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# The Influence of Pop Up Notification on Visual Attention and Learning

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## Abstract

The tutorial videos contain an explanation of a learning material taught to students. The use of tutorial videos is common during the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation makes the teachers change the learning model into a video conferences or tutorial videos. However, the use of tutorial videos is often accompanied by opening other applications in parallel causing pop-up notifications to appear. The pop-up notification makes students not focus on the material explained in the tutorial videos. This raises the question of whether it will affect the learning process in understanding the learning material. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the influence of pop-up notifications on tutorial videos. Eye movements of all participants (N = 50) were recorded when viewing tutorial videos on various operating systems with or without the pop-up notification. Based on the results, after being shown a tutorial videos with a pop-up notification, participants paid attention to the pop-up notification. However, there were no significant differences in learning outcomes of students after viewing tutorial videos with or without pop-up notification.

**Keywords:** Tutorial Video, Pop Up Notification, Eye Tracking

## 1. Introduction

The Industrial Revolution 4.0 has changed many aspects of human life, whether working, socializing, playing, or learning. Advances in information and communication technology make the use of technology enter various aspects of life, including in the field of education. The 21st-century learning process has the responsibility to develop 4C learning skills, namely Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking (Pertiwi & Rizal, 2020). The 21st-century learning challenge is to integrate knowledge-based learning processes with ICT skills (Information and Communication Technology) and scientific skills. Therefore, teachers are required to have

skills in creating effective and creative learning processes through technology-based interactive learning media (Hafizah, 2020).

Technology-based interactive learning media combines several elements such as text, sound, graphics, images, and videos into a single unit to attract interest in understanding learning materials (Bustanil S et al., 2019). One of the technology-based interactive learning media is tutorial videos. Video-based learning has great benefits in influencing the future of the learning process to provide a place for students (Giannakos et al., 2014). The use of video supports student-centered learning so that it can be performed anywhere, in the classroom or at home, and at any time.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made tutorial videos a solution in the learning process by requiring new, active, and constructive learning media. The use of tutorial videos has several weaknesses such as duration and pop-up notifications. Duration is very influential on understanding the learning material. According to (Guo et al., 2014), the ideal duration for tutorial videos is 6 – 9 minutes because, in that time span, the involvement of students towards tutorial videos was very high (around 75%). Short tutorial videos with good quality learning material require careful planning to design the concept in a concise and planned manner. Furthermore, the weakness of tutorial videos is the pop-up notification. This happens if students simultaneously open the application so that a pop-up notification appears when watching the tutorial videos making the attention breaks.

However, studies related to the effectiveness of tutorial videos are mostly based on conventional methods by relying on answers from participants such as interviews or filling out questionnaires. In fact, even if the questions have been structured in such a way, the potential for bias could occur due to the potential for faking good (Fairuz Izdihar et al., 2019) or a condition in which participants gave inaccurate answers during interviews or filled out questionnaires due to various reasons, such as efforts to maintain self-image. Therefore, to minimize the potential for bias and increase objectivity, it is necessary to consider the use of technology such as human eye trackers. Through infrared rays emitted into the eye and reflected back to the instrument (Okuyama et al., 1990), the human eye tracker can be an alternative to assess eye response when viewing tutorial videos.

Real-time visual attention analysis such as eye movement, viewing duration, frequency of eyes looking back at the same area, and so on can also be performed (Reingold, 2014). The use of an eye tracker as an evaluation tool is able to accommodate human behavior to improve the interface appearance of various products and to increase understanding of human behavior (Diego-Mas et al., 2019). The eye tracker utilizes infrared sensors and cameras to track eye movement when viewing a display (Hessels & Hooge, 2019). This technology can detect focus and attention by tracking eye movement (Carter & Luke, 2020). Visual attention is automatic, besides being controlled by the human brain without realizing it, it can also be influenced by mental status (Van Eymeren, 2016). Therefore, it is very important to know the visual attention of students to a tutorial video and to detect interest and boredom towards tutorial videos.

## 2. Method

The participants of this study were Informatics Engineering students (N=50). Participants were divided into two groups, namely pop up notification (N=25) and non-pop-up notification (N=25) with several inclusion criteria namely not having a visual impairment, not wearing glasses, not wearing contact lenses, not color blind, not having strabismus, not having slanted eyes, and not wearing eyelashes.

In this study, participants were given a pre-test regarding the operating system based on the working process. Then, the data were collected using the Tobii Pro X2-30 HET (Human Eye Tracker). Participants were sitting on chairs in a relaxed condition with a distance of 60 – 70 cm from the monitor screen to their eyes. During recording, participants were asked to minimize head movement (Figure 1), while the room lighting was set not too bright or dim (Edison et al., 2021). Before recording, the HET instrument calibration was carried out to ensure the precision of the eye position against the object seen on the monitor screen. This study used a go/no-go experiment design (Fookan & Spering, 2019). During data collection, participants were shown a black screen for five seconds followed by a 10-minute learning video and closed again with a black screen for five seconds (Figure 2)..



