

**INFO 300**  
**Intellectual Foundations of Informatics**

**LAB 6: VSD Lab**

Envisioning cards were created by the Value Sensitive Design Research Lab in an attempt to get people to consider the long term effects of technology “as it spans across time, becomes pervasive throughout society, affects the lives of different stakeholders, and raises issues that touch human values.” Each card contains a prompt that encourages people involved in the design of technologies to reflect and examine these concerns.

**GOALS**

1. To evaluate an existing information system using the envisioning criteria.
2. To carry out the activity described on envisioning criteria cards—designed to raise your understanding regarding long-term and systemic issues in design.

**OVERVIEW**

Determining how well an information system performs its functions is an essential part of system design, implementation, and management. Systems are also evaluated to determine their fitness for a particular audience in a particular situation with particular needs. In this lab, you practice applying system evaluation along four possible dimensions—Pervasiveness, Stakeholders, Time, and Values

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Break into your lab work teams.
2. You will be randomly assigned one of the following systems to look at. Two groups will be assigned to each system.
  - a. Data.gov – Widespread Use
  - b. Flickr – Human Ability; Sustained Friendships
  - c. eBay – Crossing National Boundaries; Non-targeted Use
  - d. Google Books – Indirect Stakeholders; Adaptation
  - e. YouTube – Consider Children; Value Tensions
3. Spend ten (10) minutes examining the system to get a basic sense of what it does and how it works. Be sure to also read the “**About Us**” page.
4. Your team will be given two cards from the deck of envisioning cards. As a team, complete the exercise described on each card. Spend three (3) minutes doing each exercise and five (5) minutes discussing each other’s responses. (Be sure to use a timer). [20 min]
5. Select one of the two cards and prepare a three-minute presentation for the class on the issues it raised. Your presentation should include:
  - A description of the website you were assigned
  - The exercise described on the envisioning card, and
  - A sentence or two reflecting on what the exercise showed you about the site you were examining and/or design in general.[10 min prep]

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6. Present [40 min]

**WRITE-UP**

Each group will submit a 1-2 page write-up, including one paragraph describing the system, a paragraph describing each card in relation to that system, and a final paragraph reflecting on what VSD adds to thinking about system design in this case and in general.