
SIGCHI Lifetime Research Award Talk – RUBY: Reminiscing about User interfaces by Brad over the Years

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Abstract

Brad Myers has been doing research in the area of human-computer interaction for the last 40 years. Along the way, he and his students created over 60 software systems, whose names are often acronyms for gemstones. This talk's acronym, Ruby, is fittingly the gemstone associated with a 40th anniversary.

Myers's MIT Master's thesis, Incense, was one of the earliest data visualization systems. While working for PERQ Systems Corporation, Brad created one of the first commercial window managers, called Sapphire, with a number of features that later became widespread. His PhD dissertation featured an interactive tool called Peridot, a programming-by-demonstration system that specified the look and behaviors of widgets without conventional programming. At Carnegie Mellon University, he created the Garnet and Amulet toolkits that incorporated novel designs for objects, constraints, output handling, input handling, command objects, and interactive tools. Many of the innovations in these projects have been adopted by later research and commercial systems. Brad was one of the early researchers on innovative uses for handheld devices, in a large-scale project called Pebbles. Another focus has been on using HCI techniques to improve programming for novice, expert, and end-user programmers.

Bio

Brad A. Myers is a Professor in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He was chosen to receive the ACM SIGCHI Lifetime Achievement Award in Research in 2017, for outstanding fundamental and influential research contributions to the study of human-computer interaction. He is an IEEE Fellow, ACM Fellow, member of the CHI Academy, and winner of many best paper awards and three Most Influential Paper Awards. He is the author or editor of over 475 publications including the books "Creating User Interfaces by Demonstration" and "Languages for Developing User Interfaces." Eighty-five of his publications have been presented at CHI. He has been on the editorial board of six journals, and a consultant on user interface design and implementation to over 80 companies. He regularly teaches courses on user interface design and software. Myers received a PhD in computer science at the University of Toronto. He received the MS and BSc degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during which time he was a research intern at Xerox PARC. From

1980 until 1983, he worked at PERQ Systems Corporation. His research interests include user interfaces, programming environments, programming language design, end-user software engineering (EUSE), API usability, interaction techniques, programming by example, handheld computers, and visual programming. He belongs to ACM, SIGCHI, IEEE, and the IEEE Computer Society.

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