

CSE Stureps 2010
Student Preferences on Computer Mice
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2010 Stureps

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1 Overview

Over the six months the Student Representatives have received a number of comments relating to the Apple Mighty Mouses installed in the CSE labs. While the mice are widely used, some students have found them uncomfortable. In response to this information CSE agreed to temporarily replace all of the Apple Mighty Mouses, in Bugle Lab, with generic PC mice for two weeks, following the midsession break, to collect more data and determine the extent of the issue. Over this period of time Bugle Labs usage was monitored and students were requested to complete an online survey detailing which mice they preferred.

Please note that both computer mice and computer mouses are correct plural forms for computer mouse. These plural forms will be used interchangeably throughout this document.

2 Survey Results

In total 117 responses were received from 115 students in CSE. Two students submitted duplicate responses so their most recent response has been counted. The survey asked which mice students preferred and if they had tried the generic mice in the Bugle lab.

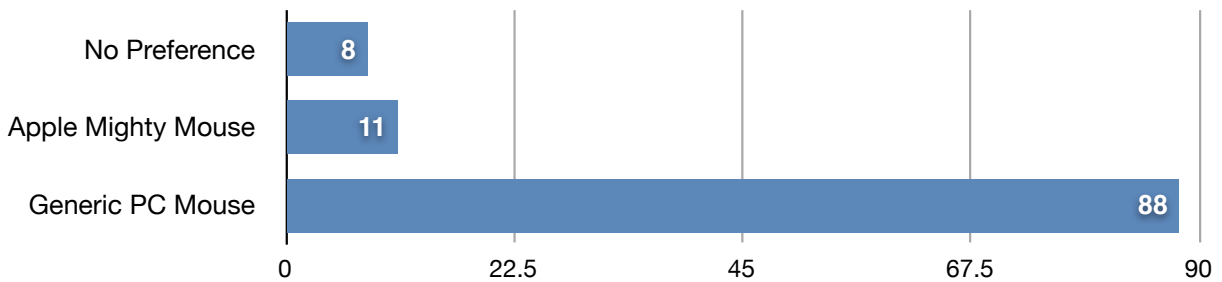


Figure 1: Mouse preferences of students who tried the new generic PC mouse.

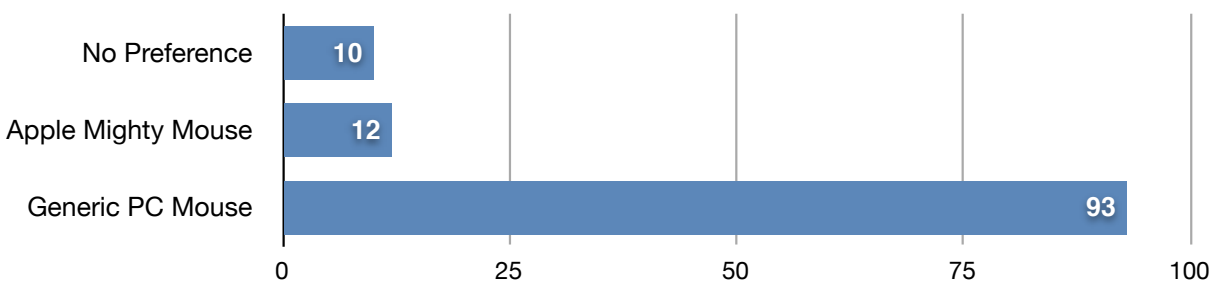


Figure 2: Mouse preferences of all students who responded.

The results of this survey are quite clear and approximately 81% of students surveyed prefer the generic PC mice that were trialled in Bugle. The margin of error is approximately

10% however the percentage of students preferring the PC mice is sufficiently high that this isn't of concern. The stureps recommend that the Apply Mighty Mouse be replaced by generic PC mice in all the labs.

3 Extended Responses

The survey also asked if student had any other comments. Those responses are shown below and categorised by their mouse preference.

