

Evaluation Plan - “My Next Days” prototype

What will be tested

My point of view is, that writing your dates offline on Post-It notes is fast, and gives you the freedom to *write whatever you want*. Opposed to this, entering information in almost any calendar software is cumbersome, because it forces you to fill out forms.

The webapp “My Next Days” should satisfy the need to manage the upcoming events, deadlines or notes. It wants to blend the freedom of “write what you want with the power a web application can give, such as search and location independent access by multiple people if needed.

What I want to learn

I want to learn if

- the concept of a single input field is suitable to enter new upcoming events
- the interaction for correcting a wrong input works
- entering dates as relative dates (e.g. “tomorrow” or “next friday”) is used and recognized as facilitation
- if the tooltips are helpful (or may be totally ignored?)

Additionally I will look for usability problems while the participant uses the prototype:

- Does a slip or mistake happen?
- The direct manipulation criterias: Feedback, Consistency, Discoverability should be fulfilled by the prototype, are they?

The test will take place at various places with a device (PC) owned by the participant. At least 4 participants will be tested between November the 10th and 14th.

Methology to get Feedback

The user is given a scenarios including tasks which can be carried out using the prototype. He is encouraged to speak about his intentions or problems while interacting with the application. The tasks will be followed by a short interview, where the user is asked to compare and rate some concepts of the prototype.

Scenario

Your friend gave you a link to this calendar application, so that you can view his dates and find a training date suitable for both of you.

1. To test how the application works, enter some not for tomorrow. Can you make your changes undone?
2. Your friend asked you to find a date to where both of you can run together to train for the next sport competition. The competition will take place next friday. Please add the information about the marathon and your training date suggestion to your friends list of events.
3. Your friend saw your entry, and asks you, if you could move it one day forward or behind the current date.
4. You want that your changes are persistent, and that you can return to this calendar to view the entries. How do you do that?

Interview

Single input field

Do you see any advantages or disadvantages comparing this with a date picker?
Is an other application known which works in a similar way?

Relative dates

Is this functionality useful or would you prefer to input the absolute date?
What do you hate about date pickers?

List of dates

Where would you expect to find passed dates?
Would you expect to find them at all?

Tooltips

Did you find the tooltips helpful to complete the tasks?
Did the tooltips get into your way at any time?