Web Studio: Week 9 Turn-in #8

Name: Ivy Chen
UNI: ic2389
Due: Friday at 2PM
COMS6998 Adv. Web Studio

Goals

Geolocation-Based Facts:

Location-based facts. User is at a landmark, and either doesn't know that it has historical significance or wants to learn more.

Prototype:
1. Identify 4 places around campus and create some notecards with interesting facts about them.
2. Plan a walk with 3 friends this week to walk around campus/meet up without informing them that I'll give random facts about our destinations.

Who's Turn is It?

Group chats, keep track of whose turn it is to pay/drive/suggest an event, etc.

Prototype:
1. Message a group chat about the last person who paid for our group meal. Use a random number generator to decide on who should pay next.
2. Create a paper prototype of basic chat app. Added features include a built-in spinner and records of the last person who __.

Routine Tracker

Keep track of skincare routine products and have products recommended.

Prototype:
1. This idea was actually inspired from browsing Reddit subreddits such as /r/SkincareAddiction where people like to post reviews/information about skincare products.

2. Spend an evening browsing and responding to recommendation/question threads on Reddit.
3. Reach out to some of my friends and run a simulation of recommending a product based on user-specified parameters, etc.

Lessons

Geolocation-based Facts

I learned that users are usually more concerned about the destination than the journey, esp. if their original goal is more destination-oriented rather than indicating that there's a journey/tour involved ie. "Let's meet at Joe's for coffee at this time." vs "Do you have some time to talk? Let's walk around campus." Giving facts when the user was honed in on getting to a specific place felt like they were facing a roadblock on getting to their destination. Users were more willing to listen to facts in comfortable and casual locations (eg. coffee shop) vs. standing outside a building/in a lobby (felt like a tour). One user said that they'd more likely appreciate the facts if it was integrated in something like Google Maps (eg. enter a destination and get interesting info about destination), or had a social component (eg. gamification, viewing where your friend was) vs. just looking up facts in their location.

And that my friends didn't like me saying "did you know that...?" every couple of minutes.

Who's Turn is It?

I learned that users found it useful, but that since not every person joins in on every excursion, they'd have to use the spinner multiple times to land on someone who was present. History is difficult to keep track of in that case and users didn't see the point of having it within a chat group — maybe just a feature in the chat app, but not inside a chat room. They would have preferred some fun generator or a way for everyone to join in a game like "drawing straws."

Routine Tracker

Users would definitely appreciate a recommendation system that caters to their specific needs for a product, rather than a generalized product recommendation

system like Amazon provides. They also want to filter and view reviews of products. In engaging with the subreddits, it was interesting to see that a lot of questions are of the form "I have X issue, what products should I use?" and that people posted before using the search tool to find past questions/use the sidebar to find FAQs. In running simulations with two users, I learned that they appreciated the customized feedback and reasoning — ie. not just based on trends, but based on looking up reviews/ingredients, etc.