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Design Review 3 - SpeechV

The SpeechV group was highly successful in achieving their Alpha Release goals. They made a well organized user guide to list their products commands and had a helpful window to display the status of the voice recognition. Enumeration of links on a webpage is neatly organized and intuitive to use. Overall, the group has made great progress in achieving their Alpha Release goals. The SpeechV group is also well on their way to completing their Beta Release goals. It seems they are prepared to test voice recognition for Chun-Han and adding text-editing functionality to their program.

        The group’s successes included enumerating links on a webpage in a manner that is easy to understand and command. We were also pleasantly surprised that they had thought to remove homophonic letters from their enumeration of links, so if “m” was a listed letter on a link, “n” would not be in order for the program to not be confused by the two. We liked their user interface, and were particularly pleased by the small window giving the user feedback on whether their voice commands are being recognized.  We are considering incorporating their use of the Google Cloud Speech API for our voice application, particularly since it would remove our need for an Amazon Echo. The group worked well together to explain how their product works with each member taking care to illustrate the various functionalities and answer our questions.

        SpeechV may improve their product by incorporating their list of voice commands somewhere on the screen the product is running. For example, a “help” command could bring up their list of commands to help the user identify the command they would like to use. It was also difficult to read the text on the small display window. It would be helpful to incorporate a command that could resize the window, so that the user could choose between a large window or a smaller, unobtrusive one. The user may also find it useful if they could further customize the font size and/or background color so that they could choose the settings that they find the easiest to read.

        The actual functionality of the app does not seem to have any bugs, other than the fact that it is difficult to use in a crowded room, but that is likely not an issue that would be encountered in everyday use. Most suggestions that we planned to make (opening applications, custom commands, etc.) are included in their beta goals. Our one suggestion regarding functionality is that we’re concerned about what would happen if Chun-Han used one of the commands while dictating an essay or similar. The SpeechV team should include some method of ensuring that the user does not unintentionally give commands during normal use, perhaps by implementing a “wake word” that must be given before each command, or by creating a sleep mode during which SpeechV doesn’t respond to commands until instructed to turn on again. Overall, though, SpeechV is a very well thought out projects.