P5: WORKING PROTOTYPE

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Data from P4 Conceptual Use Study (for reference)

Group #1 (P2 prototype)

1. Scale 1 (dislike) - 5 (like), do you think you have enough freedom when you explore facebook?
    - Yes, 3.
2. Scale 1 (dislike) - 5 (like), do you like to see more diverse news on your facebook feed?
    - Yes, 4.
    - I don't want to see all things too extreme or too liberal
    - I want to see more of something from the center
3. Scale 1 (difficult) - 5 (easy), how easy and difficult to use this application?
    - 5 - easiest
4. Do you find annoying when using this application?
    - Not really, it's good.
5. What do you like most about this application?
    - I can read many articles.
    - They are right there and very easy to access.
6. What do you want to see more?
    - Statistic about the article.
    - I want to know why you offer me this article.
    - Notification, alert that draw my attention.
7. Would you like to download and use Chrome extension like this application which bring better news into your facebook feeds
    - Yes, I would.
8. How often are you willing to click on our chrome extension?
    - Probably not often.
    - I don't really read news.

Group #2 (P3 prototype)

1. Scale 1 (dislike) - 5 (like), do you think you have enough freedom when you explore facebook?
    - Not so, still have to scroll up and down to choose articles to read, too much work to scroll up and down, color the section
2. Scale 1 (dislike) - 5 (like), do you like to see more diverse news on your facebook feed?
    - Yes, 5.
3. Scale 1 (difficult) - 5 (easy), how easy and difficult to use this application?
    - 4, pretty intuitive. But a bit confused on getting to the next step.
4. Do you find annoying when using this application?

    - Not really.
5. What do you like most about this application?
    - It's useful and will force users to read more articles.
6. What do you want to see more?
    - This application is more for specific audience. Recommend to try out some specific articles to users. Message box should give more guidance.
7. What do you want to see less?
    - Can't think of anything now.
8. Would you like to download and use Chrome extension like this application which bring better news into your facebook feeds
    - Just download to check it out since I doesn't really read news.
1. How often are you willing to click on our chrome extension?
    - Probably not often since I don't have much time to read news articles.

Reflection

The process of our Conceptual Use Study was pretty smooth. However, although the groups we interviewed found the prototypes to be pretty intuitive, there were some difficulties explaining how they functioned in the beginning. One thing that we learned from the Conceptual Use Study that was different from what we had previously been thinking about is that users appreciate a sort of interaction, especially visually, with the app, something that suggests actions that guide them to the "right direction", i.e. being exposed to more diverse news. This stemmed from the enhancement we made to our dark horse prototype (which takes away a user's Facebook feed until they read at least 3 diverse articles) thanks to Professor Tang's advice of needing to make the cause/effect relationship between actions more clear; the small message pop-ups we added that suggested to users to change their news reading behavior were appreciated, but the users we interviewed wanted even more guidance and suggested more visual communication, for example through colors. In the same vein, the users we interviewed suggested a notification pop-up for our P2 prototype in order to attract their attention.

After our conceptual use study and the enlightenment about visual feedback/interaction, we came up with a design that is a Chrome extension that tracks a user's browsing behavior and presents tips and warnings ("This site is not known to be accurate", etc.) through an interactive character which appears on the browser screen. However, after a lot of brainstorming and debating, we could not figure out how/when to present this character in unintrusive way or how to correctly inform a user about an article's reliability or bias, since these are usually variable. We decided to ditch our attempt to create an automatically responsive platform and came up with a new idea (below) that builds off of our P2 idea.

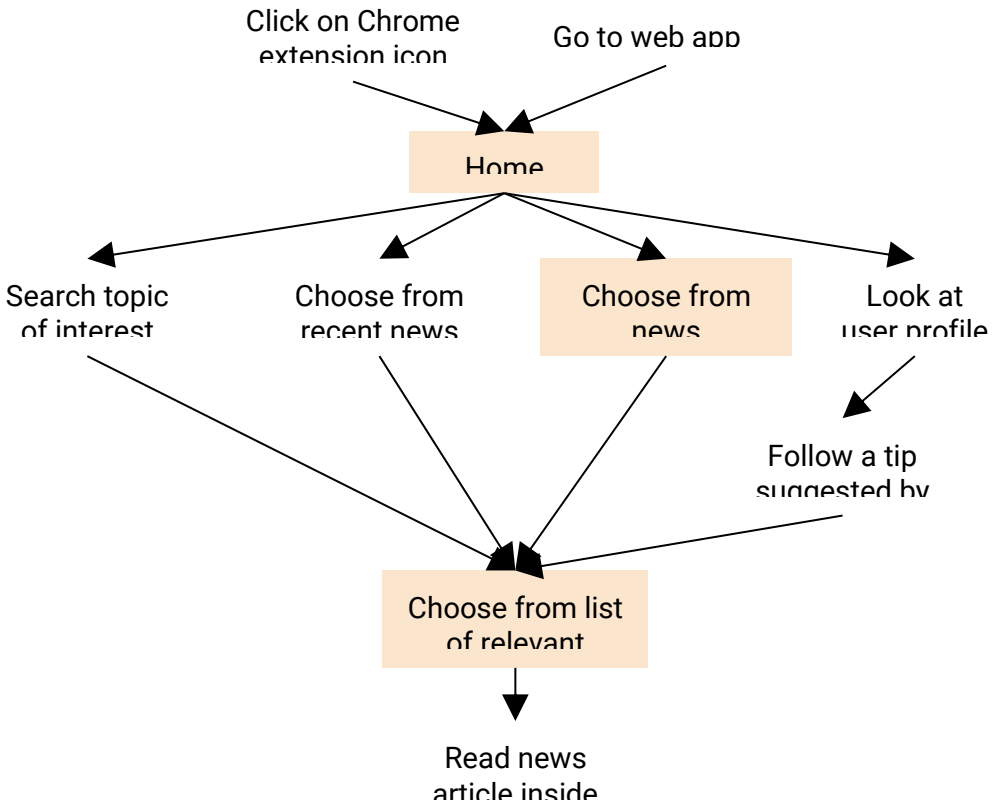
Final prototype design concept

Our new idea focuses on visual feedback and guidance. It is a standalone web app connected through a Chrome extension (that does require a user's voluntary action of going to the site/clicking the Chrome extension icon). This web app aggregates news from a diverse set of

reputably reliable news sources and displays them in the order of time published. The home screen concentrates on a search capability that allows the user to follow their own interests. The main feature is a user profile that collects data based on user behavior and presents a clear representation of resulting statistics through graphs/numbers/colors. The user can see what topics they have been reading about, what biases the articles they have been reading have, if any patterns emerge around this behavior, etc. The platform then suggests different actions the user can take to change their behavior if necessary.

Core task
The user wants to read an article about immigration, looks at the drop-down menu for an immigration category, and browses the search results page for an article they want to read.

State diagram
(highlighted actions implemented/simulated for P5)



Link to video
https://photos.app.goo.gl/nB5lA2yCoPyAic653

Link to GItHub repo
https://github.com/haotianx/cs160-project