HUMAN INTERFACE GUIDELINES
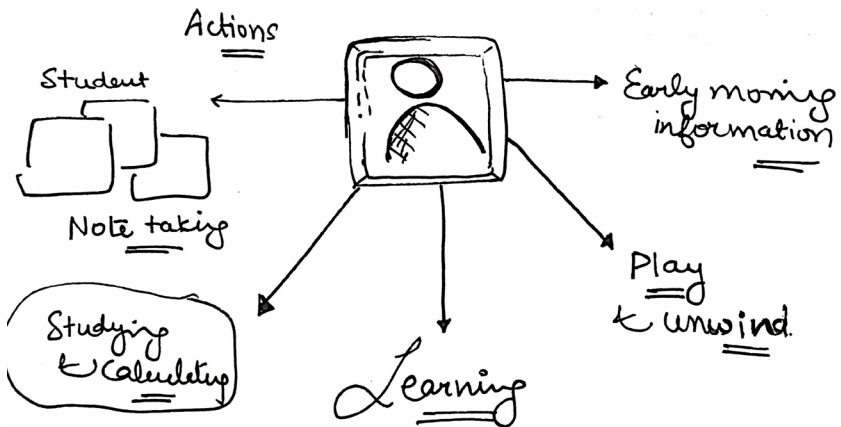

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This is a living document.

The Principles of the Action - Centered Design framework

1 An action is the smallest possible representation of solving a user's intent.

2 To accomplish a user's wants and needs, the computer must create a chain of actions that can come together like lego bricks to provide an output.

3 Each action must infer a user's intent by understanding ambient input and user input.

4 The computer must not perform an action on the user's behalf. All actions are performed with the user, not for the user.

5 While performing an action the computer must always maintain a shared understanding of context with the user. There should be no surprises about what the computer knows about its user.

6 The efficacy of an action should depend on the reliability of the response, not the time spent on a particular action.

The Three Questions

Use these questions as guiding principles when designing
your own actions.

Who is this action for?

What does it do to help
the person?

How does it impact
the person's life?

Prioritize Human Intent

Action as Core Unit: An action is the smallest possible action that fulfills a person's wants and needs.

Clear Goal Representation: Design your action to pursue a single clear goal. How does it improve the person's life? What does the person really want to do?

Build Modular and Flexible Systems

Lego-like Actions: Design actions that allow people to stack them like building blocks. This modular approach should enable people to combine actions seamlessly to achieve complex tasks

Consistency and Standards: Maintain consistency across actions to ensure predictability and ease of learning. Consistent design patterns help people understand how to combine actions effectively. Follow the platform conventions.

Actions are collaborative, not automated

Participation: Design actions that perform tasks *with the person, not for the person.* Performing an action is a co-creative process.

Feedback and Communication: Provide clear feedback on the system's state and actions being performed, ensuring people are always aware of what is happening.

Shared Context

Transparency: Make the action's understanding of context explicit, avoiding surprises about what the computer knows about the person.

- **Error Prevention and Recovery:** Implement safe-guards that prevent errors through confirmations and provide easy recovery options, maintaining a shared understanding between the person and system.

Actions are efficacious

Efficiency over Speed: Focus on the reliability and accuracy of responses rather than speed alone. Ensure that actions deliver consistent results under varying conditions

Care for the environment

Actions that can be performed by traditional programming logic should not use an internet API, actions that can be accomplished by an internet API should not use an LLM service.

Use AI sparingly.