CMSI 370-01
INTERACTION DESIGN
Fall 2012

Assignment 1101 Feedback

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A little preface to give you a context for the assigned proficiencies below: Your particular assignment involved a lot of "copy and adapt" work, which happens with some frequency in software development. It acknowledges that you are basing your own work on prewritten code, but does require that you understand this prior code sufficiently enough to get your own stuff done. Overall, you did this job quite well; the main trick with "copy and adapt" is to make sure that your adaptation is complete: no overlooked new/different functionality, no leftover comments, holdover names (variables, functions), etc. Also, as "copy and adapt" occurs, the chance of unnecessary code repetition grows, so it is also good to review the overall code base as it evolves, in order to consolidate emerging repetitions. Doing this latter part well does require some experience, but it is hoped that you started getting some initial exposure with this assignment.

3a — You certainly got a good dose of user interface construction experience here, and overall pulled it off decently. In the process of adaptation, though, you missed some key *differences* in the functionality you were implementing. In particular, your lists have some preset values, but their availability is not really clear in the user interface. They behave like a "search" is being done for them, which is technically true, but not really in the true sense of the term. It sounds like a visible dropdown would be useful here, as a cue to the user that some preset values are available.

You thus can take better advantage of what the menus/forms/dialogs interaction style can do in terms of usability than what you showed. This is the aspect of the user interface construction area that can use improvement. (**|**)

3b — You took the prior event handling code and generally adapted it well to the new functionality. (**+**)

3c — Your code shows good MVC understanding. (**+**)

4a — UI design misses aside, you implemented what you do have quite well. One glitch was the emergence, with the addition of this functionality, with new potential for code consolidation. We did some of that in class, but it would be useful to continue keeping an eye out for this, especially if you plan to resubmit. Functionally also, some integration of Ajax would be good to do, although it is true that this is not directly related to user interface design. (**|**)

4b — Your MVC separation is clean, preserving the prior MVC separation well. (**+**)

4c — You still got caught with your tabs down **:)** Make sure you wrangle your respective editors into submission there. In a way, the expectation that you code stays readable is even higher for this particular assignment, given that you had a lot of pre-existing code to follow in terms of formatting. Plus, you had some commented-out blocks that really could have been deleted—these detract from overall readability. (**/**)

4d — Your relatively successful implementation, possible UI design improvements aside, shows effective use of available resources and documentation. (**+**)

4e — Acceptable commit rate and messages, though it appears that you started working on this later than you could have. Also, as mentioned, version control allows you to delete commented-out code with more confidence, so they don't get in the way but you can still retrieve them if needed. (**|**)

4f — Submitted on time. (**+**)