Major Digital Media
Technological Basics II
Sarah Haq

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REPORT: TECH-BASICS II

ROLF.: AN APP FOR BOYS WITHOUT A FATHER FIGURE

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INTRODUCTION

For this year's exam in the course Technological Basics II, held by lecturer Sarah Haq, I built an MVP (Minimum Viable Product) called ROLF. ROLF is a guiding app for young boys or men who have had to grow up without a father figure. Growing up with numerous male friends from single-parent households without their fathers, and me and my brother being the first sons in five generations in our family that grew up having their father, fatherlessness always has been a quite present topic in my life. Having a wonderful, loving father by my side for all my life, and getting taught many useful things by a man who had to learn all of them by himself, I had the idea to share the privilege of having a father teaching his son simple things that he needs to know in his adolescence. The app aims to teach simple things that a father usually teaches his son, such as how to shave, how to tie a tie, etc. The purpose of this app is firstly to answer questions that a fatherless boy might want to ask his father and secondly, possibly provide assistance with some practical matters. At the end of this report, I appended some screenshots to provide visual expressions of my application.

METHODOLOGY

Unlike the prototype that I developed for the course Technological Basics I, this MVP has all the necessary capabilities to be a functioning app. In addition to some major new features and improvements, there are no more placeholders for content but a fully equipped layout. For simplification reasons, I implemented variables for the colours as well as definitions for the most commonly used GUIs in my application.

The app is programmed to be easy to understand and easy to use since the target group is boys / young men who may not have a high level of understanding of complex applications. By accessing the app through a welcoming window the user arrives at a log-in window where you have to put in his name. This is done to provide the user with a more personal user experience and to radiate the feeling of personal attention. The following window of the main menu contains buttons for several other windows. By clicking on the modules button, the user can indicate his age by clicking on the „<18“ button or the „18+“ button, which then brings the user to an overview of the age-corresponding learning modules. For each of the 18 modules (9 for the under 18 year-olds and 9 for the over 18 year-olds), there are 4 basic tips and one suitable YouTube video, that is supposed to provide help for practical matters. The random module button chooses one of the 18 modules by coincidence, no matter the age of the user. At the bottom of the main

menu, we can see the last four buttons. First, there is a „What is ROLF.?“ button that takes us to an explanation window describing the purpose of the application. Next, we can see a help button where we can submit our e-mail address to ask questions, suggest modules, etc. The next button is the credits button that will show who and within what framework he developed the app and lastly, the quit button which will close the app.
Important side-note: since destroying the frame didn't work on my computer and since I was afraid it wouldn't work on some other computers as well, I decided to take the not-quite-as-elegant but equally efficient way of working with overlays to get to the next window to be able to guarantee that my code works on everyone's computer.

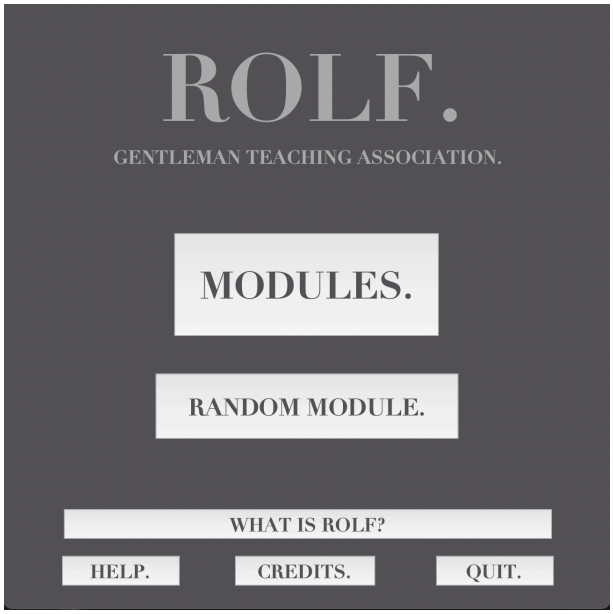
DESIGN

For the design of my application, I chose a minimalistic yet classy theme using only 2-3 colours overall. In contrast to the first version of ROLF, which I handed in for the Technological Basics I assignment, I chose the colours basalt and light grey instead of beige and grey. This is mainly because I wanted the app to convey a solid, consolidated impression, to look classier, more elegant, and more timeless but also to visually differentiate from the first version since the new version brings many more features. The minimalistic, classy theme is also recognizable in the symmetry, the choice of the font, and the arrangement of the buttons. In addition, I chose to avoid using images since they disturb the smooth and classy vibe and add unnecessary restlessness to the calm and minimalistic appearance of ROLF.

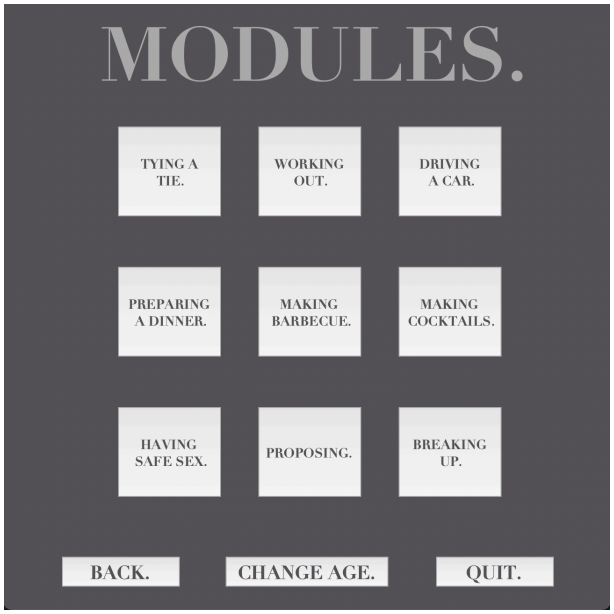
LIMITATIONS

The last chapter of the report is about the limitations of ROLF. First, it can be critisized that there is only a small selection of basic tips for each module which is due to the limited space but also the minimalist approach of the design. To still cover every question that could be asked, I put at least one suitable video for each module to guarantee good help. Another limitation is the help window since automatically sending an email as part of the helping window does not yet work, which is due to our limited programming skills. I still kept this window for completion and design reasons but I want to be transparent enough to admit that this limitation will live on. By trying to keep the limitations as few as possible, I am happy with what I created and had much fun while learning programming and writing this exam.

Start Window



Main Menu



Modules Menu

Module Example

Explanation Window

Help WIndow