User Experiments with Tree Visualization Systems

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Abstract:

This paper describes between-subjects experiments with five well-known tree visualization systems, and Windows Explorer as a baseline system. Subjects performed tasks relating to the structure of a directory hierarchy, or to attributes of files and directories. Task completion times, correctness and user satisfaction were measured. Significant system and task type effects and an interaction between system and task type were found. We analyze the reasons for these observed differences and present several design recommendations and conclusions.