Our topic for VenusHack is to design an e-commerce website for UCI students to exchange and sell their used goods which are no longer useful to them but probably are very useful to others. When we enrolled UCI in our first year, we were thrived of asking if there were used goods in Wechat groups where information weren’t organized and we needed to scan thousands of chat history to find the one thing we needed, and so long we haven’t discovered any convenient second-hand trading software which are as comfortable as the software we used in China. We also have tried to use ebay as it is one of the most notable used goods software in U.S., but the high taxes, delivery fees, and the profits earned by ebay made the price of the goods unacceptable and not attractive to us at all. Therefore, we had this idea to make ZotMarket as a platform for UCI students to post their used goods and make them shine again in other UCI students’ hands. In ZotMarket, we organized the information about the goods posted by students and make all UCI students able to view the information and they can contact the buyer by themselves if they are interested. In such a way, students can get what they need really fast and escape from the high transaction fees when they are paying on other online platforms.

For ZotMarket, we designed our own special logo which is different from the regular UCI anteater but is more representative of ZotMarket. When we were choosing the colors for the website’s background, we chose gold and blue which are colors for UCI, but we’ve made some slight adjustment so that it would look better and users can have a better experience. We also implemented a side menu bar which lists the categories of the used goods and in the future students would get personalized recommendations from the goods they like to browse. When implementing the sidebar, we added some padding and hover so that it won’t feel too narrow when users are viewing them, and texts would turn white when users’ mice hovered on it. On top of that, we have a search bar implemented on the top of the page so that users can search specific goods they are targeted instead of randomly browsing. In the homepage we also have a section which lists all the goods that are on sale sorted by the time they were posted on the website. By either clicking on the image or the “more info” button, users can be redirected to another page which contains more information about the goods such as the price, brand, contact information and pick up instructions.

In general, there are many future designs that we haven’t completed in this hackathon but are very interested in completing them in future developments. For example, we would like to add more animations in to the side bar and mouse/keyboard interactions. Also, fulfilling the sidebar functions and search functions and clicking on the ZotMarket icon to return to the homepage is another improvement that we would like to complete. For us, there are so many more possibilities for this website and we think it is a great idea if we can finish it, and we really appreciate that we can pitch this idea at VenusHack.