Part 2: Functional Prototype - Design Process

1. Introduction

This website, Compare of Laptops, i.e. CoL, is built with html5, javascript, CSS, and jQuery. It uses BigSemantics to get initial metadata of laptops and store those data in laptopsMetadata.js in order to avoiding the network-caused failures, and use Chrome in 15in Macbook Pro to debug. Because it is hard to automatically match one model of laptops from three sources, as Amazon, Bestbuy, and Ebay, I manually match 11 models as a example to show this website's functionality.

2. Consistence from design briefing

-Needs: It can filter products based on price, brand, weight, CPU, screen size, and OS; show deals in index page; provide professional advice from cnet.com and use social networks' share button to get friends' suggestion; allow comparing detailed specifications and show rating stars; summarize reviews based on its usefulness; provide price comparison across Amazon, Bestbuy and eBay; visualize key parameters - CPU, Hard Drive, Screen Size, and RAM - with polar chart; make those too many specifications and too long reviews invisible/scrollable.

-Prototype: The colors, the structure, and the functions in this website are basically consistent with the prototype mentioned in Design Briefing.

- 3. Change from design briefing
- -Needs: on the whole, no change.
- -Prototype: Some tiny parts are changed to help users easily use this website.
- a. Laptop and Buying Advice buttons. Easy to understand those are drop down buttons.



b. Using polar chart and radar chart to enhance comparison and visualize differences.



- c. Delete history prices because of the lacking of prices sources.
- 4. Motivate features and design choices

I use lots of charts, especially in comparison, to help users understand the differences and accomplish the sensemaking tasks.