



Overview

We decided to test our application in terms of usability on students mainly and instructors if given the opportunity. We were quite successful in finding willing students and collected a good variety of data. Unfortunately, we were not able to find an instructor to test our application this week due to conflicting schedules. However, we have a meeting set up with Marty Stepp on Wednesday and James Fogarty on Tuesday.

Participants

Our student participants included:

- Ryan, Graduate Student, Design & UI
- Andy, Sophomore, Biology
- Michael, Sophomore, Undecided
- Johnathan, Sophomore, Math
- Cleo, Sophomore, Art

Instructor participants intend to be:

- Marty Stepp, CS
- James Fogarty, CS

Method

We first explained the problem and our solution. Then we did an initial walk through of the system with the participant. During this walk through, we introduced the major features, functionality and the structure of the site. Then for our user test we tried to simulate a classroom setting where Amanda was the instructor and Chris, Mike, Robert, Christopher and our participant were the students. We walked them through the in-class scenario while making sure we had them complete the following tasks:

Task #1: You are a student that has just entered class. The lecture has started so you want to join the session and view the feed.

Task #2: You are halfway through the lecture. You suddenly have a question that you would like to ask. Submit it through the application.

Task #3: The instructor starts writing on the overhead. It is clear to you what is being written. Submit this feedback through the application.

Task #4: The instructor decides to create a "clicker question" through the application. Please submit your answer to the question.

Task #5: It's the end of the lecture.

Results

User Interface

Overall, the user interface was straight forward and most of the participants were able to navigate the site with one exception. The "Settings" link was confusing to our first participant, he was not able to navigate there to join the session without help. Once we clarified this to him, he stated that it didn't match what most of us were used to finding in a settings page and suggested that we change it to "Your courses" since essentially this was the place to manage the state of your courses. We made the change for the next participant and there was no longer any confusion.

Although most of our participants found the site appealing in the sense of layout and color scheme, one of our participants expressed that the color scheme was dull and the site seemed very amateur. Although the site had our logo, he felt that the layout and logo was "nothing special".

Usability

As first time users, the concept of adding courses and joining sessions was not clear. Our first participant stated that it would be nice for some prompt if no session was joined in the Home and Feed page as to what was going on or what options were available.

Although it was a little bit rough for our first participant to finish the tasks, some of our later participants were able to easily execute the tasks with little to no prompting.

Miscellaneous Feedback

Most of our participants liked the idea of this application and expressed that, if given the opportunity, they would be willing to try it out. However although we want to target larger classroom sizes our participants expressed that they see it more fitting for smaller classes such as 100-200 student lectures. They felt that in a larger class too, it would be too distracting if the feed was very active and in a class too small (10-20) there may not be enough activity to generate value.

Concerns

Most of our participants were concerned with spamming and distraction. We explained to them how we plan to address this in our stretch features and they were pretty satisfied with how we plan to deal with it. Also our first participant was particularly concerned about how fast the feed would reflect the changes if there was a lot of activity.