

Criterion E: Evaluation

Client Evaluation:

Interviewing the client provided insightful feedback on the usability of the product. Mr. --- liked the product, which he attributed to the user friendliness of the “well-structured main-menu” *. He felt that the Help option was also useful in terms of understanding how to use the program as well as “learning about the guitar in general.” * He also felt that the functionality of searching for chords/fret numbers was useful for practicing the guitar as well as memorising chord patterns.

However, I did receive constructive feedback to improve the product. The client expressed that widening the range of chords available on the program would be beneficial as he continues learning *. He also noted that there could be more interaction with the session log to view the data in different orders (for example, sort by date (newest/oldest)) or display the log for specific searches (for example, the list of times the user searched for a certain chord.)

Recommendations for further development:

Simple to implement (my recommendation):

1. The Session log could be modified to allow searching based on specific elements such as date, session number, and chord name.

Complex to implement (client recommendations):

1. The client suggested expanding the program to include a number of users (other members of the family) and create a login whereby different users can utilise the program at different points and view their individual session logs etc. The program could also foster friendly competition between users by comparing hours spent on the program or number of chords searched for.
2. The program could be further expanded to include more inversions of the same chords. Another potential area of improvement is adding these capabilities for other instruments such as the ukulele and the bass guitar. Further expansions could include recommending certain related chords if the client searches for one. A separate functionality could display the links between the client’s input and other chords, offering suggestions for songs that utilise these chords.

Difficult to implement (my recommendations):

1. A Graphical User Interface could be developed to make the program more user-friendly and aesthetically appealing to the client. It could also make the client’s experience easier and more comprehensive.
2. Sound files could be added to the program to play specific notes/chords when searched for. This could heighten user experience and improve their listening skills while making chord identification easier (by giving reference notes to replicate on their own instruments.) Similarly, images could be added to show finger positions for chords.

(490 words)

* Refer to Appendix 2 for Interview 2

Evaluation against success criteria:

#	Success Criteria	Comments
1	The client can input fret numbers for individual strings and get a chord name	Mr. --- was able to easily input fret numbers and receive a chord name. The client considered this tool a helpful learning exercise in terms of memory since inputting the correct fret numbers for the strings would help verify that the client knew how to play a certain chord.
2	The client can input a chord name and receive at least one set of fret numbers to play (one chord pattern)	The client was able to successfully get fret numbers for a certain chord without worrying about whitespace or the case of the letters.
3	There is error management in the event of invalid input	When Mr. --- entered fret numbers that exceeded those on a standard guitar, the program requested him to re-enter input within bounds. Similarly, the presence check made sure inputs were entered whenever necessary and type check ensured no letters apart for "x" were entered.
4	The client can start a "New Session" for every new practice session	The client was able to navigate the menu and start a new session. The "End Session" option was accessible at all times.
5	The program automatically stores the date, time, and session number	With every new session, the program automatically updated the session number and date/time. This was not revealed explicitly to the client since it was simply about automatic session log generation.
6	All the input and relevant output are saved by the program in a log or history of sessions	The client was pleased with the session log which allowed him to view not only session number, date, and time, but also specific chords that were searched for using the functions mentioned in 1 and 2.
7	The client is able to easily access this log and view previous sessions	The display on the screen through the menu's log option was useful to client.
8	The log can be sorted according to session number for easier viewing	The client thought the sorting option was useful after a number of sessions took place but recommended expanding the log features (see Recommendations).
9	The client should be provided a "Help" option to understand the "tabs" notation used in the program.	The client commented on the usefulness of the help section since it allowed familiarisation with the notation in the program.
10	The client should see a menu upon starting the program with appropriate options ("Start New Session", "Session log", "Help", "Simple Search" etc.)	When opened, the menu displayed all possible options. Navigating the various sub-menus was easy for Mr. --- and he commented on the organization of relevant program options through this menu.