Week 2 - ID Goals629, Ameenur Rahman Khan

I searched both Zumper and Homes.com for rental listings in Seattle that matched your criteria of at least 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, allowed cats, and were a condo or townhouse. Overall, I found Zumper's interface and search functionality to be more user-friendly and effective for this task. The search filters on Zumper allowed me to easily narrow down by number of bedrooms, bathrooms, pet policy, and listing type. The results were clearly displayed with the key info like price, beds/baths, location, and photos. The main drawback of the website is its inability to allow users to apply multiple filters simultaneously during their initial search. Instead, users must search using each filter individually.

Homes.com was not as intuitive to use - they don't have specific filters for things like the number of bathrooms or pet policy, so I had to sift through many irrelevant listings. The map view on Homes.com was useful for location, but the list view did not surface enough key details to evaluate and compare listings efficiently. Also, this search gave me only four results with the required parameters. To me, it says that they don't update their website very often for new homes. Also, there was no filter to input allowed cat filters.

Relevant usability goals:
Effectiveness: Zumper.com stands out by providing a wider variety of options, including the unique feature of filtering for long-term and short-term rentals. This functionality enhances the user's ability to tailor their search more precisely, setting Zumper apart from Homes.com.
Efficiency: Both websites excel in efficiency, swiftly presenting search results that match user queries. This quick response time is a testament to their adherence to modern web design and functionality standards.
Learnability: Although both websites are user-friendly and do not require prior experience to navigate, each has its quirks. On Zumper.com, the filters for beds and baths are not immediately visible, placed midway through the list of options. This positioning could initially confuse first-time users, requiring a bit of learning and adjustment. On the other hand, Homes.com presents a different challenge: selecting the filter for "2 beds and 2 baths" unexpectedly activates all five options, a feature that may surprise new users and necessitate some adaptation.

Relevant user experience goals:
Valuable: Zumper.com excels with a broad range of options and unique filters for different rental terms, enhancing the decision-making process.
Homes.com offers essential information but lacks some advanced filtering features, affecting the depth of search customisation.
Usable: Zumper.com has an initial learning curve due to filter placement but is navigable after familiarisation. This suggests room for interface optimisation.
Homes.com encounters usability challenges with its filter selection behaviour, necessitating a simpler, more predictable user interaction model.
Enjoyable: Zumper.com provides an engaging search experience through comprehensive filtering options, though initial usability issues may slightly hinder enjoyment.
Homes.com could improve by streamlining its interface to avoid tedious interactions, aiming for a more intuitive and pleasant user experience.