Next Lecture, May 25

The fifth lecture will be given by Ben Shneiderman, Professor of Computer Science, Founding Director (1983-2000) of the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory and Member of the Institutes for Advanced Computer Studies and Systems Research, all at the University of Maryland at College Park. He was elected a Fellow of the Association for Computing (ACM) in 1997 and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2001. He received the ACM SIGCHI Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.


"Creativity Support Tools: A Grand Challenge"

Ben Shneiderman

Dept. of Computer Science, University of Maryland

Friday May 25, 2007, 14:30 to 15:30 -- Coffee and Cake at 14:00

IT Huset, Store Auditorium

Creativity Support Tools is a research topic with high risk but potentially very high payoff. The goal is to develop improved software and user interfaces that empower diverse users in the sciences and arts to be more productive, and more innovative. Potential users include a combination of software and other engineers, diverse scientists, product and graphic designers, and architects, as well as writers, poets, musicians, new media artists, and many others. Enhanced interfaces could enable more effective searching of intellectual resources, improved collaboration among teams, and more rapid discovery processes. These advanced interfaces should also provide potent support in goal setting, speedier exploration of alternatives, improved understanding through visualization, and better dissemination of results (demos will be shown). For creative endeavors that require composition of novel artifacts (computer programs, engineering diagrams, symphonies, animations, artwork), enhanced interfaces could facilitate rapid exploration of alternatives, prevent unproductive choices, and enable easy backtracking.

Two key human factors issues are: (1) Formulation of guidelines for design of creativity support tools. (2) Novel research methods to assess creativity support tools – for example, Multi-dimensional In-Depth, Long-term Case studies (MILCs). These issues will be the core of the June 2007 Conference on Creativity and Cognition in Washington, DC.