

Team Project Proposal

Title: Beaver Neighbor Center

Group 9 Members: Chi-Ho Chou, Danlin Song, Jiawei Luan, Siming Liao

1. Description

Our objective is to create an online community that helps OSU students to trade second-hand stuff/used stuff.

2. Target User

Our target user is OSU students, especially international students. Our group members are international students, we have access to contact with the seller and buyers of used stuff.

3. Introduction

Currently, some college students buy second-hand goods through online websites like e-bay which mainly sells virtual goods online. However, for graduated students, they want to sell their stuff as soon as possible because they are going to leave in 2 weeks. And for students who want to get something immediately, if the seller lives near them, they can get stuff cheaper and faster than on Amazon.

4. Related Work

There are two main ways that international students now sell second-hand, the first being through established secondhand trading sites such as eBay (<https://www.ebay.com>). In addition, international students also choose to sell and buy through second-hand selling group chats on their usual social networking software (Figure 1).

Selling through established second-hand trading sites is great, but there are still a few problems. The first is that the authenticity of the seller's photos cannot be guaranteed, and the actual goods may not match the photos placed on the website, resulting in buyers not being able to buy the ideal goods. Even this may lead to disputes between the two parties. What's more, the pickup method of such websites is usually by mail, but for some goods of high value, if the goods are lost in the mail, it will bring unnecessary losses to the seller. However, if it is limited to face-to-face transactions with students of the same university, both problems can be solved.

On the other way, many international students like to sell things in the group chat (Figure 1), but after our investigation, there are the following problems:

- a. Information will be covered by the latest information, people need to pay attention to the group chat frequently or they will miss the products.
- b. Whether an item is sold or not is usually not updated instantly.
- c. In order to connect with buyers/sellers, they need to add new people to their private chat accounts.
- d. There are restrictions on group chats, for example, all members are Chinese, Korean, American And it is difficult for students to join all the second-hand selling group chats.
- e. The information about those things is distributed on different platforms and is not easily searchable.

- f. This way does not support the key information to search for the goods that people want.

Therefore, we tried to combine these two approaches to develop a second-hand trading website for face-to-face transactions for students at the same university.



Figure 1 Group Chat Sales

5. Related Issues

For this design, our team still needs to investigate the following questions:

1. How often do users use the used items website/app/group?
2. If you are selling used items, how long does it take? and the gap between it and the desired time spent?
3. Which second-hand trading platform do you usually use?
4. Have you ever encountered fraud?
5. What types of used goods do you like to buy/sell?
6. What are the steps required to buy used goods? Which step took the longest?
7. How do used goods sellers assess the value of their goods?
8. How do buyers and sellers know each other's credit to make a deal?