1. The fastest response time is not always the best response time. The best response time is the one that results in the greatest productivity. Long response times are generally annoying to users, and can increase error rates. But very quick response times can also increase errors, especially in a complex task. However, the computer can sometimes correct for these errors, or at least warn about them.

2. To improve the situation for the user, several things can be done. The first is to give the user some indication of why there is no response yet (i.e. a dialog box saying that something is in progress that may take awhile). Even better is to provide the user with a dynamically updating estimate of how much longer it will take, or what percentage of the task has been completed so far.

3. A “good” error message provides information that is useful to the end user. It is written in the language of the end user, and doesn’t just tell them that something bad has happened, but also tells them what they should do to correct it. It should also be consistent with the surrounding interface, both in terms of appearance, and in terms of language used.

4. Laboratory studies have shown that most people focus their attention within a five-degree viewing angle. Reducing the local density results in easier to read information, since the data is grouped into smaller chunks that are easier for the human mind to handle.

5. Online manuals have several advantages over printed ones. Entries can be easily cross-linked, and integrated with other available materials. Online manuals are always available and can be used by multiple users simultaneously. They can be updated, unlike printed manuals which become out of date quickly. They are much cheaper to provide.

   On the other hand, there are also some disadvantages. Unless you have multiple monitors, or one very large monitor, it’s necessary to continually flip back and forth between the manual and the application. Monitors also typically have a much lower resolution than the printed page does, which means less information is available at once. And some people just don’t like reading off a screen, and would prefer a paper version,

6. It forces the development team to think about issues from the user’s point of view early on. The software can be written to match the capabilities listed in the manual, instead of the manual being written to match what’s in the software. Writing the manual early also ensures that there will be enough time to proofread the manual, and get feedback on it from end users. Writing the manual early also helps to discover inconsistencies or bugs in the software.

7. The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) has a database of thousands of films and TV shows, listing the cast, crew, date of release, and tons of other information. Searches can be done in one of two ways. The first is the form on their website. A pull-down menu lets you select from “All, movie titles, character names, actor/actress names, quotes, bios, or plots.” It then shows you a list
of the results. If it can’t find any results for the exact string you entered, it tries to find the closest matches. (i.e. searching for “Ocean’s Elleven” won’t turn up empty, but will instead suggest “Ocean’s Eleven”.) If it thinks it has found an exact match, it will take you right to that item’s page, skipping the search results page. A link is also provided to a dedicated search page which provides more options, such as searching by date. http://www.imdb.com (screenshots attached.)

8. A treemap is a way of visualizing the relationships between pieces of information. For example, the sizes of on-screen icons (relative to each other) to convey the relative sizes of the data items they represent. Color can be used to indicate categories. By “nesting” one icon inside of another, hierarchical relationships can be shown. It provides a way to easily and quickly get an overview of complex data.

I own a Mac running OS X, and so I was unable to run the millionvis tool. I briefly considered trying to compile it from source, but I gave up when I saw that the “source” distribution still included several .dll files. However, I do have my files roughly organized, so I can still provide information about the disk usage on my computer. I have a 60GB drive and a 130GB drive, for a total capacity of 190GB.

On my main drive, “Strider”, the 60GB one:
- 44GB used, 8.5GB free. (73% full.)
- The OS and system files take up approximately 2.5GB.
- Application programs take up 9.7GB.
- My home directory takes up 27GB, nearly half the drive.
  - Of this, 3GB are used up by various software projects I am working on.
  - 8GB is music files.
  - Around 4GB is archived software installers.
  - 5GB is archived disk images.
  - 2GB are photos.
- The rest is in misc. smaller pieces.

On the secondary drive, “Media Vault”, the 130GB one:
- 119GB used, 8.4GB free. (91% full.)
- The vast majority, 94GB, is used to store episodes of TV shows I’ve recorded.
- 9GB is used for divx movies.
- Other miscellaneous video clips use up another 12GB.
- 3GB are used to store more music and audio files.
- The rest is in misc. smaller pieces.

Altogether, I am using 115GB to store video files, which is 60% of my total space. System files and applications take up 6% of the space, a very small fraction. My personal files (not counting video) use up a total of 32GB, which is 17% of my total space. Counting all that video, my personal files take up 147GB, which is 77% of my total space.

There were two surprises. The first was that I didn’t realize my archive of TV shows took up quite that much space. The second was that my software projects take up that much room. Upon closer inspection, close to 2GB of that is from having multiple build trees of a large project I’ve worked on (SERIAL, MPI, MPI_DEBUG, etc.).
The Internet Movie Database

Visited by over 25 million movie lovers each month!

Welcome to the Internet Movie Database, the biggest, best, most awe-inspiring website on the planet. Want to make IMDb your home page? Drag this link onto your bookmarks bar.

Please Meet Kevin Knight

Kevin Knight has one credit to his name, but, bePhotos his page springs to life (the guy's got a million credit, and his new self-submission system makes adding headshots easier and faster than ever. Go to your client's pa "Primary Photo Not Submitted" image to start th head directly to the IMDb Publicity Photos purcl...
IMDb name and title search

A search for "ocean's elleven" found the following results:

Popular Results

Popular Titles (Displaying 1 Result)
1. Ocean's Eleven (2001)

Other Results

Titles (Approx Matches) (Displaying 16 Results)
1. Ocean's Eleven (1960)
3. The Ocean's Eleven Story (2001) (V)
5. Leggenda del pianista sull'oceano, La (1998) aka "The Legend of the Pianist on the Ocean" - USA
6. Elf Jahre und ein Tag (1963) aka "Eleven Years and One Day" - (English title)