

# AMANDA SWEARNGIN

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Washington** *Dec. 2019*  
M.S., Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering

**University of Nebraska - Lincoln** *May 2012*  
Master of Science in Computer Science

**University of Nebraska - Lincoln** *May 2010*  
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Apple** October 2024 - Present  
*Staff Research Scientist* *Seattle, WA*

- Research projects in the area of generative AI, including developing evaluation pipelines and fine-tuning models for code generation and UI assessment.
- Developing and productionizing AI based features for accessibility use cases.

**Apple** May 2020 - October 2024  
*Senior Research Scientist* *Seattle, WA*

- Currently developing evaluation pipelines and fine-tuning models for code generation and UI assessment.
- Trained production models and developed suite of grouping heuristics for Screen Recognition, the first on-device ML model to recognize and announce iOS app UI for VoiceOver, benefiting 20M+ blind users.
- Collected large-scale dataset (6k apps, 750k screens) for screen similarity modeling and trained production models used by app review to audit millions of app submissions.
- Developed a system to report accessibility issues for mobile apps, used for internal testing for 4+ prominent Apple apps. Evaluated with user study of 20+ participants, and described in publication (See Journal Publications).
- Led the release of an Xcode feature for multi-screen auditing in Accessibility Inspector, including the redesign and implementation of an improved HTML report.
- Published 10+ academic papers in collaboration with the UI & Code Understanding team and 6+ interns.

**University of Washington** Sept. 2015 - Dec. 2019  
*Graduate Research Assistant with Amy Ko and James Fogarty* *Seattle, WA*

- Built *Scout*, a system to support rapid exploration of interface design alternatives using program synthesis and constraint solving techniques, and conducted qualitative interviews and a lab study with 18 user interface designers (See Demos, Conference Publications).
- Built *Rewire*, in collaboration with Adobe Research, which uses computer vision and machine learning to reverse engineer and create vectorized wireframes and design mockups from screenshots of user interfaces, and conducted an evaluation with 16 user interface designers (See Conference Publications).
- Built *Genie*, a framework that uses program analysis methods (static and dynamic) to reverse engineer, describe, and enable re-targeting of inputs to alternate modalities (See Conference Publications).

**Microsoft Research** June 2019 - Sept. 2019  
*Research Intern with Shamsi Iqbal* *Redmond, WA*

- Designed and deployed a 60 participant survey on desktop and mobile information capture and reuse in the context of document creation.
- Designed and built a cross-application system (i.e., iOS app and Microsoft Word Addin), Scraps, to enable mobile capture and integration of resources during document creation, while collaborating with two separate product teams to make this experience a reality.
- Conducted an 11 participant user study of Scraps to understand its impact on document creation and reuse of collected resources.

**Google Research** June 2018 - Sept. 2018, Nov. 2018 - May 2019  
*Research Intern and Student Researcher with Yang Li* *Mountain View, CA*

- Crowdsourced a dataset of over 20k labels, and constructed a deep neural network model (Tensorflow) to automatically predict and analyze tappability in mobile interfaces (See Conference Publications).
- Built a web application to showcase the capabilities of the model as a design analytics tool.
- Interviewed 15+ designers to gather project requirements and gather qualitative feedback on the tool.

**Adobe Research, Creative Technologies Lab**

Sept. 2016 - Dec. 2016, June 2017 - Sept. 2017

*Research Intern with Mira Dontcheva, Wilmot Li, Joel Brandt, and Morgan Dixon* *Seattle, WA*

- Researched, designed, and prototyped a system using Computer Vision and Machine Learning to reverse engineer and create vectorized wireframes and design mockups from screenshots of user interfaces (See Conference Publications).
- Designed, planned, and conducted qualitative and quantitative user study of the system with 16 UX designers.

**University of Nebraska - Lincoln**

January 2010 - May 2012

*Research Assistant with Dr. Myra Cohen* *Lincoln, NE*

- Developed *CogTool-Helper*, which uses automatic UI-model extraction and test case generation to automatically create storyboards and models for CogTool, a tool for predictive human performance modeling of user interfaces (See Conference Publications).
- Researched Combinatorial Interaction Testing (CIT) techniques and built interactive CIT web tutorials.

