Lackluster Video UI Framework Prototype

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**Summary**

This iteration of the Lackluster Video UI Framework Prototype is built primarily using the single-page application design pattern. This is intended to give it the look and feel of a stand-alone application.

The overall design of the page is split into three main sections: actions, data submission, and content/confirmation.

The data flow of the UI goes from left to right, starting with an action selection which is split into two categories, Rentals/Management and Information. Once the user has made their action selection, the data submission panel and content/confirmation panel are generated dynamically based on the action selection.

This design philosophy is intended to give the client an overall sense of flow from left to right. Because the page is developed using bootstrap, on mobile devices this flow will instead travel from top to bottom when the sections are adjusted by the viewport settings.

**Actions**

There are two main categories of actions, Rentals/Management and Information. Rentals/Management has 4 possible actions, and Information has 3 possible actions. Each action can be further customized using the dynamically generated data submission panel.

Rentals and Management

The Rentals and Management (R&M) category contains all actions which modify the contents of the video, customer, and employee databases.

*Rental or Return*

The Rent or Return action provides the user with all necessary information and forms to complete a rental transaction, including adding and removing videos to the rental cart and confirming the transaction.

*Employees*

The Employees action provides the user with all necessary information and forms to add and remove employees, as well as modify their schedule as displayed within the application. The intent is for this to be possible to be done as a batch action, adding and removing multiple employees at once and then confirming the changes like a transaction.

*Customers*

The Customers action provides the user with all necessary information and forms to add and remove customers using the customer’s name, address, credit card number, or state ID/driver’s license number (The last two items do not yet have fields in the current UI prototype). The intent is for this to be possible to be done as a batch action, adding and removing multiple customers at once and then confirming the changes like a transaction.

*Stock*

The Stock action provides the user with all necessary information and forms to add and remove stock using a unique Video ID numbers.

Information

The information category provides actions which display useful information to the user about the database in human-readable format.

*Videos*

The videos action provides functionality for searching the database for a specific video and seeing information about it, as well as displaying sortable information for all videos. Not included in the current iteration of the UI is a field for searching by category, but this would likely be something worth implementing.

*Customers*

The customers action provides functionality for searching the database for specific customers and seeing information about them, as well as displaying a sortable list of all customers.

*Employees*

The employees action provides functionality for searching the database for specific employees and seeing information about them, as well as displaying a sortable list of all employees.

**Data Submission**

The data submission section of the UI is dynamically generated based on the type of action selected. Within the panel various options are provided for manipulating or searching data as well as confirming customer transactions, based on the action selected.

*Video ID Field*

Used in the Rent or Return action to add a video to or remove a video from the current transaction, and in the Stock action to add a or remove a video to the stock database.

*Employee ID Field*

Used in the Employees Rent or Return and Management action to add or remove an employee, or in the Employees Information action to look up a specific employee by ID.

*Customer ID*

Used in the R&M Customers action to add a customer by ID, and in the Customers Information action to look up a specific customer by ID.

*Customer Name*

Used in the R&M Customers action to add a customer by name, and in the Customers Information action to look up a specific customer by name.

*Employee Name*

Used in the R&M Employees action to add an employee by name, and in the Employees information actin to look up a specific employee by name.

*Video Name*

Used in the Videos action to look up a specific video by name.

*Add [Type]*

Each R&M data submission form has an add button. When the data is submitted, it should bring up a modal which allows the user to specify more specific details. If the user does not provide the details, or the webpage crashes, the transaction is reset.

*Remove [Type]*

Each R&M data submission form has a remove button. When clicked, it will remove the record associated with the specified information from the database and update the UI.

*Search [Type]*

Each Information data submission form has a search button. When clicked, it will search for all records which contain or match the associated data.

*Show All [Type]*

Each Information data submission form has a show all button, which shows all records in the content pane.

*Detailed Search [Type]*

Each Information data submission form has a detailed search button, which is intended to display a modal pane over the webpage with further search parameters.

**Content and Confirmation**

The content and confirmation page is intended to provide information about a specific transaction or search, as well as allow for the user to select a specific record from a set of searchable records and view or edit information about that record.

*Header Row*

The header row of the content pane labels the data beneath it in each column.

*Data Row*

Data rows, which are not implemented currently in the UI, are intended to display the data associated with each record.

For R&M content, data rows display information regarding the changes which will be made to the database upon confirmation of the transaction or changes. Clicking items in the data rows should display options to add or remove the item from the transaction or change, and show more detailed information about the data item.

For Information content, the data rows display actual records in the database. Because the information section is designed to restrict changes to data in the database without allowing the user to manipulate that data, clicking data items should not allow the user to manipulate it. Rather, clicking the data item should display more information about the data item in a static window.

*Confirmation Button*

For R&M content, the confirmation button confirms the transaction, or the addition/removal of employees, customers, and videos. The confirmation button does not appear in Information content.

**To Do**

For future iterations, I would like to split the Rent or Return action out of the Rentals and Management section and make it a top-level button without an accordion, then rename Rentals and Management to Management. I would like to do this because I want to be able to easily hide all the management actions from non-management staff logins. This only became apparent to me after I finished the prototype.