

CPSC 430 Usability Study

1. The system we are creating is a cloud-based website. for computer science professor Gusty Cooper. It will host his personal blog and a programming contest, where users can submit code for automatic grading and scoring. The blog portion of the website will be accessible to any anonymous visitor, however the programming contest will only be accessible by his students who will be given usernames and passwords. An anonymous user will visit the website and may read his blog posts but may not comment on his posts.
2. Chris is an accounting major who uses his iPhone for the majority of his web-browsing, and the rest on his Mac. He reads blogs almost every day and has considered started a blog himself. He has no interest in programming but sometimes rides his bike when the weather is nice.

Ryan is a biology major with an interest in programming. He took a computer science course in high-school but he wasn't interested in it as a career path. He occasionally reads blogs and also has an interest in biking. His biking is mostly for the physical activity but also partly for the enjoyment of biking.

Derek is a computer science major who didn't have much of an interest in blogs but had to create one for a class once. He hasn't touched the blog he made for class since the class ended a year ago. He will read blogs if he stumbles upon one while web-browsing but does not search for them directly. He doesn't like to read long articles or posts, instead preferring to search for whatever small piece of information he was looking for.

3. We are creating a website for computer science professor Gusty Cooper to host his personal blog and a programming contest for his students. The blog will be available to any anonymous user who may happen upon the website, where they can read his posts but cannot leave comments on them. The programming contest will only be accessible to his students who will be given a username and password to log in and compete.

Questions:

1. How do you think this would look? How would you interact with it
2. What should you be able to do?
3. What should you not be able to do?
4. What would be important to you?

Person 1 comments:

1. It would show different blog posts in columns
2. A user would be able to search for a blog or click on a post
3. A user shouldn't be able to comment on a post
4. Being simple but still able to grab your attention and easy to use are important

Person 2 comments:

1. It would just show a list of posts maybe, I don't really know how I would interact with it other than reading posts.
2. Just read the blog posts

3. Nobody should be able to comment or deface the website in any way
4. Content that interests me and some color. Color gets your attention. Also it should be eye-popping

Person 3 comments:

1. It would be organized, showing historical posts down the middle and have archived posts at the bottom of the page.
2. Read the blog posts
3. Not be able to comment, or crash the website
4. It should be easy to use

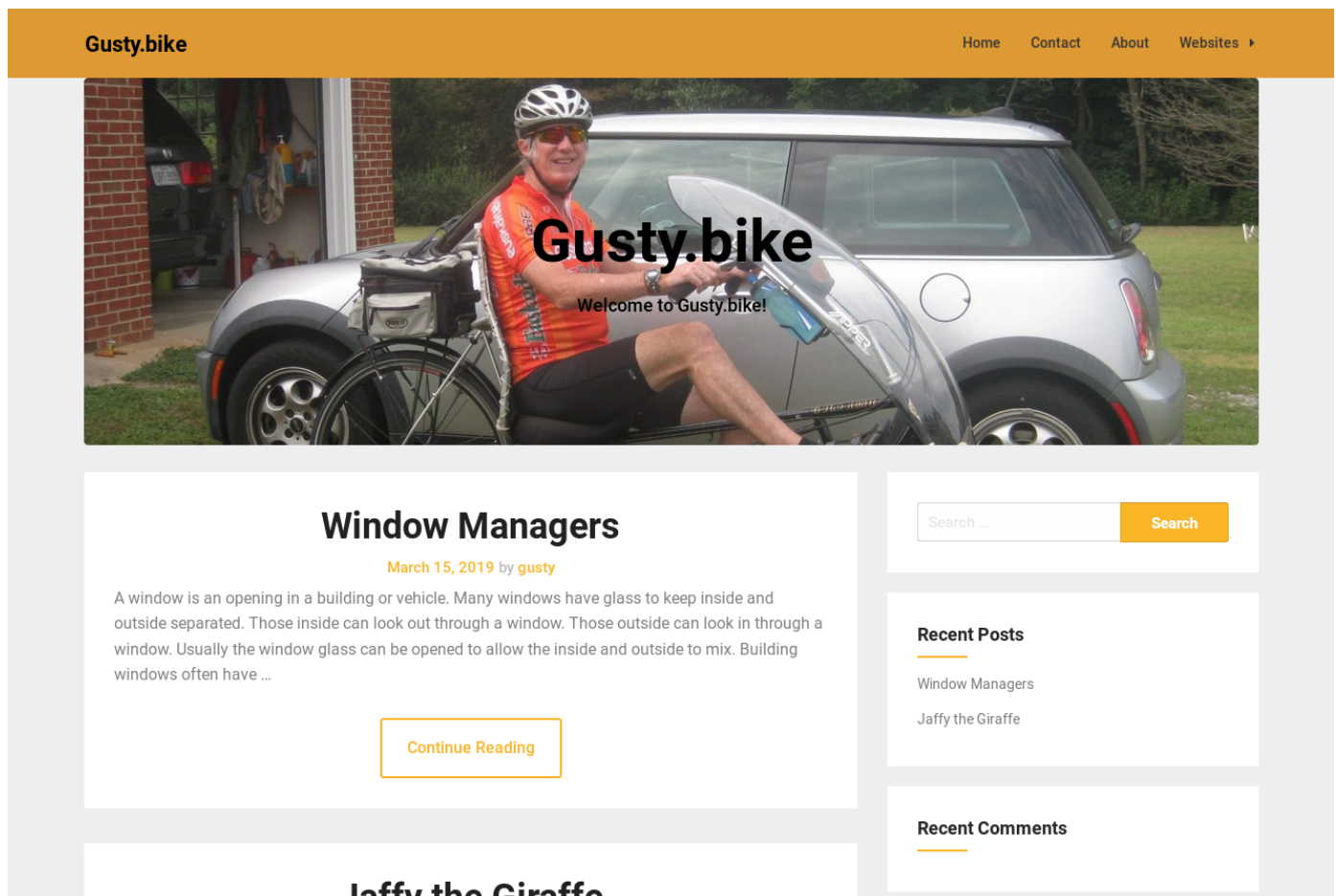
Person 4 comments:

1. It would look a bit like the announcements on Canvas
2. I should be able to read his posts
3. I shouldn't be able to make a post or comment on a post
4. It should be readable and accessible

User Model:

Blog posts should be listed in a column, and users should just be able to read the posts. Users should not be able to deface the website, make blog posts, or post comments. The website should also be easy to use but also attention grabbing, with some color.

4.



5.

Questions:

1. What do you think you need to do to view a blog post?
2. How do you feel about this design?
3. Does it seem easy to use?

Person 1 comments:

1. I would just click on the preview of the post
2. I kinda like it. It's simple but it's not boring. I like how the posts are separated into boxes.
3. Yeah, it looks like something I would be able to use easily.

Person 2 comments:

1. Click on the post you want to read under "Recent posts"
2. The layout is fine but I don't like the color. The color is a game-changer for me
3. It seems pretty easy to use, not complicated at all

Person 3 comments:

1. Click on the "Continue Reading" button or the title
2. I like it, it's a good design
3. Looks pretty easy to use, I like the search bar location

Person 4 comments:

1. It would just show the list of posts and I would click on the post to continue reading
2. I think the font should be a darker color
3. It looks easy to use

Reflection:

For the most part, the feedback I received was fairly similar to the user model. All the participants thought it looked easy to use and that the layout was good. One person did not like the orange color and another did not like the gray text in the preview.

6. Planned changes:

- I plan to try to make the text in the post preview clickable, instead of just the title of the post and the "Continue Reading" button.
- Look for a different color scheme to use
- Make the font a bit darker