

**Series Editor:** John M. Carroll, *Penn State University*

## **From Tool to Partner**

### *The Evolution of Human-Computer Interaction*

**Jonathan Grudin**, *Microsoft Research*

This is the first comprehensive history of human-computer interaction (HCI). Whether you are a user-experience professional or an academic researcher, whether you identify with computer science, human factors, information systems, information science, design, or communication, you can discover how your experiences fit into the expanding field of HCI. You can determine where to look for relevant information in other fields; and where you won't find it.

This book describes the different fields that have participated in improving our digital tools. It is organized chronologically, describing major developments across fields in each period. Computer use has changed radically, but many underlying forces are constant. Technology has changed rapidly, human nature very little. An irresistible force meets an immovable object. The exponential rate of technological change gives us little time to react before technology moves on. Patterns and trajectories described in this book provide your best chance to anticipate what could come next.

We have reached a turning point. Tools that we built for ourselves to use are increasingly influencing how we use them, in ways that are planned and sometimes unplanned. The book ends with issues worthy of consideration as we explore the new world that we and our digital partners are shaping.

## **ABOUT SYNTHESIS**

This volume is a printed version of a work that appears in the *Synthesis Digital Library of Engineering and Computer Science*. Synthesis books provide concise, original presentations of important research and development topics, published quickly, in digital and print formats.