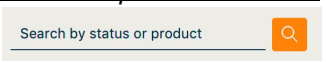
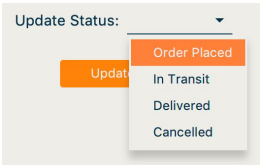
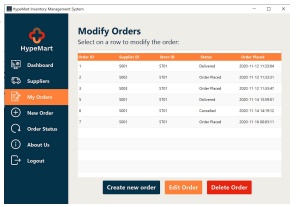
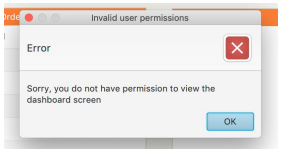
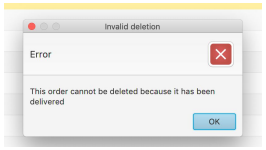
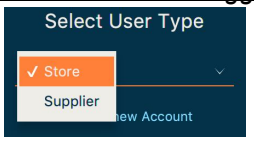
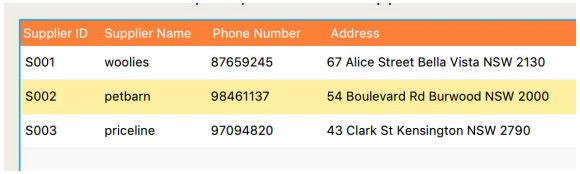
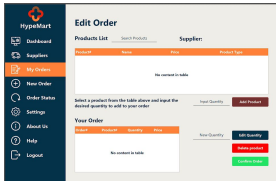
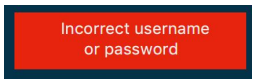
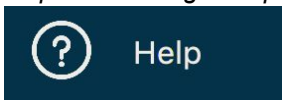
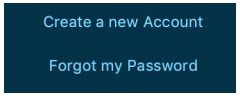
Usability Summary

Jakob Nielsen's 10 usability heuristics were used as a framework to guide the general design of the application for this assignment.

Heuristic	Description	Images of examples
Visibility of System Status	Users must be aware of the system status to ensure whether certain actions have been taken. • **Progress bar**: users are kept notified throughout the order creation process. This improves user experience through transparency and system visibility • **Responsive buttons**: when the user hovers their cursor over a button the text size decreases, signalling their action. • **Responsive navigation panel**: Corresponding row becomes coloured in orange to indicate that the current page the user is accessing.	*Progress Bar:* *Page is being viewed:*
Match between system and the real world	• **Skeuomorphic icons**, such as the magnifying icon next to the search bar, replicate real-world concepts, making it more intuitive for users. • **Natural mapping** presents the layout of information on each screen in a familiar and logical manner, such as in the dashboard.	*Skeuomorphic search icon:* 
User control and freedom	• **Navigation menu**: accessible sidebar allows for quick and free movement between pages. • Users can **easily log out** through the logout button on the sidebar. • When updating the status of an order, **supplier users are able to undo an incorrect status update** by making a new update through the choice box. • When searching for orders based on status or product, the store **user's input is case insensitive**.	*Order status update choice box:* 
Consistency and standards	• **Standardised icons** appear in the navigation bar that match to their respective labels to assist the user with using the application with ease. • **Consistent use of Work Sans** font to improve readability and aesthetics. • **Consistent colour scheme** consisting of navy, orange, and grey. • **Consistent layout**: using a VBox on the left navigation bar and an AnchorPane to display information on each respective screen.	*Consistent layout, colour scheme and font:* 

Error prevention	• **Access controls** prevent unauthorised users from accessing certain views, for example, supplier users cannot access the dashboard or order creation/modification screens. • **Alert boxes** for user actions including the creation or deletion of an order help minimise accidents. • Preventing edit or delete actions without selecting a row (supplier, order item, product tables) • **Choiceboxes** provide defined responses to prevent users from updating orders with invalid statuses, and from logging in as an invalid user. Supplier View • Ensures the supplier of the new order exists before order creation. • Ensures supplier phone numbers are integers Modify Orders • The app prevents users from deleting an order if it has been delivered. Create a new order/Modify order items • Ensures that a valid quantity (integer higher than 0) is inputted when adding a product or editing an order item in an order • Ensures there are no duplicate order items in a single order.	*Access controls:*  *Error prevention (deletion of an order):*  *Choicebox when logging in:* 
Recognition rather than recall	• Use of **text and visual aids** such as icons to recognise the functions of each page on the sidebar. • **Order status update history table** eliminates the need for suppliers to recall prior update change information. • When creating an order, users do not have to remember the products that the suppliers sell as a **searchable products table** is displayed. • **Visually responsive rows**: when a product, order, order item, or supplier row is selected on a table it turns yellow to notify the user of their selection, eliminating the need for them to recall it.	*Visually responsive rows:* 
Flexibility and efficiency of use	• **Textual prompts** in text fields for user input which allow the user to quickly recognise which information they should type in. • Seamless process from creating to tracking orders, efficiently utilising the sidebar for navigation.	*Textual prompts:* *Create an Orders screen*
Aesthetic and minimalist design	• **Minimalistic design** featuring no clutter and negative space to accentuate features such as headings, tables and buttons. • **Consistent colour scheme** for the buttons, tables, headings. For example, navy blue for navigation bar, orange for the selected feature on bar, and cream colour for background. • **Contrasting colours** that are visually appealing. • **Work Sans font** produces a clean feel in the whole application.	*General layout of application screen:* 

Help users recognise, diagnose and recover from errors	• **Error messages** are present on several screens. For example, if a product already exists in an order and the user tries to add it, a textual error prompt will be shown. • **Alert boxes** allow users to recognise view restrictions, and recover from their errors e.g. attempting to delete an order that has been delivered.	*Textual Feedback:*  *Alert Box:*
Help and documentation	• **Help button** for users to easily access help documentation when they are unsure about how to use the application in the navigation bar. • **Documentation about icons** that are used from third-party publishers on About Us screen. • **Create Account button** on the login screen allows new users create an account	*Help in the navigation panel:*  *Account Options:*