3.1 Prefer PC Mice

1. the generic Microsoft mouse is much better
2. its so SO much better!
3. I'm not keen on the apple mice. It's good that we have the choice to switch mice, I'd prefer if every 2nd mouse in every lab was non-apple. I think you'd find people using those other mice a lot more than the apple mice.
4. Mighty mouse is aesthetically pleasing, generic PC mice are much more functional though. PC mouse please, as much as I'm an Apple fan, Apple makes terrible mice.
5. I also greatly prefer the non-apple keyboards.
6. The apple keyboards are fine, the mighty mice are silly, but the generic mice are broken. Consider generic mice in the same price range as the mighty mice?
7. the replaced mouse is better because you can right click properly with it. tasks like c&p are much easier with the new mouse. furthermore, the scroll-wheel of the new mouse has a tactile feel which makes middle clicks easier as compared to the apple mighty mouse where there is a slight chance that you may scroll while trying to do a middle click.
8. Apple makes pretty but ergonomically unsound peripherals. Please ditch the mice and keyboards ASAP.
9. Do not use any Apple keyboard and mice, they are not designed for long term use and are a huge OHS issue and will lead to Repetitive strain injury.
10. It's great that the mice have been replaced, but it would be even better if the keyboards were replaced. After all, it's more typing than clicking that gets done in the labs, and the Apple keyboards, while stylish, aren't all that good for writing. Specifically, some of the special keys on these keyboards are switched or don't work, which drastically lowers this student's speed when using text editors which rely on such keys (eg. Emacs). Any cheap Logitech or Microsoft keyboard would be better.

11. Apple's mice are not ergonomic. Please keep the generic PC mice. On the other hand, the keyboard is fantastic.
12. What happened to the old mice that were around before the mighty mice?
13. I had great difficulty in my first lab because I didn't realise Apple mice could now right click. While Apple seem to have come far enough now to allow such functions, Apple are lame and stupid. So are their mice. Also, scrolling and clicking are generally easier with the recently replaced mice. I also believe the new mice fit to hands more ergonomically. I find them more comfortable. Thanks for replacing!
14. not everyone is an apple fanboy
15. The mighty mice are good, but often the cable will get caught under the front of the mouse and it won't click. This is quite a pain. The new mice are good, they certainly have better functionality with two separate mice buttons, but they certainly don't look as good. Having the new mice detracts from the over all mac feel.
16. Apple mice look nice but stupid. Hard to right click.
17. apple might mouse looks way cooler but it is so hard to use, especially when you need to click left and right button alot.
18. Logitech mice are my preferred mice. I would also prefer normal keyboards.
19. I hate the apple keyboards/mice. I once did an exam with the flat apple keyboards and mice and it was a very frustrating experience. Apple products are for show and are not practical. Please remove them!
20. Apple mice are stupid. You click and you never know whether you'll get a right or a left click out of it.
21. The tracking of the mouse is fine, as is the scrolling - it's only the clicking which is a bit frustrating. Right click doesn't seem to function all the time as you are required to press it in a precise spot. What's more is that the whole shell is a single piece so finding the exact location to press is impossible by touch.
22. PC mouse move smoother (because it's new) and right click is no longer a problem.
23. This is irrelevant but maybe fix the brightness shortcut key on all the apple computers in the labs. It does not work despite many attempts to reduce the brightness of the screen.
24. The scroll ball on the might mouse is very frustrating to use, what is wrong with a scroll wheel?
25. how about some ergonomic keyboards?

