

Build a Web Browser that Have the User Interface for Children

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The opportunity of people to use computer is increasing at various scene with development of information technology. In Japan, many children are using computer actively at the elementary school. The Web browsing is most common purpose in children make use of computer that indicated by Japanese education center's survey.

However, general Web browsers are not suitable for children use. Specifically, it is consisted by small buttons and tiny print that are difficult for children to operate. Moreover, the general Web browser has shortcut key function, and may be a function is performed that children do not intend. Also in addition to above, there are unnecessary many menu items for children. Those are expressed with difficult wording that children can't understand usually. For instance in Japan, the menu text contains many difficult characters (Kanji). Children will learn this Kanji gradually in stage at elementary school. However, the menu text is included many Kanji that children do not learn yet. Hence, this is not suitable as children's first use of Web browser.

As has been pointed above, the Web browser has plenty room for improvement considering the use of children. Therefore, we have developed the Web browser for children. First, we changed to large buttons using illustration for easier viewing from existing small buttons. And then, we changed the writing on the menu to easy wording from the difficult wording. Also, remove the unwanted items and decreased number of menu items. By this, children will be able to use the Web browser more smoothly, and leads to use of internet. Incidentally, we are using the Firefox portable to construction of Web browser for children. It is available to carry by USB flash memory. Because of this, children can use the Web browser in same settings such as bookmarks or homepage settings, anywhere. In addition to this advantage, we have developed the Web browser for children by using the add-on. Therefore add-on can support continue when newest Web browser is released. For example, if develop the Web browser itself without using add-on, this is difficult that support to latest technology such as HTML5 or CSS3. We are expecting that children will be able to learn to use of internet easily by using Web browser that developed by us.

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