**University of Nebraska - Lincoln**

January 2010 - May 2010

*Undergraduate Research Assistant* *Lincoln, NE*

- Assisted with research on Combinatorial Interaction Testing (CIT) techniques and developed several educational tutorials for the CIT web portal.

**Holland Computing Center**

Summer 2008 - Spring 2010

*Undergraduate Research Assistant with Dr. David Swanson* *Lincoln, NE*

- Completed UCARE (Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience) project designing and implementing an interactive web portal for viewing real-time computing statistics.

**INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

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**Microsoft Corporation**

July 2012 - September 2015

*Software Development Engineer II, SDET* *Fargo, ND*

- Designed, developed, and tested features for a new web client for Dynamics AX, Microsoft's new cloud-based ERP solution, and was the primary developer for client layout and UX patterns.
- Developed visual regression testing framework for validating the product across multiple browsers and environments, and integrated it into the build system.
- Was selected by team lead to mentor and onboard 3 new team members.

**Cerner Corporation**

Summer 2010

*Software Engineering Intern* *Kansas City, MO*

- Conducted performance analyses and implemented C++ performance improvements that were put into production in Cerner's core application (PowerChart), and conducted static analysis runs to improve code quality.

**Cerner Corporation**

Summer 2009

*Software Engineering Intern* *Kansas City, MO*

- Designed UI and built an interactive patient summary web app for the iPhone using JavaScript, CSS, and HTML.
- Implemented automatic script auditing framework for patient information retrieval in Cerner's SQL-like language.

**REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**

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- [1] **Amanda Swearngin**, Jason Wu, Xiaoyi Zhang, Esteban Gomez, Jen Coughenour, Rachel Stukenborg, Bhavya Garg, Greg Hughes, Adriana Hilliard, Jeffrey P. Bigham, Jeff Nichols, *Towards Automated Accessibility Report Generation for Mobile Apps*. ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction, (TOCHI), 2024.

**REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS**

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- [19] Zhuohao Jerry Zhang, Eldon Schoop, Jeffrey Nichols, Anuj Mahajan, **Amanda Swearngin**. *From Interaction to Impact: Towards Safer AI Agents through Understanding and Evaluating UI Operation Impacts*. Intelligent User Interfaces, (IUI ), 2025.
- [18] Yue Jiang, Eldon Schoop, **Amanda Swearngin**, and Jeffrey Nichols. *ILuvUI: Instruction-tuned LangUAge-Vision modeling of UIs from Machine Conversations.*, Intelligent User Interfaces, (IUI ), 2025.
- [17] Yuwen Lu, Alan Leung, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jeffrey Nichols, Titus Barik *Misty: UI Prototyping Through Interactive Conceptual Blending*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI), 2025.
- [16] Keen You, Haotian Zhang, Eldon Schoop, Floris Weers, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jeffrey Nichols, Yinfei Yang, and Zhe Gan. *Ferret-UI: Grounded Mobile UI Understanding with Multimodal LLMs*. European Conference on Computer Vision, (ECCV), 2024.
- [15] Jason Wu, Yi-Hao Peng, Amanda Li, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jeffrey P. Bigham, and Jeffrey Nichols. *UIClip: A Data-driven Model for Assessing User Interface Design*. ACM User Interface Software and Technology Symposium (UIST), 2024.
- [14] Maryam Taeb, **Amanda Swearngin**, Eldon Schoop, Ruijia Cheng, Yue Jiang, and Jeffrey Nichols. *AXNav: Replaying Accessibility Tests from Natural Language*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI), 2024.
- [13] Jason Wu, Rebecca Krosnick, Eldon Schoop, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jeffrey P. Bigham, Jeffrey Nichols. *Never-ending Learning of User Interfaces*. ACM User Interface Software and Technology Symposium (UIST), 2023.
- [12] Jieshan Chen, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jason Wu, Titus Barik, Jeffrey Nichols, Xiaoyi Zhang. *Towards Complete Icon Labeling in Mobile Applications* SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI), 2022.
- [11] Shirin Feiz, Jason Wu, Xiaoyi Zhang, **Amanda Swearngin**, Titus Barik, Jeffrey Nichols. *Understanding Screen Relationships from Screenshots of Smartphone Applications*. Intelligent User Interfaces, (IUI), 2022.
- [10] **Amanda Swearngin**, Shamsi Iqbal, Victor Poznanski, Mark Encarnacin, Paul N. Bennett, Jaime Teevan. *Scraps: Enabling Contextual Mobile Capture, Contextualization, and Use of Document Resources*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI), 2021.
- [9] Xiaoyi Zhang, Lilian de Greef, **Amanda Swearngin**, Samuel White, Kyle Murray, Lisa Yu, Qi Shan, Jeffrey Nichols, Jason Wu, Chris Fleizach, Aaron Everitt, Jeffrey P. Bigham. *Screen Recognition: Creating Accessibility Metadata for Mobile Applications from Pixels*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2021.
- [8] **Amanda Swearngin**, Chenglong Wang, Alannah Oleson, Amy J. Ko, James Fogarty. *Scout: Rapid Exploration of Interface Layout Alternatives through High-Level Design Constraints*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020 (acceptance rate: 24.31%).
- [7] **Amanda Swearngin**, Yang Li. *TapShoe: Modeling Mobile Interface Tappability Using Crowdsourcing and Deep Learning*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2019 (acceptance rate: 23.8%), with Google Research.
- [6] **Amanda Swearngin**, Wilmot Li, Mira Dontcheva, Joel Brandt, Morgan Dixon, Amy J. Ko. *Rewire: Interface Design Assistance from Examples*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2018, with Adobe Research.
- [5] **Amanda Swearngin**, Amy J. Ko, James Fogarty. *Genie: Input Retargeting on the Web through Command Reverse Engineering*. SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2017 (acceptance rate: 25%).
- [4] **Amanda Swearngin**, Myra B. Cohen, Bonnie E. John, Rachel K.E. Bellamy. *Human Performance Regression Testing*. Int'l Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE), 2013 (acceptance rate: 18.5%), with IBM Research.
- [3] **Amanda Swearngin**, Myra B. Cohen, Bonnie E. John, Rachel K.E. Bellamy. *Easing the Generation of Predictive Human Performance Models from Legacy Systems*. Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), pages 2489 - 2498, 2012 (acceptance rate: 23%), with IBM Research.
- [2] Sandeep Kaur Kuttal, Anita Sarma, **Amanda Swearngin**, Gregg Rothermel. *Versioning for Mashups — An Exploratory Study*. International Symposium on End User Development (IS-EUD), pages 25 - 41, 2011 (acceptance rate: 27%).

