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Looking for a House in Chicago via Advanced Settings

A Neighborhood Informant User Story

The user, Joe, is interested in buying a home in Chicago. To this end, he goes to the official Neighborhood Informant website and looks around the registration page. After registering (by filling out the form), Joe is able to login via the 'login' link and will then be taken to a page where he can download the Neighborhood Informant client. After downloading the client installation file, he runs the file which installs itself onto his system and creates a shortcut on his desktop.

Joe then double-clicks on the shortcut to launch the software. This opens up a window that has 4 large, easy to distinguish buttons (Search, Map, Settings, & Help). Joe clicks on the button that looks like a gear in order to bring himself to the settings page, which is opened in the same window. Joe clicks the drop down "languages" toolbar and selects "Spanish", which is his preferred language. This will change all of the website's text to Spanish although district names and the like will still be in their original language. The rest of this story will still use English words as we don't know if you, the reader, speak Spanish. He then clicks "Hotkeys" and changes the binding for Textual Search from ctrl+t to shift+t and the binding for Settings from ctrl+s to shift+s. Having finished modifying the settings, Joe hits shift+s to immediately replace the settings screen with the textual search screen.

Joe is presented with the search screen which contains a simple choice selection to perform search queries by community or block. In addition to the simple search selection options, there is also a drop-down list which contains the available search queries (as per the selection). Joe decides he wants to learn more about the Gage Park district first so he begins by selecting "Gage Park" in the top drop down list on the search sidebar, the list right beneath 'By Local' text that is in turn beneath the big "Search!" (a magnifying glass) button in order to quickly bring him to the Gage Park (District) option. He clicks it and then clicks "Search" to reveal the Crime rate, Tax Increment Financing, Per Capita Income, and Hardship index data for the Gage Park district. Joe realizes he doesn't really know how Gage Park stacks up to the other districts, so he clicks the "Save Current" button and types "Gage Park" into the pop-up window. He then tests the "Load Current" drop-down bar to make sure it now has a "Gage Park" option. He clicks on it to ensure his first search is repeated, and it is! Satisfied, Joe looks at the "By Statistic" section of the search sidebar and finds "Crime" on the drop down list. He selects "Crime" and clicks the "Search!" button to show the top 20 least crime-ridden areas. Joe notices that "Gage Park" is not in the top twenty, so he

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clicks the "advanced" button beneath the "By Statistic" drop down list to show several more parameters. Among these parameters is the "Show Top: [20]" parameter, which Joe changes to 100. He then clicks "Search!" again to reveal the top 77 districts (All of them), which includes Gage Park. Out of curiosity, Joe looks back at the advanced parameters and changes 'By district' to 'By Block' before clicking "Search!" again. Since there are more than 100 blocks only the top 100 are shown. Although he is currently ordering the searches by crime rate they show other relevant data as well, such as Per Capita Income, although Joe sees there is a parameter - another drop-down list - in the advanced section called "Level of Detail". It is currently set to "All". Joe decides to set it to "Searched Statistics Only" and repeats his query. The new results only show crime data.

Joe decides he would like to save his most recent search results for future sessions, but is unsure how to accomplish this task. Navigating back the initial (home) screen, Joe then clicks the large help button (labeled with a question mark) to display the help screen. Joe scrolls through the help content until he finds the section on "saving search data". Joe learns that after a single search is completed and the results are returned, he can click the "export search results" option at the bottom of the search screen. The save option will prompt Joe where he would like to save the search data. Joe also sees that there are several simple help topics which explain use of the settings page and how to properly search for the data he seeks.

Having found his answer, Joe hits shift+t once more to return to the search screen. He repeats his last search and then follows clicks "Export Search Results", responding to the prompt by choosing to save the search data on his "desktop". It prompts him to name the file as well. Joe then minimizes the window and inspects his desktop to see that the saved search data is in a text document which then can be opened in any text editor to be printed if he so wishes. He also notices that the first line of the text document contains the parameters of his search.

Satisfied with his current test of the program, Joe exits the Neighborhood Informant by simply clicking the 'X' in the upper-right corner of the window to close the application. Just to be sure, however, Joe then restarts the program, re-enters the search window, and clicks "Import Search Results" - the option right under "Export Search Results", to see what happens. A prompt appears asking him to pick a file to import. He chooses the text file from earlier and clicks 'ok'. The search data is not only shown, but the parameters are changed to match those of that search as well. Furthermore, a new option that shares the name of the text document now exists under the "Load Current" drop-down list. This option allows him to quickly re-display the results of the imported

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search without having to load the text file again. Now fully satisfied with his first use of the program, Joe exits the program with the intent to continue his search for a new home later.