Figure 1: Participants sit relaxed facing the monitor screen with a distance of 60-70 cm

Table 1: Screen Condition

Screen Condition with Pop-Up Notification	
Blank Space	2
Tutorial Video	1

Screen Condition With Pop-Up Notification	
Blank Space	2
Tutorial Video	1

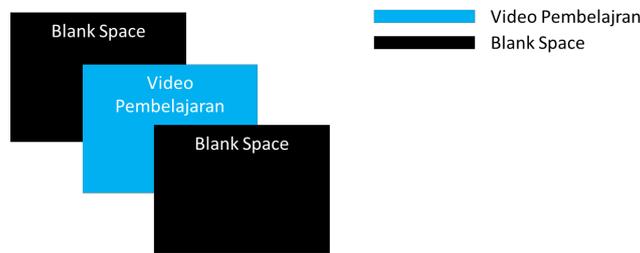
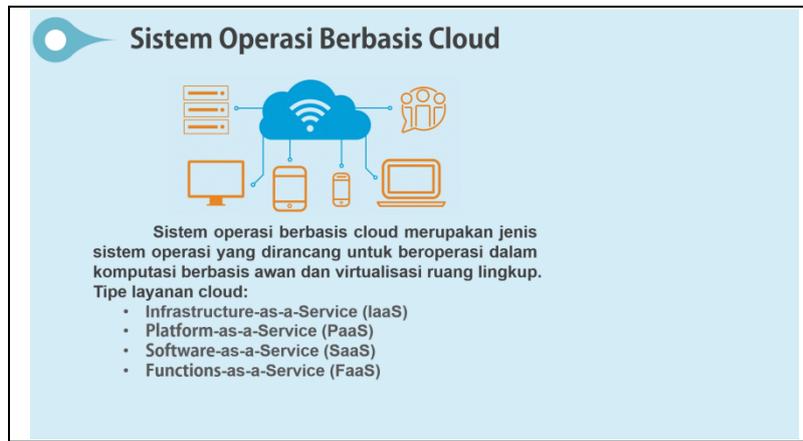


Figure 3: Go/no-go simulation

Table 2: Tutorial Video with and without Pop-Up Notification

Tutorial Video
Pop-Up Notification
No Pop-Up Notification



The stimulus used was in the form of tutorial videos on operating system courses with pop-up notifications and non-pop-up notifications for 10 minutes. In the stimulus, the Region of Interest was used to mark the object. The tutorial video with pop-up notification was divided into 2 ROIs namely the Learning area and Pop up area. While in the tutorial video without pop-up notification, ROI was only found in the learning area (Table 3). Furthermore, a post-test regarding the operating system and its working procedure was given.

Based on the pretest and post-test, each participant was given 10 points if the answer was correct on each question, and 0 points if the answer was wrong on each question. Data underwent T-test analysis using IBM SPSS 28. HET results were analyzed using Tobii Pro Studio to obtain a gaze plot and time to first fixation (3.4.8).

Table 3: ROI of Tutorial Video with and without Pop-Up Notification

ROI of Tutorial Video	
Pop-Up Notification	
	<p>→ Learning Area</p> <p>→ Pop Up Notification</p>
No Pop-Up Notification	
	<p>→ Learning Area</p>

3. Results

There were 50 participants following the overall recording procedure. The procedure starts with explanation, calibration, and simulation. The time required by each participant to complete the entire process was approximately 45 minutes. 50 participants were divided into two groups; Pop-Up Notifications and Non-Pop-Up Notifications.

Table 4: Shapiro-Wilk Normality Test

Pop-Up Notification Group	Non Pop-Up Notification Group
Pretest	Pretest
Statistics= 0.929, p=0.081	Statistics= 0.912, p=0.034
Sample follows Gaussian (fail reject H0)	Sample does not follow Gaussian (reject H0)
Post-test	Post-test
Statistics= 0.955, p=0.321	Statistics= 0.928, p=0.078
Sample follows Gaussian (fail reject H0)	Sample follows Gaussian (fail reject H0)

Table 3 shows the results of the Shapiro-Wilk Normality Test on pre and post-test of pop-up notification and non-pop-up notification groups. If the significance value (p) in the Shapiro-Wilk test  $\geq 0.05$ , the data were normally distributed. Based on these tests, the results obtained from each group, pretest of pop-up notification group had  $p=0.081$  showing no significant influence of pop-up notification on learning outcome with normal distribution. Pretest of non-pop-up notification group had  $p=0.034$  showing the significant influence of pop-up notification on learning outcome and the data were not normally distributed. Post-test of pop-up notification group had  $p=0.321$  and non-pop-up notification had  $p=0.078$  showing no significant influence of pop-up notification on learning outcome with normally distributed data.

