

6.170 P3.4 Peer Review

Carolyn Zhang (carolynz) reviewing Eric Chang (changey)

Summary assessment from user's perspective

Your project seems to meet only some of the minimum requirements. Users can create notes, can edit notes, and cannot view others' notes. However, I don't seem to be able to delete them. (I couldn't find any sort of delete button anywhere.)

Notes created from the default view (i.e., right after navigating to <http://dry-island-5722.herokuapp.com/users/7/allnotes#>) do not seem to persist on the appropriate date. I made several notes from the default view, only to have them disappear when I navigated to a different date or refreshed the page. I clicked through all the dates on the calendar, but did not find that note again. A reasonable workaround would be to associate the current date with notes created from the default view.

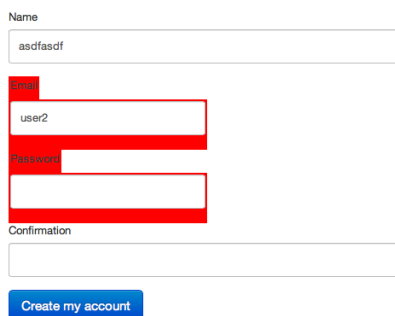
Navigating between dates

Your website's user experience is a bit muddled and difficult to understand for the first-time user. I didn't understand right away that notes were associated with dates - a calendar could mean anything, from setting alarms, to creation date, to due date, etc. It would be helpful to include a simple line that says "Viewing notes for [date]" at the top of the note view.

It may just be my browser, but sometimes when I click through different dates on the calendar, the calendar freezes and won't let me click on any dates. I then have to refresh the page and start over.

Content limits

It seems that users cannot create more than 16 notes for each date; when I clicked "new note" on a full page, the new notes simply did not show up. The notes section was not scrollable either, so I can only assume that notes are limited to 16 per page. Consider adding in an error message if the user exceeds the maximum number of notes allowed, or making the view scrollable if there are more than 16 notes. The note itself is scrollable if the content exceeds the note size, which is good!



The screenshot shows a sign-up form with the following fields and labels: "Name" (with text "asdfasdf"), "Email" (with text "user2"), "Password" (with a red box around the input field), and "Confirmation" (with an empty input field). A blue button labeled "Create my account" is at the bottom. Red boxes highlight the "Email" and "Password" fields, indicating validation errors.

Signing up

It's good that you check for email validity and uniqueness. However, an invalid user e-mail or password will yield a red box around the field, without a helpful error message.

The sign-up page shows up for the user even if the user is logged in. Consider making a landing page that presents different information depending on whether or not the user is logged in. I was able to create new accounts while logged in,

which I don't recommend.

Visuals

The post-it notes look visually appealing and convey the concept of a "note" very well.

It seems that you used Bootstrap for this assignment. Remember to delete the `scaffolds.css.scss` file (in `app/assets/stylesheets`) that Rails auto-generates, since some of the CSS in that file will override Bootstrap's defaults. This is why some parts of your application do not use Bootstrap's default font, but rather Rails' default font.

Summary assessment from developer's perspective

Your code seems to be mostly clean and DRY. Good job! Controllers and views are skinny, with the bulk of the logic in the models.

From looking at your `notes.js` file, it seems that I should be able to drag the notes, but I can't! If they aren't supposed to be dragged, remember to take those lines out of your code.

Some other quick comments:

Don't forget to take out any auto-generated view, CSS, or JS files that you will not be using (e.g., everything in your `views/notes/` folder).

The `<head>` tag at the top of your `allnotes.html.erb` file does not need to be there. A `<head>` tag appears before the `<body>` tag; if there's anything you need to include in the head, put it in the `<head>` tag in your `layouts/application.html.erb` template. Also, you have already included jQuery UI in your application by putting it in `application.js`, so there is no need to include it in any of your `html.erb` files.

Don't forget to comment out all `console.log` lines in the version of the app that you deploy to Heroku. Anyone will be able to see it!

Most and least successful decisions

Most successful

Aside from the calendar, the app is fairly self-explanatory. The background image for each note is a nice visual touch.

Least successful

Users can't seem to create new notes from the default view, and users cannot delete notes. The latter seems like an intentional design decision, but removing that functionality makes the app less usable. The fact that app only displays notes associated with the currently-selected date should be more clearly communicated.

Priorities for improvement

1. Try to focus on making sure the user can understand your project without reading your design document. If you have time, ask your friends to test out your app and see the mistakes they make, and modify your design so they make fewer mistakes.
2. Write clear and extensive specs for your non-trivial methods. It really helps you think through your own methods when you're dealing with more complicated projects, and can be very helpful when debugging too.