Improving Performance of Human Operators

Stephen Mitroff

The George Washington University

Department of Psychology http://www.mitrofflab.org mitroff@gwu.edu







Overview of Talk

1. Primary Topic Area:

How to identify best performers at visual search and then train them to make them even better

2. Problem to Solve:

What tasks/measures provide *reliable* markers of elite performance?

3. How Problem is to be Solve:

- (a) Identify individual differences in search
- (b) Assess possible new TSA tool

4. So What?/What's the Point?:

Identifying predictive markers of search performance and leveraging mobile technology & Big Data

Overview of Project Team



Stephen Mitroff, Ph.D.
George Washington Univ.
Cognitive Psychologist
mitroff@gwu.edu



Ben Sharpe Kedlin Company Mobile App Developer ben@kedlin.com

Two Broad Projects to Discuss Today

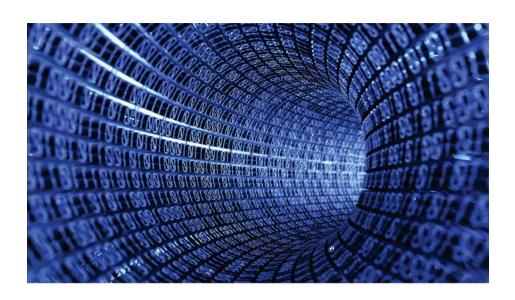
1. Individual Differences

- -Characteristics of elite searchers
- -Significant markers of performance

2. Mobile Technology Tool

- -Use Big Data to examine search
- -Design flexible tool for TSA





Testing Individual Differences in Two Labs

Duke University



Testing began 1/2010
900+ Unique Participants
1600+ Testing Sessions

Raleigh-Durham Airport



Testing began 11/2011
390+ Unique Participants
1300+ Testing Sessions

Individual Differences Assessments

Experiences & Preferences

General (age, gender, vision, etc.) Ethnicity/Race Personal information questionnaire Video game playing questionnaire General pastimes questionnaire Media Multitasking questionnaire Political & Religious Affiliation

Traits and Personality Assessments

Autism Spectrum Quotient
Jasper/Goldberg Adult ADHD Questionnaire
Eating Attitudes Test (EAT)
NEO Personality Inventory
Barratt Impulsivity Scale (BIS)
Positive and Negative Affect Schedule
Patriotism & Responsibility Scales

Abilities and Physical States

Edinburgh Handedness Inventory (EHI)
Visual Acuity
Frequency of Naps
Normal sleep patterns
Caffeine and nicotine consumption







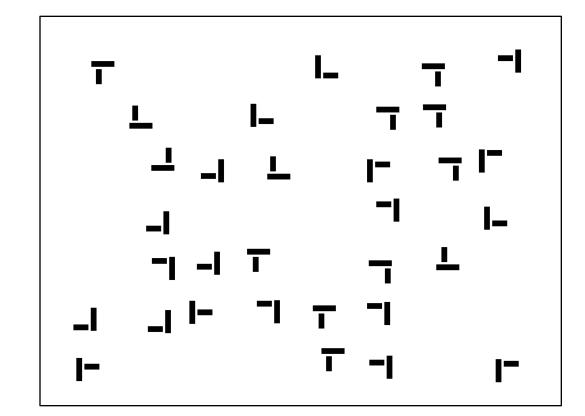






Single-Target Visual Search Paradigm

- Target 'T' present on 50% of trials
- 0 or 1 target present per trial
- Set sizes of 8, 16, 24, 32
- Press one key for target present, and another key for absent
- 93 Duke participants211 TSA Officers



