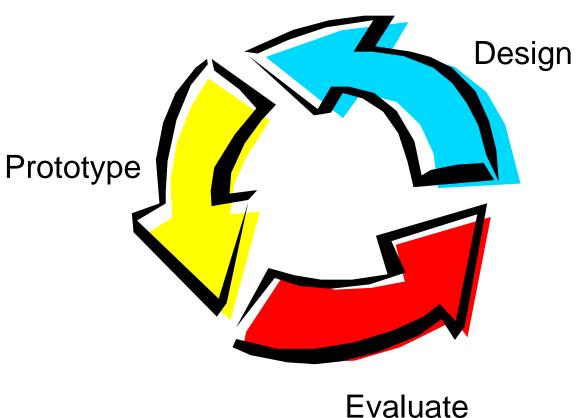
### Who Builds Interfaces?

#### Ideally a team of specialists

- graphic designers
- interaction / interface designers
- technical writers
- marketers
- test engineers
- software engineers
- customers

Some engineers become very good at user-centered design, but its not for all engineers.

# Interface Design Cycle



### Building Successful Interfaces

- Task analysis & contextual inquiry
- 2. Rapid prototyping
- 3. Evaluation
- 4. Iteration: Back to I

### Task Analysis & Contextual Inquiry

- Observe existing practices
- Create scenarios of actual use
- Create models to gain insight into work processes



CS247, Stanford, 2006



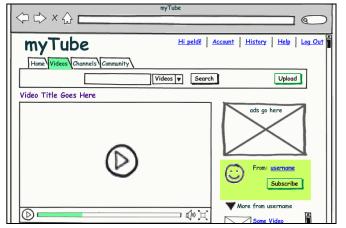
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~chrisli/m2.html

# Rapid Prototyping

- Build a mock-up of design (or more!)
- Low fidelity techniques
  - Paper sketches
  - Cut, copy, paste
  - Video segments
- Interactive prototyping tools
  - HTML, Flash, Javascript,
     Visual Basic, C#, etc.
- UI builders
  - Interface Builder, Visual Studio,
     NetBeans



Moggridge, Designing Interactions, p.704



http://www.balsamiq.com/products/mockups/examples#wiki

### **Evaluation**

Evaluate analytically (no users)

Test with real target users

#### Low-cost techniques

- expert evaluation
- walkthroughs

#### Higher cost

Controlled usability study





http://www.laurasmith.info/UsabilityTest.jpg

# **Building Successful Interfaces**

- Task analysis & contextual inquiry
- Rapid prototyping
- Evaluation
- Iteration

Evaluation brings real users into the design loop.

Design stays **user-centered** throughout the process.

# Why not simulate the user?

People have certainly tried. Its useful in certain special cases, e.g. pointing and typing evaluation.

For most applications, people are far too complex to simulate. Behavior depends on just about every external factor.

Users are their own best simulation. In fact they are ground truth...

### Goals of the Course

### Learn to design, prototype, evaluate interfaces

- Discover needs and preferences of real customers
- Cognitive/perceptual constraints that effect design
- Building and rapidly evolving interactive systems
- Techniques to test and evaluate a product
- How to work together on a team project
- Communicate your results effectively

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These non-technical skills become more important the further you go in your career.

# Pair Programming Assignments

# Pair Programming Teams

Pair programming is an agile Software Engineering technique where two people work together on the same program.

Goal is to add "another set of eyes"

Spot bugs early

Support peer learning

In this course it allows us to include compulsory programming assignments without assuming advanced programming skills



You will need to find a programming partner by next Monday. Email us if you need help.

# **Project Description**

### **Teams**

Each of you will individually propose an application idea

- We follow a studio model to help you think outside the box
- Learning and working with others is central to the course

#### Groups

- 4 or 5 students to a team
- Work with students with different skills/interests

#### Cumulative

Apply several HCI methods to a single interface

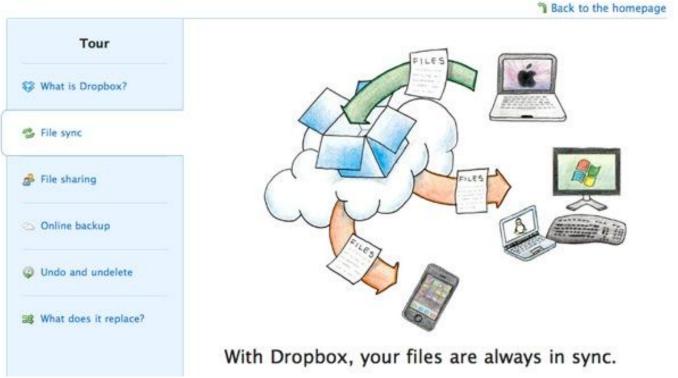
### Theme: Web Interfaces

- Plenty of design freedom
- Be careful not to over-design
  - Simplicity is the best design principle
  - "one-size-fits-all" is rarely true across devices
- You're designing an interactive prototype you don't need to implement much (or any) back-end functionality.

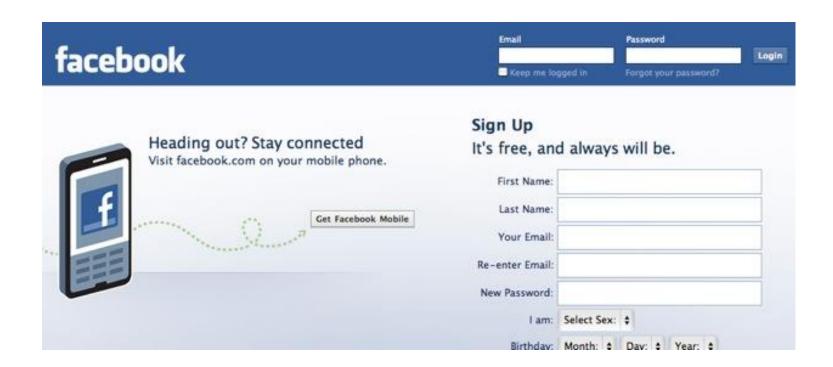
### **Inspiration: Dropbox**

Log in





### **Inspiration: Social Media**



# Inspiration: Input

Google Voice Search - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3z7Tw1K17A">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3z7Tw1K17A</a>

### Inspiration: Voice

- IBM Websphere voice
- IBM "Watson" voice service

### **Next Time**

### The Design Cycle and Brainstorming

- The Task-Centered Design Process. Task-Centered User Interface Design. Chap 1. Lewis & Rieman
- The Perfect Brainstorm. The Art of Innovation. Kelley
   Will need username/password for this one