

Project 1: Page Descriptions

Human Interface Computing

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1 The Website

Our group is developing a website that will help people at any stage in life find a career best suited for them. We decided to make this our focus for the project because the sheer number of available computer science career paths is often overlooked. When searching for information on computer science jobs online, the most common job you will see is a web developer. This means that people who aren't really interested in web development have a hard time finding out how they can take on other computer science disciplines and get a job. Determining what career fits can come down to a number of different factors such as what skills they want to learn or already have, their desired pay, industries they find interesting, etc. The website will have a questionnaire that users can take that will take their responses and recommend careers that closely match their criteria. The user will also have some information such as industries, careers and salary information available to them without the need to take the questionnaire. This way, the user can also view industries and careers that weren't recommended after the questionnaire and can learn about other careers that they might find interesting. Finally, there will be a news section on our website that users can use to stay updated on information like when Google is doing layoffs.

To allow us to reasonably complete this project in the duration of the class, we are going to shrink the scope of the project and only focus on industries and careers related to computer science.

2 Home Page

The home page is the first page that users will see when they visit our website. This page will give users insight into what our website can be used

for. In the wireframe, we include a section that allows users to search for careers as well as a section that tells the users about the questionnaire that is available. Those are the only 2 sections on the wireframe, but in development, more sections can be added such as a section that shows our most recent articles.

2.1 Consistency

Consistency is a rule that will be noticed throughout our entire website. The major factors at play here are size and spacing. Throughout our website, we use the 8 rule, which denotes that all elements of our design are multiples of 8 in terms of length, width and spacing. We use consistent spacing between cards and text in the section as well as consistent spacing between sections. Typically, we will use a base spacing size such as 16px for elements within sections and double the size of the base spacing for spacing between sections. This also helps us with the next rule.

2.2 Reduce Short-Term Memory Load

We strive to shorten long descriptions of sections, however, some sections require more thorough explanations to help the users understand. To remedy this, we use short section headings as well as consistent spacing. The spacing between sections will help the users' brain put information into groups so that the user can focus on one thing at a time. The section titles will help users gauge what the sections are about and allow them to read the most important things first.

2.3 Internal Locus of Control

The main attraction of our website is the questionnaire that recommends careers, but we have implemented ways for users to do their own searching and make recommendations to themselves. Although the questionnaire is the main attraction and is promoted on the home page, we don't provide a linear pathway through our website and force users to take it. The structure of our website is more like a mesh where users can consume any combination of information in any order.

3 Industries and Careers Page

The industries and careers page will actually be 2 pages with the same general layout. This page will allow users to view careers displayed in card elements and click on them for more information. Users will also be able to search for industries and careers.

3.1 Consistency

The layout of this page also follows the same 8 rule used for the home page. See Section 2.1 for more information.

3.2 Informative Feedback

This page uses a card element layout to display industries and careers, but what might not be immediately obvious to the user is that the cards can be clicked to reveal more information. Since we did not use text such as "Read More" to show that the cards can be clicked, we will use hover animations (e.g. increase the card shadow's spread to illustrate the card rising). While we weren't able to illustrate this in the wireframe, we designed the page's layout with that in mind.

3.3 Simple Error Handling

Since this page allows users to search and filter, there is a possibility that a search can return no results. In this case, instead of the user seeing a blank page, they will see a block of text alerting them to the fact that the search had no results that matched.

4 Questionnaire Page

This section will technically be three separate pages. The first page will be a simple start page that will have the user confirm whether they want to start the questionnaire or return to the home page. The second page will be a dynamic page that is used to display the questions and let the user fill in their answers. The last page will be the results page that shows information about their results and will then direct them to the careers page that will show the recommended careers.

4.1 Informative Feedback

While the user is answering the questions given during the questionnaire, their answers will be stored in a database which leaves room for a failed communication between the website and the database. In the event that the website fails to properly store the data, the user will be shown an error message alerting them to that fact and offering some advice as to how to remedy the problem. Some fixes could be refreshing the web page or waiting, but that will come down to the common errors we notice in development.

4.2 Dialogue To Yield Closure

When the user finishes the questionnaire, they will want to know that their answers were saved and the questionnaire was submitted properly. To do this

we use the results page that will tell users that they have completed the questionnaire and prompt them to view their results.

5 Salaries Page

The salaries page shows users salaries for a career and lists how much specific companies pay. This data will be gathered by looking at job postings from companies as well as allowing users who already have a job to submit their company and pay to keep our data accurate.

5.1 Consistency

The layout of this page follows the same 8 rule as other pages as well as the card element layout. While the spacing of cards still follows the 8 rule, the spacing is slightly smaller to accommodate more data, however, sections are still properly spaced apart using double the base spacing.

5.2 Simple Error Handling

This page follows the same error handling rules as the industries and careers page when handling search errors. See section 3.3 for information.

6 News and Events Page

This page contains article that provide users with updates on major events. These updates could be about layoffs, internships, etc.

6.1 Consistency

The cards proportions of the cards used on this page are more square as opposed to the rectangles used on other pages, but (to mention it again) the page still uses the 8 rule for card size and spacing.

7 Profile Page

This page lets users change their passwords as well as view careers and industries that they have saved.

7.1 Consistency

This page uses the same consistency standards as the other pages and also largely resembles the industries and careers page in how it display the saved industries and careers.

7.2 Simple Error Handle

Since the user has the option to change their password, there are a few frequent errors that can occur. For example, the users new password might be the same as an old password or the new password is not secure enough. In these cases, the user will error messages below the input box that are danger red and will tell the user what the problem is and how to fix it.

7.3 Dialogue To Yield Closure

When the user successfully changes their password, they will see a success message where an error message would have been. This message will let them know that they have successfully changed their password.