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**Paper Prototype Usability Testing**

Are you willing to participate in this paper prototype usability test for my Human Computer Interaction class?

This is a paper prototype representation of a webapp called NewsAggregator. This webapp is meant to allow users to look at a visual representation of daily, global news events, placed on an interactive world map. This webapp allows users to quickly find relevant news articles and compare and contrast them to different news sources.

**Tasks:**

1) View The same article from 2 different sources

2) View all technology articles on the map

3) View all articles from the last 3 days

**Participant Demographics:**

1) Caucasian Male, 23, College Undergraduate: Computer Science, seemed enthusiastic to participate but didn't appear to be that interested in the app itself.

2) Caucasian Male, 22, College Undergraduate: Biochemistry, seems like a likely future user.

3) Asian Female, 22, College Graduate: Biochemistry, enjoyed the app but didnt seem like a likely user.

**Observations:**

Task 1) Users appeared to have difficulty understanding what the "source" UI element meant once clicking on an icon on the map. Users understood that the icons on the map are mouse-oer sensitive, but were confused what "source" meant and what it did, and whether it was a drop down menu or a button. Although clicking on it to find out itsn't that hard, users seemed apprehensive.

Task 2) This task was the easiest to complete and caused virtually no issues, every user understood that the filters tab contains a sorting mechanism, after which users navigated to "topics" then "technology" to complete the task successfully.

Task 3) This task was interesting. Although I didn't have a label for any of the UI elements, every user knew that the slider on the bottom represented the time range slider which allowed them to quickly complete the task. However, some users had issues with selecting the drop down menu to pick the time scale (day, month, week).

**Interviews:**

User 1)

Is there anything that seems like a big design issue or potential bug?

"Nothing that really sticks out. Just remember to fill the values of the drop-downs with a default value that describes the drop-down's contents"

What do you think of the app, does it seem like something you would use?

"It seems like a good first step to be at in the design. Although you have some labeling issues everything seems to be in the right place, and I'm assuming you'll use the results of this survey to make appropriate changes. I doubt I would use this, I don't really follow the news... maybe I should. I would be interested in seeing how you implement the backend, if you do that."

User 2)

Is there anything that seems like a big design issue or potential bug?

"I think it's hard to tell what's going on with the icons on the map, they should probably have mini-headlines so I can at least tell what the article is instead of just the topic, since I can already tell that with the filters menu."

What do you think of the app, does it seem like something you would use?

"I like it. I frequently browse google news for articles on global events like the ebola crisis. It would be neat to see those articles displayed geographically, and to be able to use the time slider to see where they came from."

User 3)

Is there anything that seems like a big design issue or potential bug?

"Not from what I saw.. I think it needs more colors though! The icons should really pop on the map."

What do you think of the app, does it seem like something you would use?

"It seemed thought out, by someone who actually cares about global events. That's not really me though.. Maybe I could see myself using this when I'm done with Med School..."