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Often filled with jargon, acronyms and directions that require a Ph.D to understand, software user manuals are sometimes written from the point of view of a developer rather than a user. As a result, the guide can make assumptions about the reader's skill level that are often incorrect. The first step in writing a good user manual is to get the writing process as far away from the engineers as possible. The software developer knows more than anyone what makes the software work, but that doesn't mean the developer should write the guide. On the contrary, there is a distinct drawback. More important than a deep understanding of the inner workings of the software is an understanding of who the end user will be, what his educational level is, and how that end user will use the software. In most cases, end users don't need to know the finer programming points and back-end work of the software - they just need to know how to use it to make the job easier. The user manual should be largely task-oriented, rather than highly descriptive. Because the manual is written to help users understand how to perform specific tasks, the author must have an understanding of these tasks as well, and as a result, it is essential to go through each discrete step of each function. It is not necessary for the author to necessarily know how the program was created from a design or development point of view, but it is important to have a strong working knowledge of all the features. As you perform each task, take the time to write down each step, including clicks, drop-down menus, and other actions. Although the developer should not be the one writing the manual, she will still be a valuable resource for the author, and before writing begins, you plan a kickoff meeting between the author, the developer and the engineers, and potential end users to help inform the author's work from the beginning. Interviews with specialists and engineers should be recorded, with transcripts made for later reference. A user manual should not be too text-heavy. Instead incorporate liberal use of graphics and video clips. Description of an action is much clearer with text-based directions accompanied by a video clip that clearly illustrates that direction. Include both before and after views to show what the screen looks like before you do each action, and what happens after the action is taken. A simple screen capture tool like the Snipping Tool included in Microsoft Windows works well for taking these photos. Be sure to number each image, and include a caption that briefly describes it. Center it right below the paragraph that first introduces the concept depicted in the image. Communication clearly in a technical document requires planning and careful compliance with standards throughout the guidance. Standards in both presentation, language and terminology help avoid confusion. Templates are available and can be a good point of uniformity, although these can certainly be customized to suit each situation. Using a one-inch margin with a single column best suits the need to add graphics; A two-column setting may seem too crowded and can confuse the placement of images. More than any other type of document, a software user manual is likely to go through multiple iterations before it is completed, and it is likely to go through a review process by several stakeholders. Using the Track Changes feature in Microsoft Word is an easy way to keep track of each person's comments and changes. Creating multiple versions after each review cycle, each with a different file name, also helps the process together and ensures that all stakeholders are satisfied with the final result. Get stronger, healthier, happierSign up to receive our top tips, workouts, recipes and more. Don't forget: there are two parts for your package. You already go through great lengths to protect one (penis), but sometimes neglect the other (nuts). If you want to ensure healthy sperm and a live sex life, start showing your testicles some TLC, state. KEEP THEM COOLA laptop on your lap raises the balls temp, which can damage sperm quality, a fertility and sterility study found. Put devices on a table, says MH urology adviser Larry Lipshultz, M.D. HIT SACKLess sleep means more stress hormones, which can sap sperm production, says Tobias Kohler, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., an associate professor of urology at Southern Illinois University. EYE THEIR SIZEOlder men with a testicular volume of 20 milliliters or more risk heart problems, a Journal of Sexual Medicine study reports. The authors say blood vessel damage can up the testicles size. GETTING A SAFE SNIPA vasectomy won't cause ED, a new study in the Journal of Sexual Medicine found. That is, unless you have sex within 72 hours. The possible pain or bleeding may cause you to limp. MOVE PHONE NN's studies have linked mobile phone exposure to reduced sperm count and quality. So keep your phone in your back pocket instead of the front, says Dr. Lipshultz. KILL SPIDERSDilated veins in the scrotum, similar to spider veins, can cause infertility and testicular shrinkage, says Dr. Kohler. Schedule an appointment with a urologist. This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported into this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content in piano.io 1950s seems to have been a time when the CIA is putting a tremendous amount of energy into perfecting the science of torture. The CIA conducted covert experiments, at times on unsuspecting Americans, using LSD in search of a truth serum [source: The New York Times]. It used electric currents to inflict pain [source: The Boston Globe]. The agency conducted studies examining the effects of sensory deprivation [source: The Washington The CIA found that the best methods for information from prisoners comes not through inflicting physical pain or torture, but through psychological torture. Although the brand of torture the CIA developed through more than a decade of trial and error cannot inflict physical pain, it can still do some real harm. Historian and expert on the subject of CIA and torture, Alfred McCoy, writes: Although seemingly less brutal, no touching torture leaves deep psychological scars. Victims often need treatment to recover from trauma far more devastating than physical pain [source: The Boston Globe]. Ad It's actually a torture manual and the CIA literally wrote it. In 1963, the agency created the KUBARK Counterintelligence Interrogation manual. It was, as Alfred McCoy puts it, the codification of everything the CIA had learned from its experiments through the 1950s. In KUBARK (codename for cia in Vietnam War [source: The Washington Post]) manual, methods of breaking prisoners are based generally on psychology. Identifying the victim's self-esteem and then removing it is part of the first step towards breaking him or her. An introverted or shy prisoner can be kept naked and perhaps sexually humiliated, for example. Clothes can also be taken just to alienate the prisoner and make him or her less comfortable. Creating a sense of unfamiliarity, disorientation and isolation seems to be the hallmarks of psychologically undermining a prisoner in the purview of kubark manual. Practices such as starvation, keeping inmates in small, windowless cells with immutable artificial light and forcing inmates to sit or stand in uncomfortable positions (stress positions) for long periods have been rejected or banned directly by the US government. Nevertheless, these techniques are part of the regime prescribed by KUBARK. So too use hypnosis and drugs to extract information. Although it does not mention electric shock directly, the manual requires interrogators to be sure that a potentially safe house to be used for torture has access to electricity. As one source told The Baltimore Sun, the CIA has acknowledged privately and informally in the past that this referred to the use of electric shocks to interrogate suspects [source: The Baltimore Sun]. However, physical pain is ultimately considered counterproductive by the manual. It's a much worse experience, the guidebook concludes, for an inmate to fear that pain may come than to actually experience it. The old adage that the expectation is worse than the experience seems to also have a basis in the shadowy torture field. A recent book, largely an audit of the KUBARK manual, draws the same basic conclusion - that psychological torment is essential to physical abuse. The Human Resource Exploitation Manual - 1983 was first published as a result of an investigative report on human rights violations in Honduras. Read about the CIA's torture manual version 2.0 on the next

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