

SENG 310 - Assignment 1

May 17, 2015

Team's Name:

Furious 4

Full names of each of your group members:

- V00767821 Richard Wagner (Breck)
- V00195731 Alex Lam
- V00735637 Jonathan Bowen (Jon)
- V00783547 Di Mei (Mason)

App Description:

Good Money is a financial assistant app designed to help people (specifically students and young adults) manage their spending responsibly by keeping track of their monthly income and expenses.

Budgeting is not something that students in their freshman year have experience with. It is easy to indulge in reckless spending and lose track of one's savings. Even into one's twenties, young adults are still often not cognizant of their spending habits. Many would like to budget responsibly, but either lack the organizational skills or don't know where to start. This app is intended to make being financially responsible easy for students and young adults who lack experience with budgeting.

This app is able to link up to a personal bank account and sync credit/debit cards to automatically update the app. As the user makes purchases, the application will graph out the expenses, income, and net balance over time and categorize what type of purchases were made (eg. eating out, entertainment, groceries). This will show the user how their money is being spent throughout the month.

Good Money analyzes the user's expenses and makes recommendations on the basis of spending habits. It then sets monthly goals and keeps track of the user's progress with respect to those goals.

A short, one-paragraph description of the users you plan to interview (no names):

The app could be useful to people of all ages; however, we are planning to interview people who are between 18 to 30. We will be interviewing students at UVic who are in their second year and up. Specifically, we would like to target freshmen who may not have experience with personal finance (but realistically there are few freshmen on campus during summer semester). Also, we would like to mainly focus on those students that do not have meal plans and are not in the dorms because these individuals are the most likely to have a need for financial management.

Sample Interview Questions:

1. 1) Demographics (optional)
 - (a) Age (written response or I prefer not to respond)
 - (b) Gender (written response or I prefer not to respond)
2. What is your highest level of education completed? (selected from list: post secondary, some university, finished university, etc.)
3. Are you proficient with using software for everyday tasks? (are they able to use computer to help them improve their lives?)
4. Do you own a smartphone? (are they applicable for a smartphone application?)
5. Do you have a regular income? (to understand if features could be added related to an income)
6. Is financial management/having a monthly budget something that you currently need to keep track of? (would this potentially replace something the applicant already does)
7. How do you currently manage your monthly expenses? (get more ideas from the user for the app)
8. Where do you regularly spend your income throughout the month (eg. education, rent, food, etc)? (figure out good categories for spending)
9. What do you currently do to save money? (ideas for how the app could make recommendations)
10. Are you currently saving money for traveling or purchasing something? (one of the selling points of our application is that the application can help people to find out how long does it take to achieve their saving goals)
11. Do you think purchasing information is a very private thing to yourself? (someone might not want others to see what they purchase because they think it is private)
12. Do you allow someone who you trust to help you manage your expenses? (if the answer is yes, we can sell our app to him/her)

13. Do you wish you handled your money better than you currently do?
14. What do you think keeps you from managing your money better than you currently do?
15. Are you living in residence at UVic?
16. Are you on a meal plan?

Consent Form For Participation in the Study Entitled: “User Attitudes Towards Financial Assistant App”

You are being invited to participate in a study entitled User Attitudes Towards Financial Assistant App that is being conducted by Jonathan Bowen, Alex Lam, Di Mei, and Richard Wagner, and you may contact them if you have further questions by email (jonbowen@uvic.ca)

The purpose of this research project is to design and evaluate the user interface of a simple drawing tool. You will be interviewed about your previous use of drawing tools.

You will be asked to answer a series of questions about your experience with computer drawing tools, the tasks you use them for, the features you like, and new features you would like to have. You will also be asked for some demographic information (age, occupation, etc.). Your participation should require about 15 minutes of your time. The results will be reported in a project report for SENG 310 in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Victoria.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time, without explanation. You have the right to refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to answer.

Any data collected in the study will remain confidential; interview results and questionnaires will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office. Only the principal and co-investigators (Jonathan Bowen, Alex Lam, Di Mei, and Richard Wagner) will have access to the data. Your name will not be attached to any published results, and your anonymity will be protected by using code numbers to identify results obtained from individual subjects.

Your interview will be audiotaped (videotaped) and the tape will be erased immediately after your responses are coded in written form.

Whether you participate or choose not to participate will have no bearing on your grade/employment status/academic standing/job/services received.

Signature of participant

Researcher

Date

Phone