Sample Individual Differences in Search

Basic Demographics

Accuracy by gender/age

Action Video Game Playing

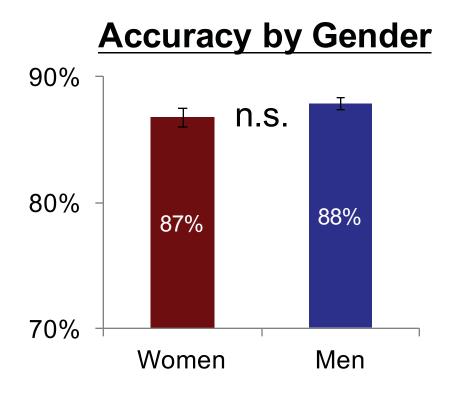
Gamers vs. Non-gamers

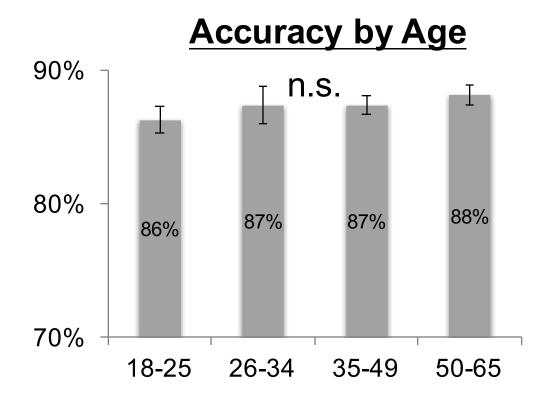
Conscientiousness

Correlation across population

Individual Differences: TSA Officers

No Accuracy differences by basic demographics





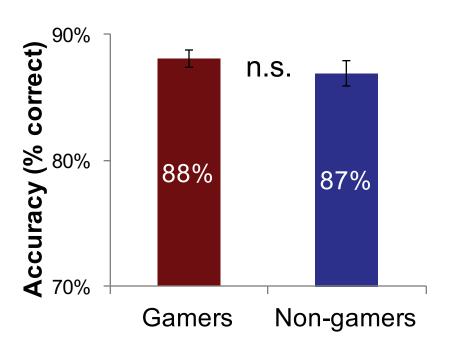
Video Game Playing & Visual Search



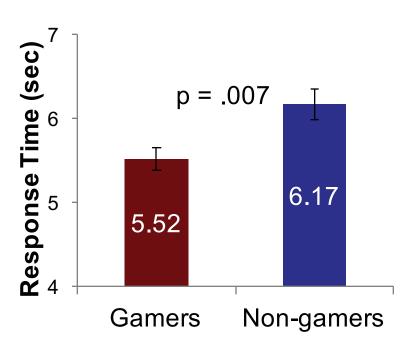
e.g., Castel, Pratt, & Drummond, 2005 Clark, Fleck, & Mitroff, 2011 Hubert-Wallander, Green, Sugarman, & Bavelier, 2011

Individual Differences: TSA & Video Games

Accuracy



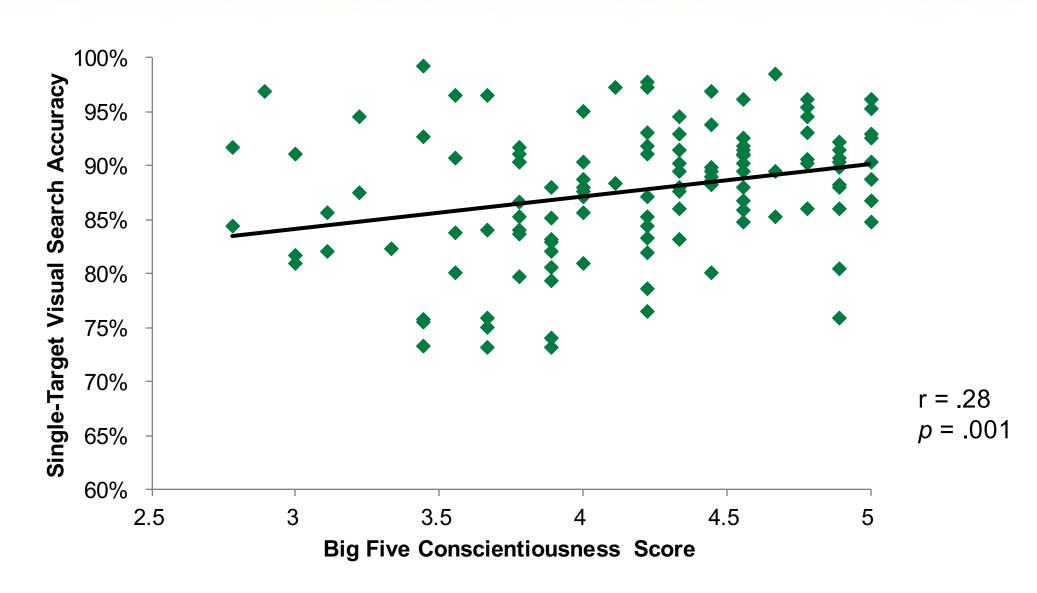
Hit Response Time



Gamers: N=50

Non-Gamers: N=89

TSA Officer Accuracy & Conscientiousness



Two Broad Projects to Discuss Today

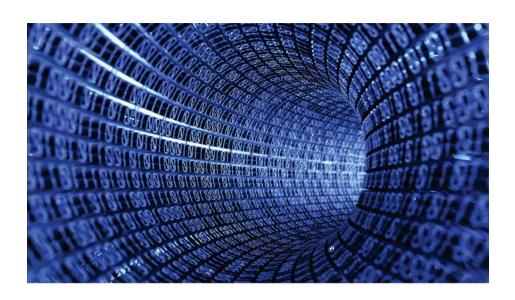
1. Individual Differences

- -Characteristics of elite searchers
- -Significant markers of performance

2. Mobile Technology Tool

- -Use Big Data to examine search
- -Design flexible tool for TSA





Visual Search Data from Smartphone App



Airport Scanner App — Data Exporter

	Fetch day/session data	Fetch bag/item data		
Date range User Ids				
Airport	☐ TRAINEE ☐ HONOLULU ☐ LAS VEGAS ☐ CHICAGO ☐ ASPEN ☐ LONDON		Select All	Select None
Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		Select All	Select None
Mission type	Career Challenge		Select All	Select None
Replay	□ No □ Yes		Select All	Select None
Rank	☐ TRAINEE ☐ OPERATOR ☐ PRO ☐ EXPERT ☐ ELITE		Select All	Select None
Day Complete Status	□ COMPLETED□ SECURITY BREACH□ OUT OF TIME		Select All	Select None
Bag types	BRIEFCASE			

