

## **Participation Test 1**

I navigated to the website and asked the user to create and log in to a profile. Other than that, no instructions were given. The goal of the test was to see if a normal person would be able to use the basic features of the website. The user was chosen because they were believed to be what an average user would be like. The user is the mother of one of the team members working on the project. She has little to no experience using a computer and is the ideal candidate to conduct a user test.

We first ran into a problem when she couldn't find the register button. She tried creating a profile by entering information into the login fields, which of course didn't work. Due to how the page is laid out, the register button isn't actually visible without scrolling down. Eventually she figured it out and got to the register page. The account creation then went pretty smoothly. After the account was created she asked why the account wasn't logged in yet and I instructed her to log in using the information she entered. At that point we had made it to the homepage. There wasn't much to do after that since the posts feature was still being worked on at the time but all the buttons worked so we called it good. This concluded the user test.

We learned that the register button isn't in the best spot and should be moved. If the button was visible and didn't require the user to look for it that would make it easier to make a new account and would improve the user experience. We could also make it so that the account is logged in to right after the account is created instead of having to enter in the login information a second time. It did look like it was a pain to enter in information that was just entered and seems unnecessary. Conducting this user test brought things to my attention that I wouldn't otherwise notice. It was a pretty effective way to find ways to make the website easier to use.

As a result from the user test that was conducted, two changes to the website will be considered. We will want to move the register button higher on the page so it will be visible when the page is loaded. Another welcome change would be to have the website log in the user automatically after the account is created. These two changes will help make the website much easier to use for the average user.

## **Participation Test 2**

Similar to the first user test, I asked the user to create and login to an account. No changes were made to the website between the two tests. The second user is the brother of one of the team members. He has a decent amount of experience using computers and websites such as these but has no computer science experience.

Right off the bat, the user commented on how he didn't like the website's design. One of the comments criticized how empty the page seemed to be. They suggested to move the login section up on the page and the title of the website down so they would be merged together. The user then created a profile with relative ease and then logged

in with the new information. Once the user page was reached, the user commented on how the user page looked a lot better than the login page. However, they did say that the green part on the top of the page took up a bit too much space. The user went through the rest of the available pages with not much to comment about. This concluded the second user test.

We learned the importance of making the actual pages look nice to the user. This might not do much to improve the functionality of the site, but would improve the user experience. Through this user test we learned that the layout of the site is more important than previously thought. We are now considering changes to the layout that will improve the look of the website. These changes would most likely be implemented in the final version of the website after everything else is done.