Homework 1

SE 319

1. User less tech-savvy than I: Friend Megan Hingtgen
   1. Paragraph on user’s experience:
      1. United tasks
         1. Booking an air travel was “pretty easy” because United designs their site around making a reservation. Nothing was difficult about this task for the user. This user has booked a flight with United before, but doesn’t know a lot about computers.
         2. Online check-in was “a little bit harder” because the user took awhile to find the menu item that it was contained under. They searched for a while, but the menu item was labeled exactly what I asked them to find. They knew what this action was, where I didn’t know what “Online check-in” was, so the user actually knew more about traveling and airports than I did.
         3. Finding a baggage allowance from the US to Europe was pretty hard, mostly because there wasn’t a clear-cut link to find it. They had to search for a couple minutes to find this information. None of the links on the United site used the word “baggage allowance”, so that made it more frustrating. The user even said that they might get frustrated and mad. The user didn’t search for the specifics from Europe because they knew from experience that it was the same out of the U.S.
         4. Finding the flight status was pretty easy because it was under the menu item that one would expect to find (“Travel Information”). The user had done this before, but it was still very easy to find. It literally took 5 seconds to complete.
      2. Delta tasks
         1. Again, booking air travel was simple because that is what was on the homepage. However, this one was “easier” because it took fewer clicks to get through to the last page. For example, choosing the flights to and from the destination was on the same page instead of different ones.
         2. Online check-in was also “easier” because the menu items expanded when you rolled over them instead of taking a click to get through. It also had a large link on a sidebar of commonly used actions, but the user missed that link. It still only took a rollover and a click though.
         3. Baggage allowance was extremely easy to get to, seeing as it was in a menu item under the name “baggage allowance”. The next page showed baggage allowances for all countries arranged in a nice table. This one was definitely easy to find specifically for Europe too.
         4. Flight status was again simpler because there was both a link under the dropdown menu item and on the easy access sidebar. The user found the less clicks for this objective much better too.
   2. For Delta, the UI is very good. Overall, less clicks had to be taken for users to get where they needed to go. There wasn’t much to improve upon. However, for United, the user seems overwhelmed by information and links to get to things they would sparsely need. It’s good that the flight reservation is on the front page, but nothing else a user would need often is easy to find.
   3. Delta would be the winning site for both the user and me because there were fewer clicks to get the information they needed. Also, for a lot of common tasks the user didn’t have to navigate to a new web page, but it just loaded a tab with all of the information on the main page.
2. Attendance System
   1. Input/Output devices (other than mouse and keyboard) that would be appropriate
      1. A panel of buttons with each student’s name next to it to automatically check in when they press the button next to their name.
      2. A clicker located at each desk where the student would sit, with similar functionality to the button panel.
   2. For the UI, see below.
   3. Two advantages of this solution
      1. Less work for the teacher
      2. Attendance that is quick and more stimulating for the children
   4. Two features I think should be present
      1. Ability to go into the past and excuse absences, giving a reason for the absence
      2. Automatically sending an e-mail of the day’s activities to students who did not check in that day.

UI

