
COMP 3008 Assignment 4

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November 25th, 2020

Part 1: System Proposal

The new project will be done in relation to the website point2homes.com. When looking for homes, users often have to search through multiple different sites and check them frequently for new listings. By developing an application that not only has point2homes' current functionality of pooling together listings, but also with an even larger expanded arsenal of listings, searching for a property on the go, and all in one place will be easier than ever. This would platform would now aim to include listings from other sites such as Kijiji, Facebook marketplace, and rentals.ca. With everything in one place, this new service will be called **Home Central**.

Part 2: Metaphor and Interaction Types

You search for homes on Home Central with the “everything you need in one place mentality” of super centres.

or

The Home central app is a super centre.

Some advantages of the metaphor would be that it would give users an easy understanding that not all of the listings on the site are posted on the actual site and some may be from other sources (or “brands” if thinking in the metaphor). It would also help the user understand the mission of the application, to be a one stop shop for all their property needs.

Some disadvantages of the metaphor would be the checkout system in a super centre, users may get the idea that once they find a property (or “item”) they like they can simply purchase and secure it. Though with buying and renting property this is not the case and there is many steps before that in addition to other users potentially

competing for the same place. Another disadvantage could be the idea of saving listings for later. In a super centre, items can not be saved for later or put on hold.

Although I believe this is a solid metaphor, I do not believe it is sufficiently promising enough for it to be worth it to make a prototype based on this metaphor. Due to misconceptions that may be had between the metaphor and the system, users may make the wrong associations between the metaphor and the system. Therefore I do not believe it is a sufficiently promising metaphor to make a prototype based on.

When looking at the different the different interaction types that would best suit the system and the advantages and disadvantages of each, three were considered: **Interaction, conversing, and manipulating**

Interaction:

Advantages:

- Users can instruct the system of exactly what sort of property they wish to find
- Users can easily remove one or more criteria from their search

Disadvantages:

- May be somewhat hard to learn for users who have never seen any kind of property listing system
- Not the most intuitive way to present the application as it would require a lot of instructions (typing on the virtual keyboard for the most part) which would be rather slow on a mobile device.

Conversing:

Advantages:

- Very user friendly to novice users that may be unfamiliar with rental websites / apps to use. This is because users can use natural language to tell the system what they want

Disadvantages:

- If using a menu based conversing style then it may take a very long time for users to see their desired search results as again, these search parameters can be very specific.
- Can misunderstand the user and therefore slow down the time it takes to use the system. If a user receives results with properties they are not looking for then they would have to start the search process all over again

instead of just altering some of the parameters of their search like they would in other interaction types.

Manipulating:

Advantages:

- Very quick way of performing key operations such as saving listings, contacting the poster, and sharing the listing
- Gestures would be intuitive and would allow the users to develop a clear mental model (swiping through a list, tapping on specific icons that you would like to see more information on)

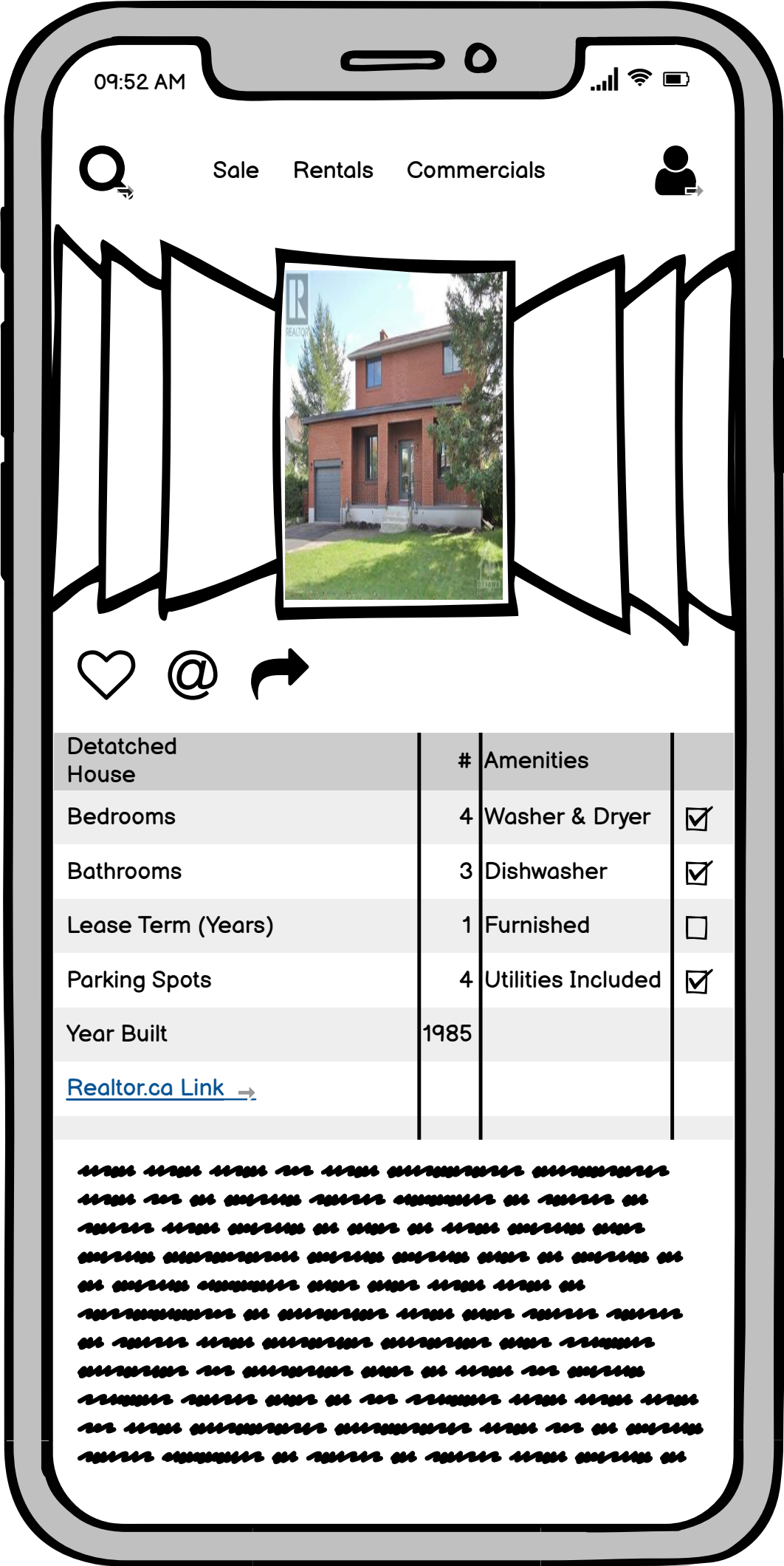
Disadvantages:

- No clear way to strictly manipulate objects in order to produce a list of various properties with specific criteria

Things One might do on this app:

Look for homes all in one place
contact owners of listings to request a viewing
save listings for later

Part 3: Lo-Fi Prototypes



09:52 AM

X

Q Search By: City or Postal Code

Filters

of Bedrooms

3

of Bathrooms

3

Price

Min

to

Max

Property Amenities

☐ Pets Allowed

☒ Onsite Parking

☐ In-Suite Laundry

☒ Dishwasher

Type

Sale

Rentals

Commercials

Reset

Apply

