Educating passengers about life preserver donning

Luca Chittaro, HCI Lab, University of Udine, Udine, Italy

Recent studies have shown that illustrations used by airlines to present life preserver donning are difficult to comprehend, even when study participants are given an unlimited amount of time to study them. Moreover, the accident occurred to US Airways Flight 1549 brought significant, fresh attention to the fact that passengers are not knowledgeable about life preservers, and not well prepared in using them. In this presentation, we propose a new approach to educate passengers about life preserver donning, based on actively exploring the procedure on small touchscreens that are compatible with on-board use. To evaluate the proposed interactive tool, we contrast it with the traditional safety briefing card in a study that assesses different aspects of effectiveness, showing that the proposed interactive solution is significantly more effective than the traditional one.