Presenting Business Data: Challenges during Board Meetings in Multi-Display Environments

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Introduction & Background

- Board meetings are a very important component in managing large companies, e.g., evaluating the current progress, target compliance, or competitiveness of specific projects or departments
- Meetings consist of up to 30 directors, incl. the C-suite (CEO, CFO,...) or representatives of departments
- Reports involve presentation of numbers, measures taken, and existing challenges or possibilities
- This scenario is currently not considered in HCI but features interesting characteristics

HCI Challenges in Board Meetings

Control Presentations (Interaction)

As a key factor for a successful report, the presenter has to be able to control his presentation involving a proper distribution of the content among displays as well as the fluid navigation between data visualizations.

Discussion with Audience (Communication)

Board members might require additional information on specific content and want to interrupt the presentation to ask questions and discuss aspects of the presented data. Here, it needs to be clear what content is referred to among all members.

Content Presentations (Visualization)

A further challenge in board room presentation lies in the visibility and expressiveness of data and content. Both the content of the distant display, the presenter’s argumentation, and selected content on additional displays have to be synchronized.

Remote Presence

In many cases not all board members are able to attend in person but need to be included equally via video-conference or telepresence.

Tackling the Challenges

In this work, we aim to apply existing research from HCI, business communication, and InfoVis to this application case.

Supporting the Presenter

- Support navigation through additional hardware or touch interaction
- Guide the presenter with previews, notes, and time information
- Visualize the data in expressive ways for domain experts, while considering readability from afar
- Minimize attention switches
- Allow the flexible distribution of content for both additional displays and remote collaborators
- Enable annotations and highlighting of specific points to discuss

Supporting the Audience

- Recognition of content in focus and reducing awareness switches
- Content in focus, the presenters avatar, and annotations could automatically be presented on the audience members personal screens.