

Assignment 8

<https://github.com/crystaltlin/chrome-cart.git>

Part I.

Chrome cart is a chrome extension that serves as an image cart. It aims to solve the problem of having to download a lot of images or open a lot of tabs just to compare and decide on one image to use on a prototype, website or other projects. Inspired by the concept of shopping carts, an image cart works in a similar fashion. Users can “shop” images and put them into their cart effortlessly. It makes images easy to manage by allowing different tab sections. It also allows comparison by letting users view their cart in a gallery form. Chrome cart is a simple yet useful extension which can be further extended to collection of all kinds of information.

Part II.

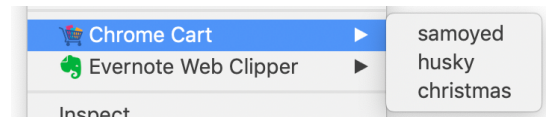
Add Image

Right click on the image to be added

>> Select [Chrome Cart]

>> Select [tab]

Note: this menu only shows when you click on an image using chrome and when there is a cart already



Delete Image

Find image to be deleted

>> Select the red delete button

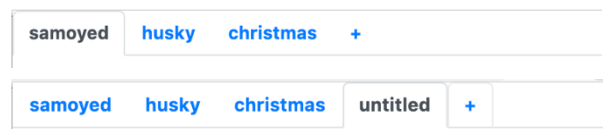


Add Tab

On the very right of tab menu

>> Select [+]

Default name of the new tab is “untitled”



Rename Tab

Select [<tab>] to be renamed

>> Enter new name in the input box

>> Select [Rename]



Delete Tab

Select [<tab>] to be deleted

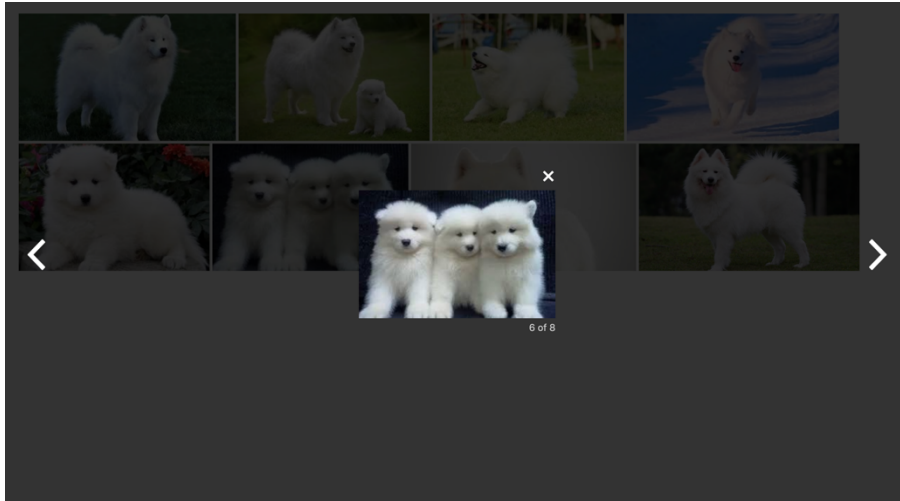
>> Select [Delete]

View Tab

Select [`<tab>`] to be viewed

>> Select [View]

This will open a new tab. Clicking on any image will trigger the light box in gallery view.



Note: this page is generating errors because of the library ☹

Part III.

- **Michael's Chrome extension boilerplate**
- I am new to chrome extension development, hence having a boilerplate to start with is very helpful.
- The boilerplate takes care of connecting Chrome API with React and Webpack.
- This serves as the basic structure and provides me with a lot of insights in what consists of a chrome extension (background, content, popup, newtab etc) and help me get on going relatively fast!!
- In particular, I made use of a lot of message sending. This is because I have to update information about the menu, the cart, the images etc of the three major components (background, content, popup) as user make changes.
- **React Bootstrap**
- React bootstrap provides a lot of pre-made components that looks more refined/modern/beautiful and can keep my code cleaner
- I used in for the buttons and tabs in my chrome cart
- **React grid gallery**
- React gallery is a library that provides a grid gallery. This makes it easy for me to create a gallery view of images in the cart
- I used it for "view" cart function

Part IV.

Some visual designs are a little different, but that isn't the main point of this project. Changes on the functionality only includes how to add image to cart. I realize that it is impossible to click an image and click on the popup tab at the same time. It also seems much easier to use the right click menu for adding images.

Part V.

- Major challenge for this project is of course getting to know how chrome extensions work. Even with the boilerplate, I am a little confused about how background, content and popup script interact with each other. Fortunately, there are a lot of resource online (and Michael ☺), I am able to figure out how to keep the state of each component in sync.
- Another major issue I faced is not knowing where to develop. By this I mean where to see my background console, popup console etc. I started with using my localhost. However, it turned out I have to view it from the url "chrome-extension:<id>/popup.html". This made me confused for a pretty long time as I am looking at the wrong place for the whole time.