HCI write up

Our groups idea was to create a website that works well with small businesses in advertising, since we feel as though more people wish to support small businesses, but don’t know where to find them or how to get started with that, furthermore, searching for plans to do in a day can be very stressful to some people, and we want to reduce this stress. We set out with a few goals in mind: bring advertising to small businesses, keep users entertained with searching, ease of use, give users more ideas of what to do during days, allow users to find an activity suited for them, bring more customers to small businesses, to make searching for activities less stressful. To achieve this, we had come up with some initial ideas.

Our knowledge of HCI, CSS, and JS will help dramatically while developing this as a website, from lectures and from websites like w3schools.com. We will be able to develop a simple yet effective website, which will not only reach our goals, but clearly state who and what we are to all users, whether they’re looking for this website or not.

The idea of how the website would work, is that there will be a randomised card feature for the user to look at 3 different small businesses in their area at a time, this is our main area of JavaScript implementation, using DIV classes and CSS to help design the style of the page .The way these cards will be made, is when a small business signs up, they will be granted access to a template, in which they can edit in any way they want. Then this card will be uploaded to the website, with a link they provide. When users click on this card, it will take them to the website the company has specified. Furthermore, if the users want a more focused route of a day out, they can take the quiz, which (although hasn’t been done yet), will function by asking the user set questions, then assigning the user tags, or categories based upon the answers. These will then be taken into consideration when displaying future businesses, and tailor to ones that suit the specific user. We believe that that this will make the user’s time more captivating and less stress inducing.

The functionality of JavaScript was a challenging process to implement. Our current source of JS comes from the randomising of the businesses cards. From the wireframe, we worked on first trying to assign different text to each card, and draw the cards as rectangles to the screen. This would mean we could add all the variables that would store this information within an array, and then draw it out that way, alas, this didn’t work. So after a few more attempts we ended up creating each card as a class object, then storing these in an array. We then got JS to shuffle this array, and we chose the first three items out of the array and displayed these to the screen, removing any of the repeats. This is shuffled when the button randomise is selected, this is where the intractability of JS is used. Eventually we will be adding the quiz which is stated above, which would work by adding more attributes to the business objects, and checking these attributes against the categories assigned by the quiz.

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With our website the user performs a quiz to get an idea of what the user’s interests are, and then promotes eco-friendly businesses that have activities tailored towards that user in the area. The user can join groups based on the activity to meet similar people, and overall promote that business. The businesses themselves can sign up on the website and we will promote their business for them and create a social media group. This can be especially important for special deals that the business has.