Team Project Demonstration Round Table Discussion

8th February 2013

Team Member: So, can I start by asking how many people got to the melting temperature screen?
inaudible
T: So, three to four. Okay.

feedback requested
Participant: The repetition rule should tell you exactly how many you missed in a row, so that you'll know to avoid 4.
T: Alright. Any more comments before we get into the specifics?
P: Overall, the problem was that the primer design rules were unbreakable. So, maybe it should have more of a guidance system than a rule-based system.
Scott: Do you think, then, that pass/fail are the wrong words to use? **P:** Yeah, probably.
P: Or just a manual override so that you can accept that you've failed, and move on.
general agreement
P: Maybe implement something like a close fail system?
Conversation about food follows.

TEMPERATURE PANEL IN USER GUIDE SHOULD BE CHANGED

T: What did you think of the look of the program?
P: It was quite clear to figure out how to get from one point to the next. The appearance wasn't too bad.
Veitch: I thought you could have something like a DNA helix in the corner to make it look... a bit less clinical. A bit less Computer Science. No offence!
Offence taken.
P: I thought the interface was very 90s.
T: That is not our fault. If you're still using Windows XP, that's not our fault!
Le humour.

P: I thought the program was very easy - I could come into the lab and do it without any problems, or at home and I wouldn't need someone there.
P: I thought the double strand view was very helpful, and the reverse button just made things easier.
T: As a teaching tool, do you think it was better than a paper version?
unanimous affirmation

P: Why doesn't it find primers for you?
T: That's kind of the point.
P: I didn't realise it was supposed to teach me. I thought it was supposed to help me.
P: Yeah, I was using it as a program to, you know, make a primer.

P: The pass/fail breakdown is actually quite good, breaking down what's good about the primer and what's bad. **P:** A bit more detail would be good, actually.
T: Yeah, and having "FAIL" all in capital letters is perhaps a bit harsh.

P: It was good that you could amend the sequence on the fly though, if just a little bit of it was wrong you could go in and fix it.

P: Although, when I kind of passed my reverse primer, it disappeared out the box.

P: Would it be possible to have it check one of the primers first before doing the other one?

Scott: I was thinking, maybe after the temperature panel you could have it show just the sequence, in bold, with the primers at either end? Just the sequence with the actual primers, with a back button in case you want to change it.

P: Copy-pasting was all keyboard shortcuts. I don't use keyboard shortcuts.