Project 3: Cognitive Consequences of the Car of the Future
(due in class May 21 and June 4)

In this project you will use the concepts presented in the readings and lectures to explore the theme, “the cognitive consequences of the future of the car.” You will engage in two types of activity.

First, you need to accept the invitation I sent you to join the project wiki, http://cogs10.wetpaint.com/. If you did not get an invitation, be sure to check your ucsd mail account. If you still do not see an invitation, send an email to Professor Hutchins (ehutchins@ucsd.edu) and he will send you an invitation. You should start thinking about which topic or topics within this theme you would like to explore. A discussion of topics was presented in class on May 7, 2009. You can find Professor Hutchins’ notes on that discussion on the course schedule page (http://hci.ucsd.edu/10/schedule.html). You can begin posting ideas on the wiki.

When you have found a topic that interests you, you start a new thread on the wiki home page. Give your thread a concise and informative subject line. This will permit other people who are interested in the same idea to join you. You can constitute a team this way. If you do find some people to form a team, coordinate with them to make a new page and move it to the “Team Pages” section of the wiki. Check the existing threads to see if someone has already started a thread or team on the idea that appeals to you.

A team page should have the following required parts: a list of members, an annotated bibliography page, and a discussion page. See the team page for the “The Instructors” on http://cogs10.wetpaint.com/. Your team may decide you need other kinds of pages too, and that is fine. You should give your team a name that captures something about your topic and that inspires you. Please use good taste. Choose a name that you would be proud of when showing your work to your grandmother.

Be sure to use a member name that the instructors can recognize. Part of your grade on project 3 will be based on your contributions to the wiki, and if we cannot determine who made your contributions we will not be able to give you the credit you deserve.

Second, you will write a paper on some aspect of the issue you choose to explore. Maximum length is 2000 words of text. Figures and tables do not count in the word limit. You may choose to coordinate your paper with the papers written by other members of your team. In that way, the team as a whole could produce a much more comprehensive document than could be produced by any single member. (That sounds like a cognitive consequence of technology to me.)

A good paper will address a clearly stated problem, will draw on research that you have done on the topic, and will make appropriate use of the concepts developed in the readings and in lecture.
You will be evaluated on the basis of the quantity, quality and consistency of your contributions to the wiki and on the quality of your project 3 paper.