

Appendix A – Consultation with Client//Edit for consistency points?

Initial Client Consultation

[The following is a transcription of the consultation with the client.]

Me: Hello. I'm starting a project for my IB Computer Science class. Is there anything that I can help you with using computer science?

Client: Yes, actually.

Me: What would you like me to help you with?

Client: I have so many LEGO sets that it's difficult to keep track of them all. So I'd like something where I can keep track of all the sets.

Me: So you want me to create you a GUI where you could store that information?

Client: Something like that.

Me: Ah, I see. I could do that. You'd be able to enter the set information. and display it in a table. You could add, edit, and delete sets as you please. But what set information do you want to enter?

Client: For each entry, I want to be able to add and edit: the LEGO set number, theme category (like Creator, Set Champions, etc.), description of the LEGO set, the year the set was released, and the current market value of the set. I'd also like to be able to upload a picture of the set.

Me: Wait, what theme category?

Client: LEGO sets have theme categories. Like, all Star Wars sets fall under the theme category of Star Wars. If you could filter by that, it would be easier to find sets.

Me: I don't think it's within my capabilities to include a function to upload pictures, save the theme category, and save the current market value, but the rest I can do. How would you like the entries to be sorted?

Client: I'd prefer it if they could be sorted by the categories I mentioned earlier.

Me: Okay, got it.

Client: When I create an entry, I'd like it so that it's automatically created as soon as I click on it. Maybe with the set number as the parameter to find it. It'd be nice if you could have added a function to scan a barcode and then automatically create an entry, but it's fine if you can't. You'll need to download catalogue of LEGO sets for this. I have some sites you can use.

Me: Thank you. Wait, that reminds me, since you're inputting personal information, it'd be a good idea to have a username and password-based system. Would it be okay for the GUI to be able to be used for multiple users?

Client: Hm?

Me: Well, since the username and password make the collection accessible by the person who knows the username and password, it means that the collection would be tied to that username and password. No one else would be able to access it. So it wouldn't be much of a stretch to tie collections to individual accounts, which is where I got the idea for multi-user functionality.

Client: Ah, I see. That'd be pretty cool, if you could implement it. But you have to make sure the collection saves to the correct account, or it'll be pointless.

Me: Of course. Are there any other features you want me to add?

Client: I'd like to be able to find any set using any keywords.

Me: So like a search bar?

Client: Yup.

Me: Okay then. Is there anything else?

Client: Nope. I think that should be all.

Me: Alright. Thank you for your time. I'll get to work on this right away.

Intermediate Client Consultation #1

[The following is a transcript of the second meeting with the client.]

Me: Hello, I've come up with a plan for the LEGO Database.

Client: Hm? Let me see.

[Client looks at the diagrams for planning.]

Client: What you have is good so far, but it's a bit lacking. Since the Start Menu is so lacking, why not shrink it?

Me: But don't you want it to be the same size as the other windows?

Client: No, for the Start Menu, it's better if it's smaller. The same applies for the Log In and Account Creation windows.

Me: Alright then.

Client: Please cut out the main menu; it's unnecessary. Just have the program go directly to the View Window.

Me: That should be an easy enough fix.

Client: And now that I think about it, making the entries based off the set number is terribly inefficient. I'm not always going to remember the set number.

Me: That's a good point. I could make it so that you can select a row from the table with all of the LEGO sets.

Client: If you're going to do that, at least add a filter so that it's easier for me to sort through it. I'm not looking through that many sets.

Me: What kind of filters?

Client: Each category within the table and some sort of search bar.

Me: So like the one in the View Window with the collection table?

Client: Essentially, yes.

Me: Got it.

Client: Also, the theme id and the number of parts are useless to me as a collector.

Me: So get rid of them?

Client: Yes. Also, it doesn't make much sense for me to be able to edit the set information directly from the catalogue. The set number isn't going to just magically change.

Me: So you want me to only include the information you'd manually enter.

Client: I'd also like you to change the information being entered so that it includes the number of sets I have, the date I obtained them, and the price I purchased them at.

Me: Got it. Would you like to also add the ability to put notes on each set?

Client: Hm? Yeah, that would be helpful.

Me: Okay, I got it. I think what I'll do is that you can select a row on a table with all of the appropriate information. There'll be two separate tables: one for your personal collection---

Client: Wait, didn't you say that multiple users could use this application? Shouldn't you specify which user's collection this is?

Me: Oh yeah, you're right. I'll definitely add that. But back to my point---There will be two tables: one for your personal collection and one with all of the sets in the catalogue you gave me. When you click on a row in either table, you'll be taken to another window where you can manually enter the date you bought the set, the purchase price, and any notes you want to take on it. Then, an entry for the set using the information provided from the row you clicked and the information you manually entered will be generated, and then added to the table.

Client: Yes, that sounds much better---and a lot less work. Is the process the same for editing entries?

Me: Yes, it is. However, you cannot edit any information taken from the catalogue table, only the information you manually entered.

Client: I see.

Me: Is there anything else that concerns you?

Client: Wouldn't it be easier to just use a calendar to add the date you purchased an item? Instead of me having to manually type it in.

Me: That should be an easy fix. I'll add it as soon as possible.

