Home Media Web Application

Design Specifications

# Scope:

The idea for this application arose from the need to easily keep track of what movies exist in a digital home media collection. Often one person is elected to manage this library. This person has to manage request from other users of the library. If requests are mentioned in passing or written down, this can result in lost or forgotten requests. Even if a request is completed, it may never be mentioned to the person who asked for the movie. Both the person maintaining the library and the person making requests may quickly become frustrated as there is no clear way to track request from the time it is made to the time it is completed. In addition to this users may be unaware of change made to their media library or may be unaware of the contents. The person maintaining the library make quickly feel overwhelmed by requests for information.

The solution we purpose is the improvement of an existing web application to allow users to effectively manage a media library. This application is intended of in home use only. It targets small groups of users and allows them easier access to information about the contents of their media library. This information includes what movies exist in their database and information about those movies (rating, reviews, trailers etc.…). Ideally, with enough time the ability to stream movies locally would also be added. Features will be implemented as follows:

1) Fix bugs in existing application

2) Customization of /Improvement UI

Improve the current design of the website and allow users to choose from custom skins

3) Embedded Information in App

Currently the application only has basic information available for media. Any extra information is provided through a link to an external site. This site will be embedded in the app along with a trailer and reviews from other users. This information would be provided through IMDB.

4) Improve interaction between local users and administrator

This will be accomplished by allowing non-administrators to request and rate shows. The administrator will be able to view and handle requests and view how local users rated/favourited shows in the library. This is intended to help them add appropriate content to the library and to track what shows have been added.

5) Allow users to view contents and rate videos

We wish to add a social aspect to this. In this context we will refer to Global, rather than local users. Ratings and review would become available to other Global Users of the application. As A Global User will be able to search for reviews by other Global Users. If there is time we will allow users to rate review based on usefulness and leave comments.

6) Get recommendations for users based on their favorites/ratings

7) Improved categorization of movies

Currently movies are only searchable/sortable by name. Possible enhancements include genre, running time and rating

8) If possible test with a user group to ensure usability goals have been met

9) The ability to play video in browser through home media server

These modifications, with the exception of usability are listed in order from high to low priority. We hope to test for usability after the initial redesign of the page layout and at the end of development. This may occur more or less based on the availability of participates.

# Time Line

The timeline specifies the time that should be allotted to each item in order of completion.

**1.5 Week**

Complete Front-End design (UI design) / Fix existing bugs in sections not being torn down

**3 days if time/Participants**

Usability Testing (Ideally)/Possible Tweaks to UI/ Debugging (based on test results)

**2 -2 .5 Weeks Starts Same Time as Usability Testing**

Embedded Information in Applications, Improved interaction between users and admins

Allow users to rate/review videos

Give Users recommendations based on ratings/favorites

**\*This requires sever/cloud setup**

**2 weeks**

Improved categorization of movies /searches this is to include the implementation of a recommender system