

A Punting Weather App

Task 3: Implementing a Hi-fi prototype

We chose a Cognitive Walkthrough because it's quick, doesn't require many participants, and is effective for testing whether first-time users can navigate key tasks. Our app is mainly designed for Cambridge students who want a simple way to decide when to go punting, but it could also be useful for tourists or punting companies. This method helped us evaluate whether the interface feels intuitive without needing explanations or extensive experience.

Our team members, who had used common weather apps such as Apple Weather, will step into the role of someone planning a punting trip using this prototype. Their broad objective – to find the weather information to make punting decisions – can be represented by two tasks, each with a short action sequence.

Task 1: Explore the detailed hourly forecast for a particular day.

Step 1: Open the app.

The user begins on the homepage containing a concise, graphic and descriptive summary of the current weather for punting, as well as a carousel of boxes containing each of the following few days and their scores.

Step 2: Select day of interest.

The user browses the carousel for a day of interest, and clicks that box. The homepage summary updates to that of the selected day.

Step 3: View hourly ratings or weather graph.

In search of hourly forecast, the user scrolls down to a carousel of columns, each containing numerical metrics for each hour. Below it, there is a graph which shows temperature, wind and rain trends throughout the day according to the tab selected.

Evaluation of credibility:

- Information in the summary is laid out clearly and aesthetically.
- It is unclear how the user knows to scroll down to access the hourly forecast.
- The first box of the homepage carousel contains "Today" and is shaded darker than the rest. This indicates that the other boxes can be clicked for their information to be shown.
- All carousels have half cut-off elements on the right side, indicating that they can be scrolled laterally.

Task 2: Adjusting the punting score criteria to fit personal preferences.

Step 1: Spot mismatch.

The user explores the forecast for a day of interest, and realises that the impression they had from the punting score does not match their opinion of the conditions they saw in the details.

Step 2: Open settings.

The user sees the Settings icon, clicks it and expects to set/update personal preferences there to adapt the punting score.

Step 3: Update preferences.

The user sees the Settings page with radio buttons under each labelled personal preference, then reselects them to fit their preferences.

Step 4: Close settings.

The user sees the home button and presses it to return to the homepage.

Evaluation of credibility:

- An assumption was made that users know about the preference-changing feature from the app preview.
- The settings button is iconic and in its conventional spot, but it may not be obvious for the user to specify punting preferences there.
- The Settings page itself is simply and clearly laid out.
- The home button is placed conventionally in the top left corner and easy for the user to see as an exit button.

Findings and adjustments

The key problem found in the evaluation of credibility is that users may not know to scroll down for details or use the settings button to change punting preferences. Our solution was to have a pop-up window explaining this to first time users.

Deviation from Lo-Fi Design

We made a few changes to the original lo-fi design based on practicality and what worked better in the actual interface. One major change was swapping out the temperature slider in the settings for a row of buttons. When we first used the slider, we realized that the input could be ambiguous or non-discrete which was not ideal. We also planned to have a “scroll for more details” message on the homepage, but the forecast bar ended up sitting right above the iPhone’s bottom bar, leaving no space to put that text. Instead, we added a help button in the settings page with a popup explaining how the layout works, which felt more flexible. The popup message also shows up by default when the user first opens the app. On a smaller note, we also changed the tabs above the weather graph to use a pill-shaped toggle, just a small visual tweak to make the selected option clearer.