Client: While we're at it, why is the text so big? Can you shrink it?

Me: Yeah. What size font do you want it?

Client: About size 12 or 14 font.

Me: Got it.

Me: Is there anything else?

Client: No, I think that's it.

Intermediate Client Consultation #2

[The following is a transcript of the third meeting with the client.]

Me: Good afternoon.

Client: Good afternoon.

Me: Before I send the finished product to you, I'd like to know if you'd like any last-minute changes to the GUI.

Client: Show it to me?

[The client looks at the GUI program for several minutes.]

Client: The layout for adding entries a bit confusing. Could you maybe fit the table for adding entries on the same window as the options to manually fill in information? It'd be easier to process that way, instead of having to go through several windows.

Me: That should be an easy enough fix.

Client: Also, it's not clear that you're supposed to select a row to edit or delete an entry. Maybe an instruction for that?

Me: Alright.

Client: Also, everything should be aligned as much as possible, or it looks really ugly. And make the font a bit smaller, it's still too big.

Me: Okay, got it. Like this?

Client: Yes, exactly. That's perfect. It's much cleaner now.

Me: Are there any other changes you wanted me to add?

Client: No, it's fine as is.

Me: Thank you. I'll be sure to show you the final product.

Client: I'll look forward to it.

Final Client Consultation

[The following is a transcription of the final meeting with the client.]

Me: I've finished the program. Would you like to see it?

Client: Yes, please.

[I show the client the Start Menu.]

Client: It's very clean.

Me: Thank you. Now, if you click here, you can log into an account.

[I use a username and password used for testing to log into the program. A view window with all of the sets in that test user's collection is displayed.]

Client: Woah, that's cool.

Me: Since you're a new user, you won't be able to log in unless you make an account. Let me log out.

[I click the "Log Out" button and go back to the Start Menu.]

Me: Now, if you click here, you can create an account.

[The client clicks the "Create Account" button.]

Me: When you create an account, you have to put in your first and last names, username, and password. The username has to be unique, and the password has to be at least 8 characters. The program will show an error message otherwise.

Client: I see.

[The client goes through the process of creating their account, and are taken to the View Window window.]

Client: I was able to create an account. But there's nothing in the table...

Me: Well, you haven't added any sets to your collection yet. If you click here, you can add one.

[The client clicks on the "Add Entry" button, which takes them to the Add Entry window.]

Client: This is the catalogue of LEGO sets?

Me: Yes.

Client: Is this the latest version?

Me: Yeah?

Client: Can it be updated?

Me: If it's downloaded from the original website, yeah.

Client: You should add something that lets me update the LEGO catalogue. Otherwise any newer sets won't be able to be added to the database.

Me: I'll keep that in mind. Now, if you enter a keyword here, in the search bar, you can filter them out based on the set name.

[The client enters a keyword and filters the sets out.]

Client: Oh, that's cool. It would still be easier to sort by theme category, though.

Me: I'll keep that in mind. You can also filter the results by the column headers. And when you manually input information like the quantity, you can't leave anything blank. Otherwise the program will throw an error. Well, you can leave the notes blank; they're not necessary to write down.

Client: I see.

[The client finishes adding an entry. They are taken back to the View Window, where their newly added set is displayed.]

Client: I now have a set in my collection. That's pretty neat.

Me: Now, if you click on the Edit Entry button, you can edit information about that set.

[The client clicks on the Edit Entry button, only for an error message to pop up.]

Me: I forgot to mention this, but you need to select a set in order to edit or delete it. Otherwise an error will pop up.

The client clicks on I show the client the Edit Entry process. When I click Save, the View Window is displayed with the edits.]

Client: Oh, the changes saved.

Me: Yeah. Now, let's add another set.

[The client adds another set to their collection.]

Me: By the way, you can also search for specific sets by name, or filter them by the column headers.

Client: It's very convenient, but I'd still like the ability to sort by the theme categories.

Me: Now, if you click on one of these sets, and then click the Delete Entry button, you'll see this pop-up window here. If you click "Yes", the set will be deleted from the collection. If you click "No", the pop-up window will go away and nothing will happen.

[The client clicks "Yes". The selected set is deleted.]

Client: It looks like that set is no longer in my collection.

Me: Yup. Now, if you log out and log back in, you'll see that your collection has been saved.

[The client logs out of their account, and then logs in from the Start Menu. They are taken back to the View Window.]

Client: My collection was saved. Does it save automatically?

Me: Yes. It also doesn't interfere with another account's collection. Here, log out and let me log in using the account I used earlier.

[The client logs out of their account. I input the test user's login information, and the program takes me to the View Window.]

Me: As you can see, your collection doesn't interfere with others.

Client: Can you add a set and log out? I want to see if adding it will interfere with my account.

Me: Oh, sure.

[I add a set to the test user's collection, then log out. I let the client input their account information, and look at the View Window.]

Client: Looks like it saved the correct information to the correct account.

Me: Yup.

Client: This GUI's pretty nice. I'm satisfied with it, but it'd be nice if you could add the features I requested.

Me: I'll keep that in mind. Is there anything else?

Client: No, not in particular. I'm good.

Me: Oh. Thank you so much for letting me help you.

Client: No problem. I appreciate your help.