

Progress Report - Calendar picker

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The progress report for the date entry experiment, as of Week 9, is as follows: We have determined that our experiment will be conducted as a 2x2 multifactor experiment. The first factor is testing between two types of date form entry interactions (date selector and typing in), as stated in the original proposal. The second factor is the closeness of the date being chosen to the current date the survey is conducted. This second factor is meant to balance the two types of calendar interactions because we determined that specific types of questions tend to favor one date entry format over the other.

Since the experiment is supposed to be a field experiment, we are changing our initial idea of a survey to mimic more of a form that one will fill out for certain services. We have determined that a car-rental form is an ideal test-case. If someone were to rent a car, they would need to fill out a form to establish their identification, the type of vehicle they want to rent, and the amount of time they want to rent the car. Our participants will be required to completely fill out a form and their execution time will be monitored, specifically for the date related portions, to determine the speediness for each type of calendar interaction. The date specific questions themselves will be asked in a paired format, such as a start date and an end date entry for the car rent dates, and a birthday and driver license expiration date for a second pair. The two types of questions will be tested at an individual level meaning that each participant will have a close to current date pair (the rental period) and a far off date pair (birth date and expiration date of license). Each date entry will be recorded individually starting once the participant clicks on the cell for date entry (when the cell gains “focus”) and ending when they click off of the cell (when the cell loses “focus”).

The form template has been decided by the group and has been linked to at the bottom of this report. This will include what the basic form will look like and what we will require the participants to fill out. Since we would like to avoid collecting actual sensitive information, we will be giving our participants a role to play, which will be detailed at the top of our form. The site/page on which the form will be on is currently in development and the specific features are being experimented with to determine how we would like the final form to appear. So far the form has a rough layout on Qualtrics and has also been created from scratch using html and css which is the format we are currently leaning towards. Once the required inputs are agreed upon for the form, they will be placed into the page/site to be finalized by the group. This decision will be made by this week.

As for the recruitment process, we are still determining where we should gather the participants. We are leaning towards asking acquaintances and using a survey site or crowdsourcing site like Mechanical turk or qualtrics to gather more participants so that our study has enough statistical power to determine an outcome. This decision will be established at our weekly meeting at the end of the week so that we can distribute the forms to begin collecting data. To determine the amount of participants needed to gain statistical power, we will conduct a pilot test with acquaintances to gather initial data and hash out any issues with the form. All participants will be randomly grouped to be included in one of the two calendar-type interactions, using a date picker or typing the date into a cell.

[Link to the survey/form template](#)