Airport Scanner "Big Data" Numbers

As of 5/11/2016

>9.9 million installs

>2.6 billion trials

One Main Goal: Predict Later Success

Collaborators:



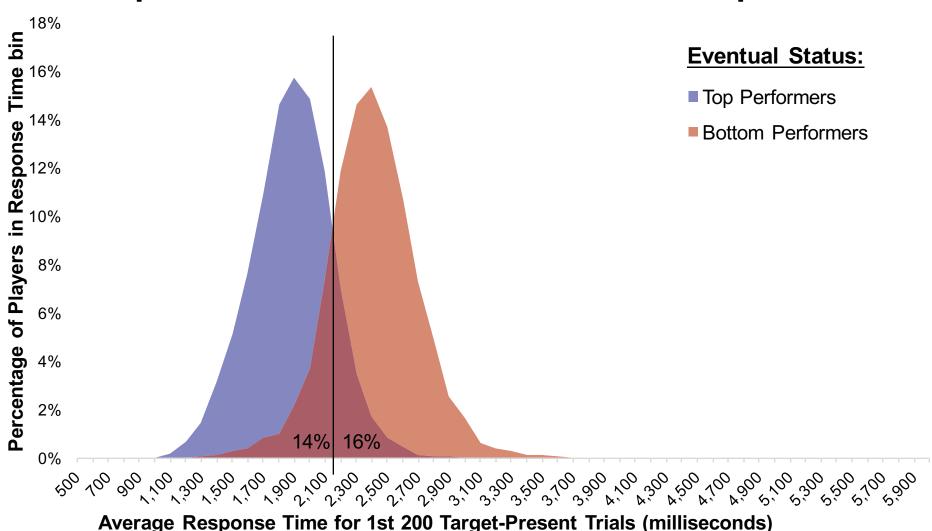
Justin Ericson



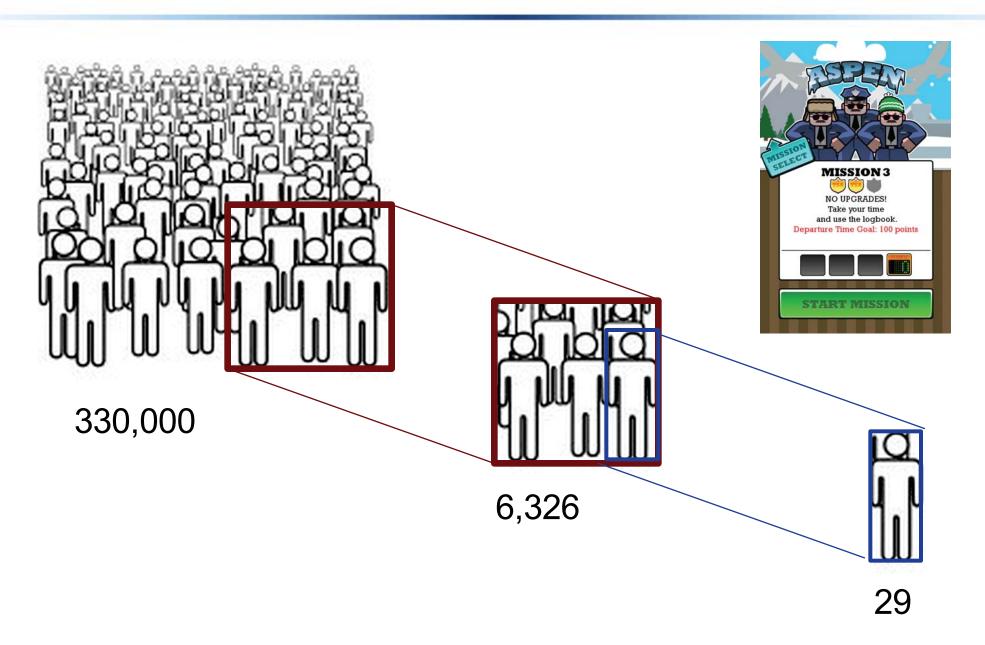
Dwight Kravitz

Early Performance Predicts Later Success

Knowing a user's early performance response time is ~85% predictive of their eventual search capabilities



Predicting Super-Performers from Early Data



Predicting Super-Performers from Early Data

Use accuracy and response time from 1st 100 trials to predict later success

Split initial accuracy & response time performance into quartiles

	Chance Distribution			Actual Distribution of 29 super-performers	
	Low Accuracy	High Accuracy		Low Accuracy	High Accuracy
Fast Response Time	6.25%	6.25%	Fast Response Time	0%	51.72%
Slow Response Time	6.25%	6.25%	Slow Response Time	0%	6.89%

Thanks!

Army Research Office

Institute for Homeland Security Solutions



Department of Homeland Security



Stephen Adamo



Adam Biggs



Matthew Cain



Kait Clark



Elise Darling



Emma Wu Dowd



Justin Ericson



Mat Fleck



Jonathan Winkle

