



meetr

design

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In terms of design, we decided to implement a very user-friendly logic flow into our website that was based on the functions that we incorporated. At the same time, we tried to balance functionality and efficiency based on the limits of our algorithms.

Aesthetics

Let us first start with aesthetic details. With regards to our home page, we believe it is important to have a clear and consistent header image of meetr is consistent throughout the website from our home page to inbox and most other pages. The homepage is the landing page that the user first encounters when they open the link to our website. Based on this page, the user can see a brief description of meetr and gain a good idea of how to navigate our sight. In addition, they can easily login using the form at the bottom right and register for the account using a link located in the same area.

Navigation Bar

A very important feature that we implemented in our website was the navigation bar (Navbar) that is located on the top of the homepage, as well as the top of the Inbox once the user has logged into the meetr system. We think that a Navbar is a good design decision because it allows for easy switching between different elements of our website including the homepage, features, contact (from the homepage) and then links to inbox, create event and

logout from (once the user is logged into their account).

With regards to the actual functionality of our website, we decided to implement an inbox page that was able to house all events that were received and sent. This is a very simple interface that is similar to traditional email clients that would allow users to easily skim over the events that they have to respond to and see which requests that have sent to other people which are still pending.

Creating Event Form

With regards to the creation of an event, we are quite proud of the usability and relatively painless process with which a user can insert an event. We wanted to maximize the usability of our program, so we included many details in our program including the number of hours they want an event to be, and exact time ranges throughout the day that they would like to place the event and a mini calendar applet that would allow the user to easily select dates from the Create Event form.

Backend and Checks

Another design element that we decided to incorporate is that every time there is backend work, we decided not to include a physical receipt page which would tell the user

what had been done, unless it was essential.

We also inserted checks in the case that the user had inserted an invalid detail for an event or had perhaps left a necessary field blank. This was an important design check that would allow for the user to receive an error message on the next page so they could go back and change their entry.

Balance Between Efficiency and Functionality

We tried to get the user as much function as possible without sacrificing efficiency on our side. Given the time constraints and the nature of scheduling it made sense to taper some of our functions of our algorithms and institute some limitations.

One of the limitations that we implemented was a regarding time intervals. One minor limitation for this step is that in terms of finding free time, meetr can only do half hour intervals. For example, meetr will only to check 4:00, 4:30, and 5:00 or 4:15, 4:45 and 5:15, based on user input. This half hour increment was utilized because we thought it would be too memory and time consuming if we checked minute by minute. Another issue that we faced was the programming involved with scheduling an event that straddled two days. For example, scheduling an event from 23:00 to 1:00 is not possible within meetr. Although

it may be marginally helpful, we felt that the programming logistics that were involved in this situation outweighed the potential because scheduling such an event is rare.

We clearly made decisions about the above design decisions based on rationalizations between efficiency and functionality. Therefore, we believe that we have built meetr as user friendly, aesthetically pleasing, and efficient website.

