Let's Fix Solar

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Problems with Solar

- Solar was not made by Stony Brook University, instead they use software solution created by Oracle.
- The last time Solar was updated was 2013.
- The last update to the Oracle software solution was 2015.
- As everyone knows, the software is old and un-intuitive in relation to today's standards.

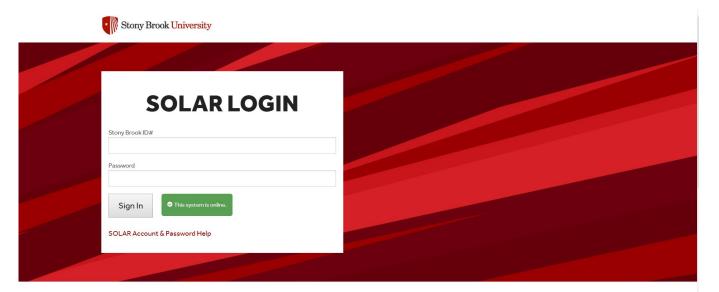# Horizontal Attention Leans Left

- Research shows that users spend the majority of their time looking at the left of their screen.
  - A general rule of thumb when designing a website is to keep important information where users will spend their time… on the left side!
- The content users are looking for, such as Enrollment, Billing, and Housing are placed on the right side of their screen.
- Google and Facebook, masters of design, know this well

Good UI Design Practices

- Solar's menu lists are laid out poorly.
- When people are given a list of things to remember, they tend to best remember the first few and last few items. This is called the serial position effect.
- The serial position effect implies Solar's navigation lists are poorly designed.
- The Action Center takes too much real estate from rest of website.

      At this point we are going to demo a few of the problems.

Solar Problem Demo Page

Solar Solutions

1. Update Solar to the newest software provided by Oracle Peoplesoft.
2. Transfer Solar to a new management software.
   a. Oracle Higher Education
   b. Ellucian Banner 9
3. Enlist ISE / CSE Students to develop and maintain the website, under the guidance of current professors and faculty.

Main Solution to Solar

- After looking into potential fixes, we feel like switching to Ellucian Banner 9 is the best solution.
- Stony Brook currently uses Ellucian Banner 8 for Degree Works, so the switch would be manageable.
- The cost of transitioning from Oracle to Ellucian Banner would be minimal since all student data is already in Degree Works.

Future Steps:

- After creating a document containing our main solution, we would present our findings to the Division of Information Technology(DoIT).
- Since they maintain Solar as is, we would hope to see improvements to Solar in the near future.