

Team 4: Interface Evaluation - Part II

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Time Zone: US Eastern Time(MA)/Gulf Standard Time(UAE)

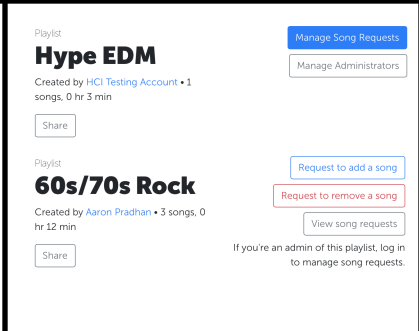
Summary:

The testing went well all in all in regards to the task. We managed to complete all the tasks while interacting with all the different options on the website. There were issues we noticed outside of the tasks when we were interacting with the website. The website was very easy to use, but there were certain actions that were not implemented into the website yet such as voting for song requests or sharing a collaborative playlist. Some parts of the website design were a little confusing. For example, the opening page had two search bars and a login button making it hard for a user to understand what comes first. Another example would be when a user would want to request to add or remove a song. Although the buttons were clear and easy to understand, the form that came after for searching up a song was restricting in regards to how a user could search up for a song. The website is not connected to Spotify yet so its true capabilities are not shown. We look forward to how the collaborative playlists website will turn out.

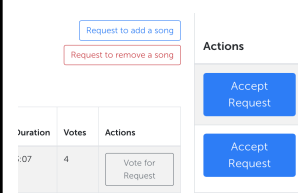
Questions:

- Can this only be connected to spotify or could it be connected to other streaming services?
- Should the administrators of the playlist be able to add their own songs to the collaborative playlist whenever they want?
- If someone requests for a song that has already been requested, would it be included as a vote (for the request that was put in before) or file it as a separate request?
- Is there a way for people to create their own accounts on the website? Or would they have to create their account on this website through Spotify?
- Is there a way to search by the creator for a collaborative playlist?

Heuristic Evaluations:

Rank# 2	Button Types	
Minor	Principle: (5) Prevent Error	
	For a new user, there are a lot of new functions to discover and use on the website. Between admin view (photo 1), general user view (photo 2), general song requests (photo 3), and admin song request management (photo 4) there is some consistency but the gray boxed buttons apply to a number of different tasks.	 The screenshot shows two playlist interfaces. The top one is 'Hype EDM' created by 'HCI Testing Account' with 1 song and 3 min duration. It has buttons for 'Share', 'Manage Song Requests', and 'Manage Administrators'. The bottom one is '60s/70s Rock' created by 'Aaron Pradhan' with 3 songs and 0 hr 12 min duration. It has buttons for 'Share', 'Request to add a song', 'Request to remove a song', and 'View song requests'. A note at the bottom says 'If you're an admin of this playlist, log in to manage song requests.'

Recommendation: Maybe try giving the share button a unique look. Since it is on all of the Playlist pages and would have the same functionality no matter your role (admin vs general user) it would help to make the button unique and consistent.




Rank# 3	Search	
Minor	Principle: Feedback	
	<p>It can be confusing to search for a song that is not in the database as there is no feedback that the search has been processed. It stays on the same page and can give the illusion that you might have just not searched for the song yet. The same can be found for all the searches (user, playlist, and song searches).</p>	
	<p>Recommendation: A simple “Song not found”, “Playlist not Found”, and “User not found” in the search results</p>	

Rank# 1	Login with Wrong Credentials	
Minor	Principle: Good Error Messages	
	<p>If you log in using an invalid account, you do not get any error messages indicating that the username or password is invalid, and the login button just does not work, which can leave the user confused as to why they cannot log in.</p>	
	<p>Recommendation: Have the error message “Username or password is invalid” when you try to login with a faulty account.</p>	

Rank# 5	Font	
Cosmetic	Principle: Aesthetics and Minimalism	
	<p>The font is too light at certain aspects of the website. The font of the description underneath a collaborative playlist does</p>	<p>Created by HCI Testing Account • 1 songs, 0 hr 3 min</p>

	not differentiate between the different aspects such as the number of songs and the time the songs will take. In this specific image, it mentions that there are 1 “songs” instead of 1 song.	
	Recommendation: Bold or Italicize the number of songs are the time to differentiate the two and to allow for people to see those details more clearly. The font should be darker.	

Rank# 4	Link	
Cosmetic	Principle: Aesthetics and Minimalism	
	It can be tedious to search for your playlists through the search bar as there can be hundreds of results, so accessing your playlists directly from your account can be the better option. This can be done using the current interface, but it is not that obvious to the user that they can click on “HCI Testing Account” to access their songs directly.	
	Recommendation: Maybe make the account name underlined or as a button to indicate that it can be clicked.	