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User Interface Essay

Jalopy Exchange Project

Shneiderman’s 8 Golden Rules

1. Consistency
   1. Color schemes, fonts, typeface are all uniform
   2. Application title and subtitle are always to left, username and logout top right, copyright bottom right
2. Universal usability (novice to experts)
   1. Novice can you mouse click actions
   2. Experts can use keyboard shortcuts
      1. Up/down arrows on numberfields & combo boxes
      2. Tab across form filters
      3. Tab across editable grid columns
3. Informative feedback
   1. Confirmation boxes
   2. Alert success boxes
   3. Data visually refreshes on screen
4. Design dialogs to yield closure (basically alert success)
5. Prevent errors
   1. Disabled buttons
   2. Restricted selections from combos to valid data only
   3. Non-editable combos (no typing)
   4. Editors use proper data types
      1. Age = numberfield with min/max range
      2. Email = textfield with email validations
      3. Year = numberfield between 1900 and present day
   5. Automobile form stays intact when error comes back (only fix what was broken)
6. Permit reversal of actions
   1. User details are editable
   2. Can delete automobiles
   3. Can close listings
7. Internal locus of control (users have control over the ui)
   1. The system never runs processes behind the scenes. Every action is invoked by a user
8. Reduce short term memory load
   1. Dialogs have context when appropriate (rockStar33 was unlocked, the listing is currently open, do you want to close it etc.)