Table 5: T-test analysis

No	Data 1	Data 2	Result	Abs(t_stat) <= cv	p > alpha
1	Pretest of Pop-Up Notification Group	Pretest of Non Pop-Up Notification Group	t = -0.200	True	True
			p = 0.843		
			df = 24		
			cv = 1.711		
2	Post-test of Pop-Up Notification Group	Post-test of Non Pop-Up Notification Group	t = 0.529	True	True
			p = 0.602		
			df = 24		
			cv = 1.711		

T-test analysis showed that the pretest result of pop-up notification and non pop-up notification groups was 0.843, while the post-test was 0.602 meaning no significant influence on learning outcome (Table 4).

Table 6: Gaze Plot and Time To First Fixation

Pop-Up Notification		No Pop-Up Notification	
Gaze Plot		Gaze Plot	
Pop Up Notification		No Pop Up Notification	
Time To First Fixation		Time To First Fixation	

Furthermore, based on HET analysis, the time to first fixation matrix showed the time it took respondents (or the average of all respondents) to see the regio of inters. Of the 9 pop-up notifications, 8 notifications were seen directly by participants when they appeared. The gaze plot on the pop-up notification can see the order of the eye movement, when the pop-up notification appears, the gazes go directly to the pop-up, then switch to the learning area. This is evidenced by the time to first fixation matrix showing that participants see the pop-up notification before the learning area. Then in the non-pop-up notification group, gaze plot and time to first fixation matrix showed that participants were more focused on learning areas than outside the learning area (Table 5). This proves

that when the pop-up notification appears, participants go directly to the pop-up notification, although only for a moment but when compared with the results obtained from the post-test, participants who saw tutorial videos with pop-up notifications had an influence, but when compared to the pretest with the non-pop-up notification group, both did not show significant results. This shows that pop-up notifications had no significant influence on learning outcomes.

#### 4. Discussion

This study was carried out on Informatics Engineering students who have never taken an operating system course. All participants followed the overall study procedure from pretest, tutorial videos, and post-test.

The students were shown tutorial videos with pop-up notifications. Based on the t-test on pre and post-test, the pop-up notification had no significant influence on learning outcome. Then, the first thing participants saw was a pop-up notification. However, the duration and frequency of seeing pop-ups are low. As with Gaze-Plot, from 9 pop-up notifications displayed, 8 pop-up notifications were seen immediately when they appeared and only 1 pop-up notification was not seen immediately. Furthermore, in the gaze plot analysis, one - three times the initial eye movement of the participants looked at the pop-up notification. While the rest was focused on the area in the pop-up notification. Specifically, the data showed that the time duration when the notification was shown simultaneously with the tutorial videos, eye-stopping when viewing the pop-up area was faster than viewing the learning area. This phenomenon is in line when comparing the visual attention of students when shown tutorial videos showing instructors without showing instructors where participants tend to stare more at the face than the material. This makes the participants not focus on the material presented (van Wermeskerken et al., 2018).

The eye tracker is used as an instrument to analyze online learning during the covid-19 pandemic. On average, students are given material through video tutorials. The eye tracker can find out what things can be annoying if given a video about learning materials. Unlike the case with questionnaires or interviews where someone has the opportunity to think about the answers given, in other words, someone can determine actions consciously, while visual attention is automatic or done unconsciously. This phenomenon occurs when viewing an object, making visual attention analysis using human eye tracker applicable in various fields such as advertising, where the visual attention of consumers when viewing an advertisement becomes the input for the development of new types of advertisements. (Punde et al., 2017). In addition, the human eye tracker can also be used to find out what smokers see when images of cigarette packs are displayed, where smokers tend to focus on cigarette brands, while non-smokers focus more on health graphic warning images. (Edison et al., 2021).

Visual attention such as eye movement, viewing duration of an object, the number of blinks of the eye is automatic without being aware of it by the brain or psychologically. With this human eye tracker technology, psychological phenomena in a person when shown an image also have the potential to.

When shown tutorial videos through the monitor, participants focus more on the pop-up notification than on the learning area but only for a moment. Therefore, this study shows that running the application simultaneously while watching the tutorial videos then displays a pop-up notification generated by the application showing no significant influence. In the future, it is possible to compare the location of the pop-up position on the bottom right with appearing in the middle of the monitor layer. Short tutorial videos with good quality learning material require careful planning to design the concept in a concise and planned manner.

#### 5. Conclusion

After being shown a tutorial videos with a pop-up notification, participants paid attention to the pop-up notification, but only for a moment and then back to the learning area. This is confirmed by pretest and post-test results using t-test analysis. There were no significant differences in learning outcomes of students after viewing tutorial videos with or without pop-up notification participants. It is still recommended to turn off notifications when doing online learning so that students can focus on learning in accordance with the basic competencies achieved.

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