Due: Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00am
The purpose of this exercise is to understand how to use the Keystroke Level Model to predict practiced (expert) performance time. Please see Reading #5 and Lecture #14.

Background
Microsoft Corp. will soon replace the traditional UI toolbars and menus:
Improving disability access can make products easier for everyone for use. Microsoft says this principle will be apparent in Office 2007, the next incarnation of the company's widely used package of "productivity" programs such as Word and Excel. Partly because of complaints from users with disabilities about how many steps it took to do common activities such as changing fonts or copying and pasting text, Office 2007 will scrap the traditional "menu" layout that has been in place since the 1980s. In its place will be a graphical "ribbon" that offers quick access to the most common functions a user might need in a given program. ("Enhancement for All", Brian Bergstein, AP, September 27, 2006)

In addition to the ribbon, there are other new UI widgets called contextual tabs and galleries.

Part 1: Learn about the new UI for Office
a) Play the demo:

b) View the professional level overview:

c) Review the “Developer Overview of the User Interface for the 2007 Microsoft Office System”

d) Test drive the new system:

Part 2: Use the KLM to analyze Microsoft Word tasks
a) Use the KLM to predict how long it will take a user to do the following tasks in a current or an older version of Microsoft Office Word:
   Task #1: Create a new document window
   Task #2: Type in some words of text
   Task #3: Copy the first word and paste it at the end of the text
   Task #4: Change margins from normal to narrow
   Task #5: Change the font type
   Task #6: Save the document
   SHOW all work. Assume the user starts in the center of a monitor that is 17” diagonal.
Part 2: continued

b) Use the KLM to predict how long it will take a user to do the above tasks in the new 2007 Word.

SHOW all work. Assume the user starts in the center of a monitor that is 17” diagonal.

Part 3: Write a report addressing the following questions:

a) Do you agree with the Microsoft claim the ribbon and other new UI features will speed up performance time? Base this on the analysis you did in Part 2 above. Think about the general issues, and what tasks you didn’t do in part 2, but you might find difficult with the new UI and easy with the old UI.

b) Will these changes help users with screen readers (as actually claimed in the above article)?

c) In general, what do you think of the new 2007 Office UI? Is it better or worse? Be specific in your discussion and use examples.