

User Testing

Team Cook-E

Kyle Woo (kylew5) | Sam Crow (samcrow) | Tyler Jacoby (tsjacoby) | Carson Lipscomb (carsonal) | Xianzhe Peng (pxz2012) | Shan Yang (shany3) | Zijin Zhang (wszj)

During this week we did 3 user tests with real users. None of them is a student in CSE department, and they have never seen our application before.

The design of our three user tests are the same. First, we introduce the general idea of our application to the testers. Then, we ask the testers to do a complete scheduling process. After the scheduling is finished, we ask testers to whatever he/she want to do for a while.

Our first tester is a 21-year-old male. He is a math student in UW. At the very first, when we asked him to perform a scheduling, he was confused because he didn't know where to start. He looked for a start button for a while, then he recognized that he had to create a meal first. After creating a meal, he successfully found the start button in the meal and started the scheduling process. There was no problem during the scheduling process, but at the last step, he was looking for a finish button, which is not there. This was because when we were doing the test with him, we used a relatively old version and that part is not implemented in that version. It is working in our new version of the application.

After performing a scheduling process, we let him do whatever he want to do. First, he tried to modify a recipe, removed some steps and added new ones. At this point he noticed that he was able to create new recipes, so he made a new one with two random steps in it. He was confused by how to input ingredients for each step, but besides that, there was no critical problem during this process.

After that, he found the menu at the top right corner and opened it. Then, he tried to open setting page from menu, but there was no response. He helped us figured out this bug in our application and we are trying to fix it.

Our second tester is a 22-year-old Designer. Like what we did to the first tester, we introduced our app to her, then we let her do a scheduling process. She started by creating a meal, but she was confused and thought she was creating a recipe. Fortunately, she figured that out by herself. Then, she tried to create recipes, but she was confused since there was no save button in the editing interface. Our application will automatically save the changes when user goes back from the editing interface,

but she was confused by that design.

During the scheduling process there are more problems: First, she found it odd that the simultaneous steps had the instruction listed twice on the display. The second instruction was actually the timer part, but it was not very clear for her. In addition, she mentioned that our user interface should have a color indicator/theme for each recipe so that it is more obvious which recipe the step is for. She also said that the meal complete alert was confusing. The word "Done" looked like a button for her, instead she suggested us to use "meal completed".

Our third tester is a 24-year-old civil engineer. Just as before, we required him to do a scheduling first, and then do whatever he wanted to do. He started by creating recipes and meals, but when he was trying to create recipes, he didn't know how to input multiple ingredients for a single step. It should be new-line separated, but it was not clearly shown on the screen. He also mentioned that we should have a save button for recipes and meals to make it less confusing.

Then, he successfully started the scheduling process. He noticed that the ingredients for each step is not displayed, but he was expecting that. Also, he mentioned that we should add an audible alarm for timer to indicate the simultaneous step is completed. He didn't point out any other problems after finishing the scheduling process.

There was another problem that was in common for all testers. The problem is they didn't like the color of our application. Therefore, we chose a new color for our application to use.

In conclusion, we learned a lot about our application from the user testing. We found out many problems in our user interface design, as well as bugs and other problems in our system. After doing user testing, we got a list of problems we have to solve and we were working on these problems during this week. The problems we were working on include but not limited to: distinguish remote and local recipe in the recipe list; fix setting page; add a save button for recipe editor; add an alarm for timer; show ingredients for each step; and move the timer to bottom to separate it from current step.

We thought that user testing is a very powerful tool to discover and fix potential problems in our system. Although we did some user testing for our design, there were still many problems discovered in this week. And we are glad that we had a chance to discover and fix those problems.