Team 21 Project 3 Deliverable #2: User Study Report

**User Study Description**

* Participants expected & time: 4-7 participants are expected and the interview process with survey is expected to take approximately 10 minutes.
* Location of User Study: RDMC 111C between 10:20 – 11:10 am
* Pre-Study Questions:
  + Are you a male or a female?
  + Have you ever used a recipe site?
  + How frequently do you cook (per week)?
  + Have you ever been stuck with a set of ingredients and not know what to cook with them?
* Tasks to be performed:
  + Task #1: Creating an account (2-3 minutes)
    - In this task, we would like you to try to create a user account and get to your user profile page, by doing the following:
      * 1. Click on the Sign Up button
      * 2. Enter your desired user credentials for signing up.
      * 3. After successfully creating an account, proceed to the log in button if you are not already signed in.
      * 4. Log in to your user account/profile.
      * 5. Once you are at your profile tab, please log out by the log out button.
    - Questions to be asked for this task:
      * Were you able to successfully create an account?
      * Did you come across any nonfunctional buttons? If so, which ones?
      * Did you find anything difficult in this task? If so, what?
  + Task #2: Using the Search Bar (2-4 minutes)
    - In this task, we would simply like you to test out the search bar by doing the following:
      * 1. Locate the home page.
      * 2. Input a single ingredient and search for a recipe.
      * 3. Input a set of ingredients and search for a recipe.
    - Questions to be asked for this task:
      * Were you able to search for a recipe using a single ingredient?
      * Were you able to search for a recipe using a set of ingredients?
      * Did you find anything nonfunctional about the search bar (buttons, search information, etc)? If so, what?
* Measurement of Tasks: These tasks will help the team recognize any major errors within the fundamental functions of this website which are creating an account and searching for recipes. Since the prototype is only being tested by the user, we decided to test the user’s ability to create an account easily and search a basic recipe. This information will be collected using Google Forms with interviewing before and after the survey has been taken.
* After-Study Questions:
  + Would you want nutritional analysis on the recipe you used?
  + What frustrates you about searching for a recipe to make?
  + Did you have any difficulties when navigating through the website? If so, what were they?
  + Did you have any issues with the layout of the website?
  + Is there anything you feel that is missing from the home page of this website?
  + What did you dislike or find unnecessary about this website?
  + Any overall feedback for the website?

**User Study Raw Data:** Attached in second document named “User Study Raw Data”

**Users Tested:**

1. Drew Mills
2. Leslie Escalante
3. Uyen Dung Vo
4. Saipravallika Nettyam
5. Rachael Kellam
6. Chris Wilcoxen

**User Study Key Takeaways from Interviews:**

- “Website UI (graphics) looks awesome!”

- front page images don’t work; background images do not extend when the window is not full screened (half size).

- After searching for a recipe, results indicate recipes that are not doable due to lack of ingredients (i.e. when only flour is searched a whole chocolate cake recipe shows up...)

**Statement of Revision**

* **Qualitative Analysis (Problems Encountered & Planned Changes):**

After consulting all of the participants of this study and having them take the survey after interacting with the website, we were able to come up with the following problems: front page image issues, “About Us” page incomplete, erroneous search results, and improper radio button placement. In the end, the final product should also be optimized to be loading smoothly and quickly.

For the front page, the main issues that were seen was that the images on the front page were present however non-functional. When clicked, these images would do nothing. This is because each image has yet to be implemented, meaning that these images will in the future be able to be added to the search list when clicked on. Currently it is non-functional however is planned to be fixed and fully functional in the final product, allowing for users to click on the images in order to add the ingredients by click if preferred over typing in the ingredients. Another minor issue encountered on the front/main page is that the background image is not extended throughout the page when the screen is set to variable length (not full screen). The proposed fix for this would be to simply stretch the image vertically by setting height to 100% or to just duplicate the image by the tiles.

The problem encountered with the “About Us” page was that it was not showing any informative text actually about the website. The proposed fix for this is to insert a brief description about the website and explain benefits of having a user account, etc.

The problem encountered with the search results was that firstly when searching a recipe with certain ingredients, the primary results returned would show recipes of dishes that require many more ingredients than what the user put in. This would insinuate that the user has to go to the grocery store in order to make this recipe dish. The proposed fix for this would be to adjust the filtering on the nutritionix API so that the search results primarily in recipes of only the ingredients listed or a warning message stating that “The ingredients entered are insufficient to create a dish, however here are some recipes that only require one to two additional ingredients” and then list recipes that are close to what the user input. Secondly, the search results showing the recipes for relevant dishes would lead to websites that had differing reviews and opinions on recipes. In this case we plan on only using a select few websites (1-2 only) in order to reduce the chances of contradicting views on dishes.

Lastly, the improper radio button placement was encountered when performing the first task which was to create a user account. During the user account creation, the user is asked whether they are a male or female. The male and female radio button placements are seen to be above the name “male” and “female” hence this needs to be fixed. The proposed fix is to simply readjust the radio button placement to be next to the gender associations.

Things that were seen to be working well for the user and enjoyable to the user would be the following: the UI for the website, website logo, searching for general recipes, creating an account, and contrast of website.

We were able to conclude all of the aforementioned information (problems and successes) by the interviews we conducted along with the surveys given. Having the users perform the survey helped significantly as it was framed so that the user would be able to provide input on the flaws and feats of this website.