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Iterative Design Proposal: TiVo Show List Selector  
Assignment #4  
PUI

For my iterative design project, I'll be investigating and iterating the method for selecting a specific TV show for recording, using TiVo's PVR interface.

Specifically, I'll be investigating the portion of the interface used when the user knows the name of the show they want to watch, and have to select that show from the list of approximately 14,000 show titles that will be appearing on one channel or another in the next two weeks.

Design challenges involve mapping the existing remote control to new functionality, finding alternatives to an on-screen keyboard navigated by arrow keys, and reducing the number of keypresses needed to discretely identify a single show, while making the process understandable to the first-time user.

For testing, I'll be focusing on those users within TiVo's target demographic, as well as experienced TiVo users. As important as the first-time contact with the interface, is maintaining consistency with the rest of the TiVo interactive menuing model.

Currently, the show selector breaks the model more than any other aspect of the interface, which gives me more leeway to find and test novel designs that 'break the model less.'

I understand that TiVo's interface has been heavily tested and is highly refined, yet I feel that this aspect is one of the weaker portions of the interface, and even if I can't improve on the design, the task of attempting to do so, and interpreting test results that show that a 'hill has been climbed to its peak' is valuable in itself.