

Homework Assignment 1: Reflections, ideas, and planning

1. Based on the reports of your fellow classmates during our last class (2023-09-18), please briefly summarize any new ideas for apps to solve people's problems that you have come up with as a result of listening to other students.

Answer: Following Eswar's discussion about the expense tracker and his proposed points, I would like to introduce some modifications and additional ideas to further enhance the application.

Many individuals exhibit apprehension when it comes to sharing their bank information on applications or websites, particularly within the context of an expense tracking application. To alleviate this concern, we can implement a feature where users can simply scan their receipts and upload them to the app. In exchange for uploading receipts, we can reward users with points, which can be redeemed for various gifts or incentives. This approach not only addresses user privacy concerns but also allows us to collect valuable user data for targeted advertising purposes.

Additionally, rather than incorporating a complex multi-currency feature, we can streamline the process by using a currency converter to regionalize prices. This eliminates the potential hassle associated with managing multiple currencies. The converter can automatically translate the price to our local currency and add it to the expense tracker. To ensure accuracy, we should capture and store the currency exchange rates at the exact time of each transaction, allowing us to account for currency fluctuations on a daily basis.

2. Several people mentioned the “conflict” between the desire to have a free app, and developers’ desire (and need) to get compensated. Can you suggest any ways by which developers can reap their creativity’s and efforts’ rewards without alienating their “customer base” by inundating with ads and/or charging them.

Answer: A mutually beneficial solution I propose, benefiting both developers and consumers, involves the implementation of "MICRO TRANSACTIONS" within the app or website. This approach offers users complete access to the application or website without any intrusive ads or the requirement of membership fees. By providing consumers with unfettered access, they are more likely to develop a strong interest in the platform, leading to regular usage. This increased user engagement can generate revenue for the developer through micro transactions, while concurrently improving the site's search engine ranking and driving higher traffic.

Even in a worst-case scenario where users do not engage in micro transactions, the developer can still benefit substantially from improved website ranking and the influx of traffic.

3. Please point to any app/software/website that offers in your opinion an excellent UI/UX. Briefly explain in what ways you find its UI/UX to be so good.

Answer: Apple.com is renowned for its exemplary UI/UX design, exemplifying elegance and excellence. Personally, I appreciate the fluid transitions that occur as the mouse wheel is scrolled

up or down on the webpage. These transitions encompass a diverse array of styles, all harmoniously integrated within a single interface.

Furthermore, it's worth noting the remarkable color grading employed on the website, particularly in the context of the recent launch of the iPhone 15 series. The use of colors and transitions to showcase and market their products is nothing short of impeccable. The sleek black and subtle silver Titanium hues create a clean and soothing visual palette, significantly enhancing the overall user experience.

Lastly, I would like to draw attention to the Sticky and Translucent Navigation bar, as well as the captivating animations that activate when the cursor hovers over any text or image. These elements contribute to an engaging and user-friendly interface, further elevating the overall browsing experience on Apple.com

4. Have last class's discussions and/or items #1-3 gotten you closer toward a page / app you would like to pursue as a project for this course? Please discuss briefly.

Answer: No, any of the class discussions has gotten me closer to any webpage/app to pursue as a project. Instead, our group has an idea to make a webpage. A dedicated and comprehensive online platform for comparing rental rates across various states is currently unavailable. Our website serves as an invaluable tool for facilitating such comparisons. The website's functionality is structured as follows: users are prompted to begin by inputting the desired state name, followed by the specific location within that state (i.e., City Name). Subsequently, the system requests information regarding another state and its corresponding location for comparison purposes. After all the requisite details have been provided, the website generates a comprehensive rental rate comparison between the selected locations.

We intend to develop the website and app using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to give them a great appearance and functionality. And to make the app portion compatible with Android phones, we'll utilize a program called Android Studio. We might utilize the Python programming language for the intelligent recommendation stuff, together with specialized libraries like TensorFlow or PyTorch. In order to seamlessly integrate mapping and geolocation elements into the app, we'll use Google Maps. This will improve the user experience overall.