

Value Sensitive Design Assignment #2 (submit with your final project)

[General]

1. Briefly describe the website you are building (its purpose/functionality/etc.)

The website is a movie review and liking website. It uses the OMDb api to give access to a catalog of information for movies. The website takes this data and builds an user interface around enabling users to like movies and leave reviews on movies.

2. What problem is your website meant to solve? (If your website wasn't intended to solve a problem, instead answer the following: what problem or problems *could* a website like yours solve?)

Problems our website could solve are giving moviegoers the ability to see info about movies and see what others think about it.

3. Identify the stakeholders (direct and indirect) whose interests are relevant to your website.

The direct stakeholders of the website are us (the creators of the site) and users who interact with and post on the site. Indirect stakeholders are those involved with creating the movies whose data is central is central to the site. Users leaving reviews may want to go and watch or not watch movies based on the information on our website. The creator's families and friends are indirect stakeholders since the use of a website and the information it takes in and puts out affects us and thus everyone who interacts with us as well.

4. What values are at stake for these stakeholders?

Privacy is at stake for users of this site since some personal information related to the features of the site is exposed to other users. However, identifying information is not public. Autonomy for users is at stake since we collect some info and ask them to enter data to make the site run.

5. Is your website likely to undermine or compromise any of these values? Which ones, for which stakeholders, and how?

Our site does not leverage personal info in an unethical way and is transparent and straightforward when asking for user information. The privacy of the user is also protected, and personal data is hidden from other users. Given all this the site does not undermine or compromise any of these values.

6. Which values does your website promote, for which stakeholders, and how?

7. What counts as “success” for the website you are building? Given the relevant problem(s), stakeholders, and values that are at play, why is this account of success reasonable?

We want a diverse array of reviews and ratings to come into the site so it provides useful info to users. Given our values and stakeholders success for the site is providing our features and having them give as much information about movies to users as possible.

8. How does the broader social context surrounding your website affect the likelihood it will succeed?

Movies do have social implications and cause a lot of emotions in users. This site may contain reviews that are profane and explicit and could insult certain users. In the future we need to be vigilant of this and implement features that mitigate this issue to give an open and healthy environment on our site.

[Privacy]

9. What user data will you have access to, and what might this data reveal about its subjects?

Personal user data includes email address and username. The only information that could link to an individual is the email which is kept hidden from other users. This could reveal the email information to reach individuals on the site.

10. What values are relevant to your website’s privacy policy? (Note that the relevant values will depend in part on the kind of website you are building).

We respect the user’s autonomy and privacy in terms of usage and collection of personal data. We entertain the user by giving reviews and movie info and their data plays a part in that.

11. Describe how you took the relevant values into account in writing your privacy policy (e.g. what decisions and tradeoffs were made, and why).

We had to make a tradeoff in how we talked about usage of personal data and the future use of data when potentially adding features to the site. We made sure to make it clear that the collection and use of user data is transparent and easy to understand for the user. Therefore we respect user autonomy by giving clear information when asking for information.

[Autonomy]

12. In what ways might your user interface “nudge” users? Analyze a minimum of 3 features.
 1. For the profile page we make the favorite movie/genre clear to make sure that the user knows this is relevant info to share and once that data is entered more useful features for the profile are exposed
 2. We encourage anonymous users to sign up by disabling the ability to review movies but allowing reviews made by other users to be seen
 3. The homepage renders top user reviews for those with an account so this encourages the registration and sharing of information on the site.

13. Do any of these constitute “dark patterns”? For each previously identified feature, explain why it does or does not.
 1. No we make it clear that the information we want from them is only entered when they want and don’t ask for it explicitly
 2. Yes, Reviewing is feature for registered users and we route to the login page to have users login for reviewing or liking movies which nudges them to sign up
 3. No, the user is unaware of this feature until they register and see the homepage.