HCI in Education

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INTRODUCTION
The use of technology in education is burgeoning, especially in terms of distance and online education. At first, it appears that the tools used to support courses on line are simply tools used for video conferencing, EDI, and the like. Further investigation seems to support the idea that systems that support courses on line are qualitatively different from systems that support business activities or even a normal web site.

When the organizers of the special interest group on Usability in Online/Distance Learning at CHI 99 were unable to attend, the group who attended took over the SIG and discussed topics having to do with usability in distance education. The purpose of this special interest group is to follow up on the discussion that was started there in a more formal manner.

FORMAT
The intention of this SIG is to provide an open forum to discuss topics of interest to the participants. To facilitate this, topics of discussion would be solicited at the conference prior to the SIG and the first 10 minutes would be used to add other topics. The remainder of the time would be spent in discussion of the topics by the participants moderated by the SIG leader.

AREAS OF INTEREST
As mentioned, topics will be solicited from the participants. The following topics are suggested as some of the topics to be discussed:

- What are the HCI issues in education?

- In what ways are HCI issues in education different from HCI issues in other areas? In what ways are they the same?

- Are there HCI issues that are unique to education?

TARGET AUDIENCE
This SIG should be of particular interest to educators and developers of educational software. There is expected to be an emphasis on systems that support on line courses and distance education, but other forms of educational software and other areas where technology is used in the education process are valid areas of interest as well. It is hoped that HCI designers from areas other than education would participate to enrich the discussion with viewpoints and insights from their disciplines..