Assignment 2 - Intentionality

This assignment has two parts. You can work individually or in pairs.

Part 1
Think about situations in which you, or someone else, misunderstood the intentions, beliefs, desires and/or emotions, of someone else. Explain why it happened. Give up to four examples. For at least one of the examples, consider if and how the misunderstanding could have been avoided. (If you think it was unavoidable, explain why).

Part 2
Here we want you to discuss possible problems and benefits of designing objects (or features) that invite the user to treat them as intentional agents. Two examples:

1. The Microsoft Office helper “Clippy”
   b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G_uCbKoG5A
2. The Robot Seal
   a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJq5PQZHU-I

Use these two as a starting point for your discussion. Discuss and explain what design features you think are well executed. What is it about these objects that make them invite adopting an intentional stance towards them? For Clippy, discuss how the design could have been improved and, for Robot Seal, discuss what effects interacting with this object might have.

You are also to think of one example of your own. Explain why you choose it and if you think it is an example of well executed design or not. What are the possible reactions from the users? How would you have altered the design to overcome the problems you have identified?

Additional reading

Formalities
You are expected to hand-in a short written discussion of about 4 A4 pages (no more!). We recommend you take around 1-1½ pages for the first part of the assignment and spend the rest on the second part. Please write in Times New Roman, pt.12 with standard margins.

If you have any questions, email us and we will try to help.

Hand in the assignment to both Petter and Philip no later than Thursday 12/2 at 10.00 (no later!). On the seminar on Friday 13/2 you should be prepared to present your ideas and discuss them with the rest of the class. Our emails are:

petter.johansson (a) lucs.lu.se
philip.parnamets (a) lucs.lu.se

Good luck! / Petter & Philip