- [1] **Amanda Swearngin**, Berthe Y. Choueiry, Eugene C. Freuder. *A Reformulation Strategy for Multi-Dimensional CSPs: The Case Study of the SET Game*. Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation, and Approximation (SARA), pages 107 - 116, 2011.

## UNDER SUBMISSION / ARXIV

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- [3] Forough Mehralian, Titus Barik, Jeff Nichols, **Amanda Swearngin**. *Automated Code Fix Suggestions for Accessibility Issues in Mobile Apps*. Under submission, 2024.
- [2] Jieshan Chen, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jason Wu, Titus Barik, Jeffrey Nichols, Xiaoyi Zhang. *Extracting Re-playable Interactions from Videos of Mobile App Usage*. Arxiv, 2022.
- [1] Jason Wu, **Amanda Swearngin**, Xiaoyi Zhang, Jeffrey Nichols, Jeffrey P. Bigham. *Screen Correspondence: Mapping Interchangeable Elements between UIs*. Arxiv, 2022.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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- [1] **Amanda Swearngin**, Yang Li. *Modeling Mobile Interface Tappability Using Crowdsourcing and Deep Learning*. Artificial Intelligence for Human Computer Interaction: A Modern Approach, Human-Computer Interaction Series, Springer, Nov, 2021.

## DEMOS

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- [2] Jason Wu, Yi-Hao Peng, Amanda Li, **Amanda Swearngin**, Jeffrey P. Bigham, and Jeffrey Nichols. *UIClip: A Data-driven Model for Assessing User Interface Design*. ACM User Interface Software and Technology Symposium (UIST), 2024.
- [1] **Amanda Swearngin**, Amy J. Ko, James Fogarty. *Scout: Mixed-Initiative Exploration of Design Variations through High-Level Design Constraints*, ACM User Interface Software and Technology Symposium (UIST), 2018.

