

Team Name: DAWdle

Team Members (UX): Rey Cuesta, Dylan Hall, Liam Smith

User Goal: Have a basic, easy to learn DAW that uses a node based system for crafting the sounds of synths and filters.

Competitor: FL Studio 20

**Visibility of System Status: 9/10.** It's pretty clear that everything is working fine, and it asks you to save before quitting the application. It lights up enabled effects / keyboards in orange.

**Match between System and the real world: 9/10.** FL Studio 20 is clear in what it's presenting you

**User control and freedom: 7.5/10.** With countless plugins both free and paid, FL studio has unmatched flexibility with what's possible. The user is free to alter any tiny minutia about the audio qualities/properties after (or during) completing the track. However, you can only undo once, and pressing ctrl+z again only redoes what you were trying to undo.

**Consistency and standards: 9/10.** FL Studio follows all the conventions of a typical DAW, and it's not too difficult to transfer from a physical device (i.e. drum machine) to FL studio

**Error prevention: 4/10.** While my FL Studio 20 is relatively stable, when there are updates introduced without proper testing or plugins conflicting with each other, crashes and freezes are commonplace. File corruption is also a risk. Also, in my experience if one doesn't open FL Studio often, the application will not respond for up to a minute when launched. There doesn't seem to be any systems in place to check if something will cause it to crash or not, especially with third party plugins.

**Recognition rather than recall: 8/10.** With a large window that hosts other windows that you can configure and resize, the visibility of elements for the most part are entirely dependent on the proficiency of the producer.

**Flexibility and efficiency of use: 5/10.** While it doesn't advertise keyboard / mouse shortcuts, there are a plethora of key commands that can greatly streamline the production process.

However, even after a decade on the market, there is still no way to change the default keyboard layout or shortcuts, which is not user-friendly at all.

Aesthetic and minimalist design: 8/10. While the purpose of some buttons, knobs, or sliders may be unclear at first glance, on the upper left hand side

**Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors: 5/10.** While FL Studio does send crash logs to the user who can then send it to the company for review, the error logs are often not clear, and if it crashes right on startup, it doesn't even have the ability to send a crash log, which might lead the user to do a reinstall or just uninstall and move to another DAW.

**Help and documentation: 10/10.** FL Studio has a very comprehensive user manual that fully explains how to set up the application, configure it to your needs, and provides help regarding plugins.