26. Good to keep Apple keyboard.
27. Better if we also replace the keyboards with humble ones.
28. Microsoft Mouse is good
29. I greatly prefer two button mice.
30. The proper right-click beats all the current Apple mouse!!!. We no longer have to deal with problem and frustrations on performing right-clicks during labwork/assignments . YAY!!!!!!!
31. The Apple keyboards are a bigger issue. They're really annoying for long typing sessions.
32. Mighty Mouse is terrible. The person who designed it should be shot.
33. lol microsoft > apple?
34. there called mouses not mice
35. The new (Bugle) mice are perhaps a tiny bit too easy to slide around. Overall they're definitely better than the Apple mice.
36. Apple mouse/keyboards reduce productivity by 9000.
37. I find the peripherals fine, though they might need some cleaning (germs, bacteria etc) at a more frequent basis (if not already).
38. The problem with the Apple mouse is it has trouble registering button presses; Right clicks interpreted as left clicks and vice-versa, or misses clicks entirely.
39. The Mac mice are too unreliable when right clicking.
40. Apple mice are not good, left and right button are confused.
41. crass remarks follow The Apple Mighty Mouse: - have alot of issues with mis-clicks (IE left click activated when trying to right click and vice-versa) - have a frustrating scroll-wheel/ball thing. It's like being a highschooler trying to do a positive-feedback test on his/her first ladyfriend in the dark. - have issues with click "sticking" (could just be because they are old) - are an overpriced heap of excrement
42. Definitely no Apple one-button mice!!!
43. otherwise, try to figure out how to get scrolling to work properly with the apple mice (i.e., one pixel per "tick")

44. they both have right clicks, but the PC mice have a much better scroll wheel that isn't really annoying to use/click with (e.g. pasting into things involves clicking the middle button - doing this with the "Apple Mighty Mouse" is annoying.)
45. I don't use a Mac at home, but my understanding is you hold the option key or something on the keyboard and then click to get a secondary mouse click.. but with Debian running on the machines, that doesn't work. While the Mighty Mouse was hooked up to the iMacs, I wasn't able to figure out how to do a right click, which was fairly irritating.

I was pretty relieved to come in last week and find basic PC mice. Much better scroll wheel and a secondary mouse button. It's pretty hard to argue that the MS PC mouse doesn't provide more functionality than the Mighty Mouse.

Don't change it back!

46. The PC mice have good buttons and a comfortable scrollwheel - unlike the apple mice, with ridiculous button ghosting problems and the most insane little ball, which I can't for the life of me imagine how apple thought of.

In addition, I noticed that the sensitivity of the PC mice was better, which is very good, because the apple mice are extremely slow.

47. HOW CAN ANYONE PREFER MIGHTY MOUSE?

Replace the keyboards too please! Although they're not quite as bad as the mice were.

48. If the mouse scroll speed was set to a value a little higher by default these mice would be perfect. No contest.

49. Apple mouse makes it very hard to scroll bit by bit. The new microsoft mouse works much better.

Also the keyboards are hard, which are uneasy on the fingers. The previous IBM ones were amazing though.

(though, do NOT use the IBM mouse, those are terrible)

50. Nil

51. Middle click with Apple's mouse blows... in terminal sessions, I often end up scrolling THEN pasting by accident.

3.2 No Preference

1. The new Microsoft Mouse/mice in the Bugle Labs are currently a bit too sensitive
2. more instruction about how to access the printer and other divies

3.3 Prefer Apple Mighty Mouse

1. The Microsoft mice currently installed in bugle are too sensitive - mouse pointer moves too much for a certain degree of hand movement. The Mighty Mouses (Mice?) are also better as they are more solid/heavier than the Microsoft mice.
2. Only Apple.
3. I have one at home and find they are a lot nicer, to use then a normal pc mice. Many people will be stuck in there old ways, and once they have used them a few times, will find how smooth they are to use.
4. no
5. PC mice are not any more comfortable, in fact possibly worse. The clicking action is poor and in my opinion the Apple Mouse's shoud be reinstated.
6. Can u guys turn on the Numlock at startup?

4 Stureps

The CSE Stureps are your representatives and your point of contact for all things related to the School of Computer Science. Were available to raise class grievances, contact lecturers anonymously on your behalf, and liaise with the schools administration when something has gone astray.

Please direct feedback to: stureps@cse.unw.edu.au