ITWS 1100

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Prof. Plotka

ITWS Term Project Report - Group 5

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Flexicash

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Overview

Our web application, “Flexicash”, serves as a financial management app, allowing users to enter their earnings and expenses, and receiving in return information about how much the user tends to spend on certain types of purchases, the net income, etc. In addition to inputting data, in future updates, the user would be able to connect the application to their bank to automatically log transactions made with that account for ease of use.

Who it Serves:

This will serve anyone who owns a device, and is willing to take the extra step to manage their finance by using a tracker. This means almost anyone in the world could be a potential user.

Reason for Application:

This application allows users to better manage and maintain their spending habits. It would also let users keep more detailed data about what they are spending money on and access this data much quicker than before. With all this information in one place, this application makes financial management easier than ever.

In Context of Existing Applications:

Some banking apps have recently started providing a service similar to this. However these apps are much less customizable and do not give as much data. There is also only a small handful of banks that offer a service like this. With respect to the fact that most banks earn money mainly from other services like mortgages, loans, investments and so on, they don’t really need to pay too much attention to the daily life aspect of their users. From the users’ perspective, however, they may want to better understand where all of their money is being spent and where they can possibly cut back. More and more people desire to gain as much control of their money as possible, so there is no shortage of potential users.

How it works

Once a user creates his or her account, their user information will be stored in our database, allowing the user to log out and log in again to access their account with ease. The website is empty until the user enters data to be stored in the database. When the user makes a submission to edit their spending or income, the amount and category is entered into a table. The table is then kept as a record and allows for calculations and visual representations to be made to provide easy to read information to the user about their finances.

Focus Points

Our primary focus is area 1 on this project, HTML and CSS for page layout and design. The site shows excellence in ability to create a familiar and easy to use layout as well as an attractive design to encourage users to continue use of the site.

Our secondary focus is area 5, putting real data into a database, cookies, session storage, or local storage. The fundamentals of this type of application requires data to be stored, whether it be for user login information or a user’s input data over time.

Obstacles Encountered

-Issues not allowing some members to collaborate through Github

Eventually overcome, temporarily used email to communicate files.

-Difficulties starting database setup and methods

We faced uncertainty of how we would store the files. Took some time to figure out how to make the database properly.

-Deadline kept our team from reaching maximum potential of the project

We ended up having time to do less with the project than anticipated. Hence, the site is not fully functional. Some features are hard coded in to show example for the sake of presentation.

-Lack of communication

In some instances, a team member was not able to be reliably reached or contacted, resulting in more time being wasted than should have been.

Completion Status

As of the completion date of this project, some features remain unfinished or unusable. Storing items in our database is a core feature in this web application, and the items will be stored. Using the data to create visual representations of it does not work yet, and instead are examples hard-coded into the page. The finished project would have a very interactive interface to view your spending statistics.

Potential Future Developments

-Flexibility - Ability to link with other accounts,such as for banks and businesses, to enable automatic updates to the databases.

-financial calendar - Minimalistic approach to allowing scheduled deadlines and calendar style tracking, taking inspiration from ‘Monday.com’

-Financial advisor - Implementing an optional artificial intelligence Financial advisor to give spending advice, send deadline reminders, provide foresight, etc.