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Human Factors in the Design of Air Traffic Control Systems: A Practitioner's View



- 1. Best practice: the application of design principles and standards
- 2. Effective implementation of automation
- 3. The design of alerts
- 4. A broader approach to system design
- 5. Conclusions





"Product usability is a key concept within human factors and more broadly within design. Despite the vast amount of research on usability, the process of designing human factors into computer systems remains something of an art ".

HF Integration in future ATM systems, Eurocontrol (1)

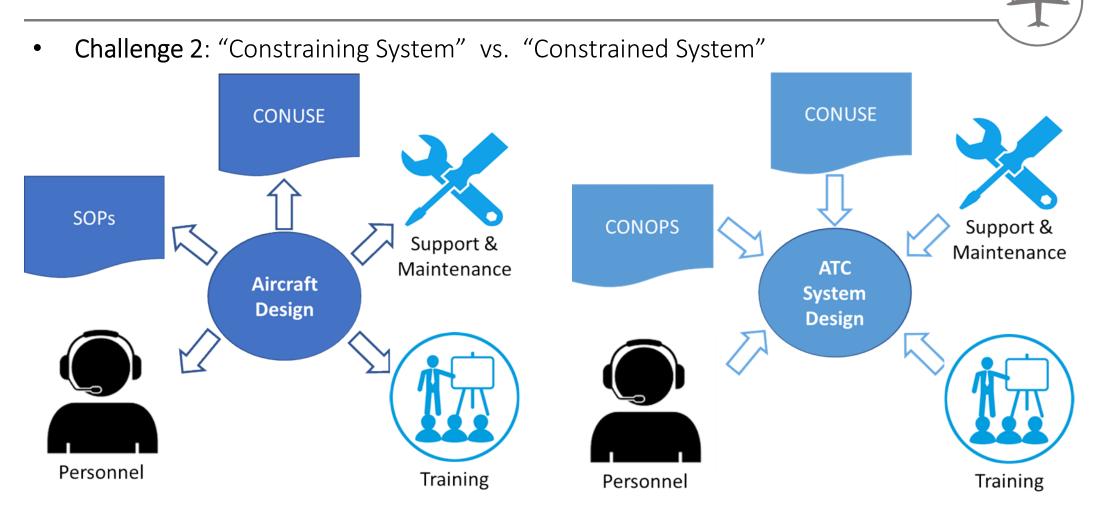
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Challenge 1: The pursuit of consistency •



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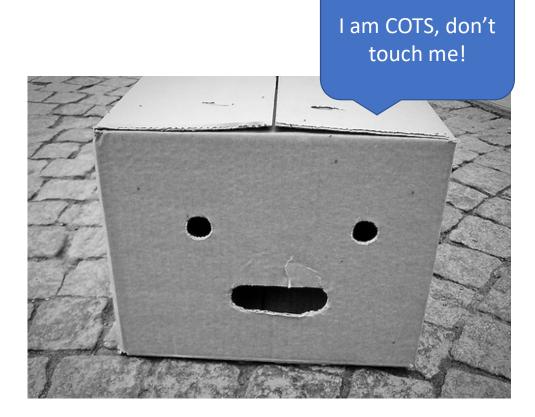
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• Challenge 3: The proliferation of COTS

Impacts

- Consistency
- Competition for users' attentional resources
- Commercial strategy & product roadmap





2. Effective implementation of automation Systemisation Adaptability Safety Efficiency **AUTOMATION** targets Cost savings System resilience

2. Effective implementation of automation

Transformation of the information acquisition process

The importance of subtle cues...and the impact of their loss Methodological controlling vs intuitive controlling

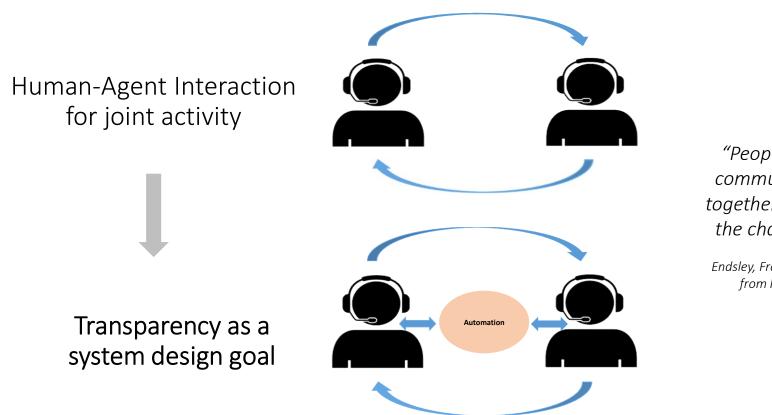




Needs serious consideration during the system design So, can we offer different cues or new memory aids?

Requires system flexibility!

2. Effective implementation of automation

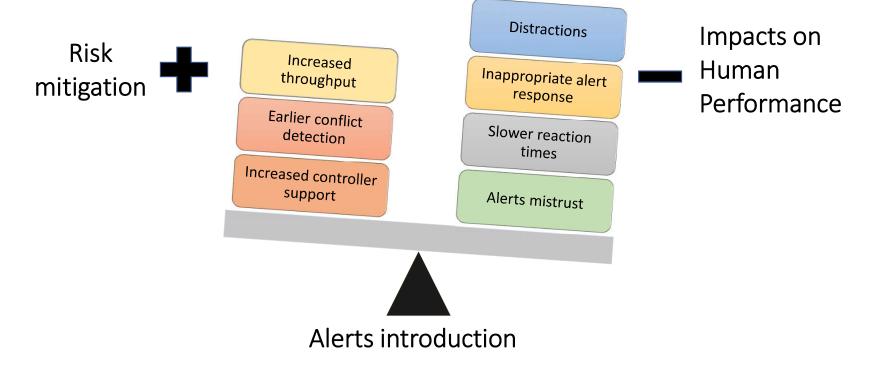


"People and machines have to communicate, co-ordinate, play together in intricate ways to meet the challenges or their domain"

