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Northeastern University, Department of Computer Science
Name of Investigator(s): Travis Bergmann, Xuanyu Li, Ranran He, Zewei Chen, Qiye Chen
Title of Project: Rotten Tomatillos

Request to Participate in a Classroom Research

We would like to invite you to take part in a Classroom research project. The purpose of this project is to assess the usability of the Rotten Tomatillos user interface.

You must be at least 18 years old to be in this research project. *[Unless specifically approved otherwise by HSRP]*

We are conducting a usability study for our interface for Rotten Tomatillos, a movie database and social network. We will ask you to complete 3 tasks on our paper user interface mockup to the best of your ability. To complete these tasks you will tap on elements of the mockup to simulate clicking. When certain elements are clicked, a group member may have to change the layout of the mockup, so we ask that you refrain from tapping something else until the change is finished. At least one group member will be taking notes and timing you while you are attempting to complete the task, and we would encourage you to talk through your thought process out loud to help us with this note taking. These notes and metrics will be used to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of our UI design so that we can continue to improve it. Feel free to ask questions during the tasks, but understand that we will not be able to answer any questions about how the UI works, nor will we be able to provide any hints about how to complete the tasks. If you find you are unable to complete a task, you may give up on the task and we will move on to the next one. After the three tasks, we will conduct a short interview about your experience with the interface. Remember that we not testing you, we are testing the interface. Any mistakes or failed tasks are solely the result of flaws in our UI design.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you for taking part in this study.

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in the study. However, your answers may help us to learn more about the efficiency and usability of our design, as well as to identify areas for improvement so that future iterations of our design will be more user friendly.

Your part in this study will be handled in a confidential manner. Only the researchers will know that you participated in this study. If your session is being video or audio recorded, the recording will be submitted as part of the assignment and will only be viewable by a grader. The recording will exist on a Northeastern College of Computer and Information Science private data store to which only the student and the instructors have access, and after the course finishes, the materials will be deleted.

The decision to participate in this research project is up to you. You do not have to participate and even if you begin the project, you may withdraw at any time.

You will not be paid for your participation in this study.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Michael Weintraub (m.weintraub@northeastern.edu), the Professor of this course.

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