## SERVICE

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### Interns Supervised at Apple

- Jerry Zhang (University of Washington) - 2024
- Forough Mehralian (UC Irvine) - 2024
- Maryam Taeb (Florida State University) - 2023
- Yue Jiang (Aalto University) - 2023
- Rebecca Krosnick (University of Michigan) - 2022
- Jieshan Chen (Australian National University) - 2021

### Committees

- Accessibility Chair - UIST 2021, 2022
- Program Committee Member - UIST 2021, 2023
- Associate Chair of Program Committee - CHI 2023-2025

### Paper Reviewing

- Engineering Interactive Computing Systems (EICS) PACM - 1 Paper - 2018
- Transactions on Software Engineering (TSE) - 1 Paper - 2018
- Graphics Interface - 1 Paper - 2019
- Creativity and Cognition - 2 Posters - 2019
- Neurocomputing Journal - 1 Paper - 2023
- ICML - AI & HCI Workshop - 2023
- Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) - 34 Papers, 4 Extended Abstracts - 2019 - 2024
- User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) - 31 Papers - 2019 - 2024
- Designing Interactive Systems - 2021, 2024

- ISSTA (International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis) - Student Research Competition - 2023
- Transactions on Human Computer Interaction - 2 Papers - 2023, 2024
- Intelligent User Interfaces - 2 papers - 2024

## PRESENTATIONS

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*Amplifying Developers Capabilities with Computational UI Understanding*, Guest Lecture, Software Engineering CEN 5016, George Mason University, November 2024

*Amplifying Developers Capabilities with Computational UI Understanding*, Microsoft, September 2024

*Modeling and Understanding User Interfaces from Pixels*, 8th European Summer School on Computational Interaction, University of Luxembourg, Belval campus, Luxembourg, June 2024

*Expanding Interface Design Capabilities through Semantic and Data-Driven Analyses*, Snap Research, Feb. 2020

*Expanding Interface Design Capabilities through Semantic and Data-Driven Analyses*, Apple Research, Feb. 2020

*Scout: Mixed-Initiative Exploration of Design Variations through High-Level Design Constraints*, UW CSE Affiliates Research Day, Nov. 2018

*Reverse Engineering User Interface Structure to Enable Access and Design Reuse*, Human-Computer Interaction Seminar, Berkeley Institute of Design, Sept. 2018.

*Scout: Mixed-Initiative Exploration of Design Variations through High-Level Design Constraints*, Pacific Northwest Programming Languages Workshop, May 2018.

*An Update on COMET (Community Event-based Testing)*, Workshop presentation at TESTBEDS, co-located with ICST (International Conference on Software Testing, Verification, and Validation), March 2011.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship – 2016

Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship Finalist (One of 60 finalists out of 1200 applicants) – 2011

CRA-W Grad Cohort Participant – 2011, 2016

Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Scholarship Recipient – 2010

UCARE - Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience Project Grant – 2009 - 2010

## PATENTS

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User Interface Creation from Screenshots, Morgan Dixon, **Amanda Swearngin**, Lubomira Dontcheva, Joel Brandt, US Patent App. No. 20180349730, Published Dec. 6, 2018.

Linking graphical user interface testing tools and human performance modeling to enable usability assessment, Rachel K. E. Bellamy, Myra B. Cohen, Bonnie E. John, Padmanabhan Santhanam, **Amanda Swearngin**, US Patent No. 8,903,691, Dec. 2014

## TEACHING

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Teaching Assistant, UW Computer Science & Engineering, *Introduction To HCI: User Interface Design, Prototyping, And Evaluation*, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant, UW MHCID Program, *User Interface Software & Technology*, Winter 2019.

Tutor, UW Computer Science & Engineering – Discrete Math, Software Design & Implementation, 2015-2016

## LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound Mentor – 2022 - Present

CSE PhD Admissions Committee (reviewer) – UW Computer Science & Engineering – 2018

Prospective Student Committee – UW Computer Science & Engineering - 2016 - 2017

Volunteer – ChickTech Seattle, TEALS Puget Sound CS Fair, UW Graduate Women Organization – 2015 - 2016

Mentor – ChickTech Seattle, UNL Girl Empowerment and Mentoring for Computing Project – 2009, 2015 - 2016

Graduate Representative – UNL CS Curriculum Committee, Graduate Student Association – 2010 - 2012