Endsley, From here to autonomy: lessons learned from human –automation research (2)

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3. The design of alerts



3. The design of alerts

Alerting Philosophy

A key element of the system design philosophy

Benefits:

- Holistic perspective
- Governance
- Consistency
- Identification of latent issues
- Roadmap for future
 developments

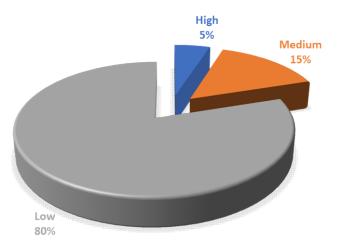
Essential components:

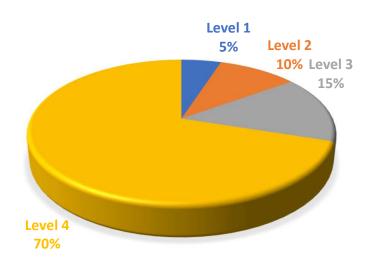
- Defining and bounding the scope
- Considering all different typologies
- Deciding on the classification criteria for their prioritisation.
- Considering systems technical performance.

Alerts distribution- From theory to practice

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 Prioritisation guidelines from Alarm Design in Air Traffic Management, 2008, Eurocontrol

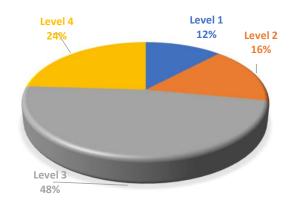


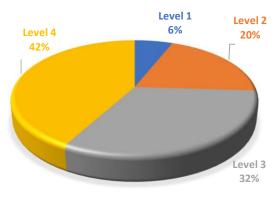


Tailored prioritisation

guideline

• Some real distribution results...





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4. A broader approach to systems design

"Complex socio-technical systems are integrated human and machine entities that, when functioning as an integrated, coordinated unit, can address a wide range of problems that are too complex to be addressed by individuals or machines working alone"

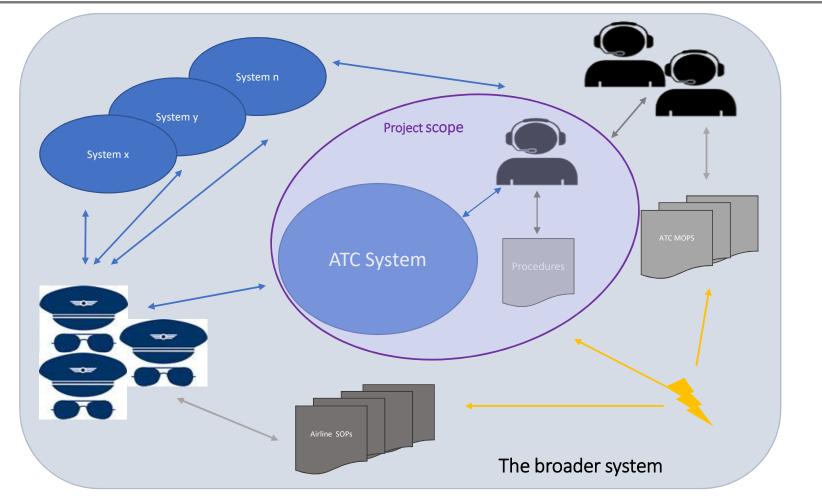
Gorman, Cooke & Salas, Preface to the special issue on collaboration, coordination and adaptation in complex sociotechnical settings (3)



Systems Thinking for Safety: Ten Principles A White Paper Moving towards Safety-II, Eurocontrol (4)

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A real world example- The added value of applying Systems Thinking



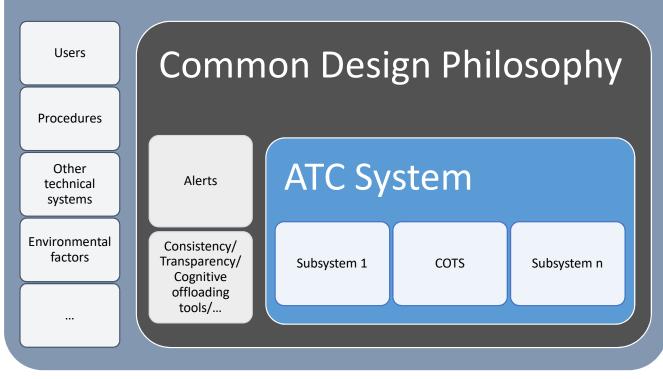
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5. Conclusions

"For any interface to be effective, it must be implemented as part of an integrated approach to systems design. The interface, decision support, automation, training, selection, alarms, procedures and team collaboration all need to be designed in a coordinated manner using a common philosophy"

Vicente, 2002, Ecological Interface design: Progress and Challenges (5)

The ATM (broader) System



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Thank you

Q&A session







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- 2. Endsley, Creating effective autonomous systems is thus dependent on the development of a successful approach to humanautonomy teaming - From here to autonomy: lessons learned from human –automation research, Human Factors, 59, 2017
- 3. Gorman, Cooke & Salas, Preface to the special issue on collaboration, coordination and adaptation in complex sociotechnical settings, Human Factors, 52, 2010
- 4. Systems Thinking for Safety: Ten Principles A White Paper Moving towards Safety-II, Eurocontrol, 2014
- 5. Vicente, Ecological Interface design: Progress and Challenges, Human Factors, 44, 2002