



# **Elicitation Techniques**

- Reuse old requirements or existing system
- Questionnaire
- Interviews
- Observation and apprenticeship
- Ethnographic studies
- Brainstorming
- JAD: Joint Application Design
- Nominal group technique
- Delphi technique
- PIECES Approach

#### **Observations and Apprenticeship**

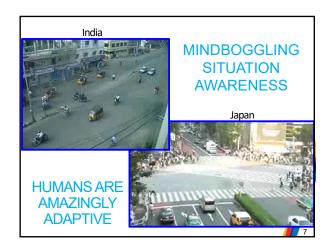


- Observe the real work. Apprenticing is based on the idea of masters and apprentices. In this case, the RA is the apprentice and the user is the master craftsman. The apprentice sits with the master craftsman to learn the job by observation, asking questions, doing some of the job under the master's supervision.
- Almost anybody is good at explaining what he or she is doing while doing it. If the user is doing this job in the normal workplace, he or she can provide a running commentary and provide details that may otherwise be lost. It is probably only while working that the user can
- describe the task precisely, explain why the task is done this way, and
- list the exceptions that can occur.
- Note: Goguen says asking users to talk aloud does NOT work because audience is unknown.

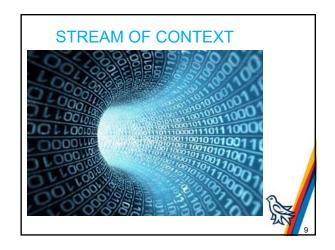
# **Observations and Apprenticeship**



- Rare unless doing in-house work
- Very useful for understanding the rationale behind requirements and proposing more appropriate solutions:
  - Once the phone hangs up, support line workers needed that a box appears where they can type in the results of the phone call. Closer analysis showed they use the box to fill in their decision about the phone call. So why not automate this process and give them a more formal form
  - · Steering system for a ship











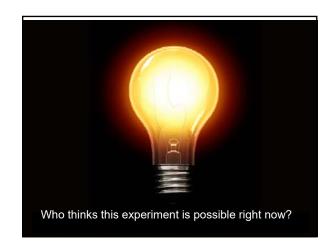


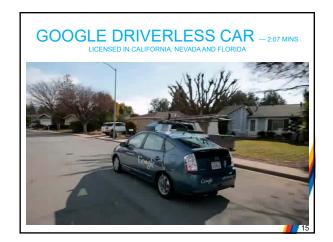
#### **VOLUNTEERS?**

- Who wants to be a volunteer for conducting experiments with this killer application?
- You will get to use some cool devices such as Microsoft HoloLens!

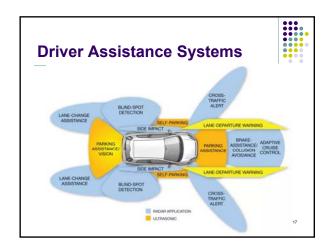












# **Observations and Apprenticeship**



- Imagine that you are a passenger in a car of a not so stellar driver
- Observe the driver (or be his or her apprentice)
- Describe in detail what is happening; what scares you?
- Which driving assistance system would be most useful for this driver?

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### **Focused Ethnographic Studies**

- Ethnography is the systematic study of people and cultures.
- It is designed to explore cultural phenomena where the researcher observes society from the point of view of the subject of the study.
- An ethnography is a means to represent graphically and in writing the culture of a group.

[Wikipedia]

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#### **Focused Ethnographic Studies**



- Ethnography is a methodological strategy used to provide descriptions of human societies, which as a methodology does not prescribe any particular method (e.g., observation, interview, questionnaire), but instead prescribes the nature of the study (i.e., to describe people through writing—for example the habits of people).
- In biological sciences, this type of study is often referred to as a *field study* or a *case report*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnography

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# Focused Ethnography Studies People: Air Traffic Controllers



- After spending time watching air traffic controllers in action with an existing air traffic control system, the following was noticed:
  - Controllers often put aircrafts onto potentially conflicting flight paths with the intention to correct them later
  - Existing system raises an audible warning when any conflict possible
  - Controllers turn the buzzer off, because they were annoyed by the constant "spurious" warnings
- Wrong moral: Controllers don't like audible warnings since they turn them off
- More accurate observation: Controllers don't like to be treated like idiots

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#### **Ethnographic Analysis**



- Discovery is by observation and analysis
  - workers are not asked to explain what they do
- This is usually a very instructive way to discover social- and human-oriented factors of systems
  - What does a nuclear technician do all day?
  - What does his/her workspace look like?
- It is less useful in discovering political factors as workers are aware of the presence of an outsider.

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# **Common Ethnography Mistakes**



- Ethnography concentrates on modeling existing practice
  - Sometimes, practices are no longer necessary, but old habits die hard.
  - People may not remember why something is done a particular way
    - Is a good idea to remove
    - Users depend on legacy features
    - Removal might cause disaster (in unusual circumstances)

#### **DRIVING IN INDIA**





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