MicroLink-Protoype Rapid User Testing Report

Scope of Test

This rapid user test evaluates the current state of the MicroLink-Prototype interface (https://nmjames86877.github.io/njames86877.github.io/welcome.html) for usability, accessibility, and emotional resonance. The test focuses on three simulated personas.

1. Engineering Student with Physical Disability
2. Tech Enthusiast with ADHD
3. Optician's Apprentice with PTSD

Goal

The goal is to assess how well the interface supports their unique needs in terms of navigation, clarity, symbolic feedback, and trust-building mechanisms

Method

Each persona was guided through the following tasks:

- Navigate from the welcome page to the Site Map, Settings, and Support sections.
- Interpret the symbolic and textual elements of the interface.
- Reflect on emotional and functional responses to the interface's tone, structure, and feedback mechanisms.

Observations were recorded based on:

- Task completion time (identified experience)
- Points of confusion or friction (identified experience)
- Emotional reactions (simulated)
- Recommendations for improvement

Results

1. 

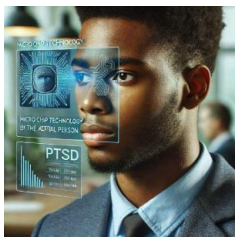
Engineering Student with Physical Disability

• Successes: Easily identified large, high-contrast links; appreciated the minimal scrolling.
• Challenges: Found the clickable areas slightly too small for limited motor control; lacked voice or gesture-based navigation.
• Feedback: “I like the simplicity, but I need more hands-free options.”

2. 

Tech Enthusiast with ADHD

• Successes: Engaged by the symbolic branding and modular layout; appreciated the clear segmentation of content.
• Challenges: Felt overwhelmed by the lack of dynamic feedback or progress indicators; desired more visual hierarchy.
• Feedback: “I need more visual cues to stay focused—animations or highlights would help.”

3. 

Optician’s Apprentice with PTSD

• Successes: Responded positively to the calm, non-intrusive design and symbolic affirmation of identity.
• Challenges: Wanted clearer guidance on what each section does; found the prototype disclaimer unsettling.
• Feedback: “I need reassurance—maybe a guided walkthrough or a calming onboarding screen.”

Conclusion

The MicroLink-Prototype demonstrates strong symbolic coherence and modular clarity, aligning well with its mission of dignity, accessibility, and identity affirmation. However, the current interface lacks adaptive feedback, assistive interaction modes, and emotional scaffolding for users with cognitive or physical challenges.

Design Recommendations

1. Accessibility Enhancements

- Implement larger touch targets and keyboard/voice navigation for users with motor impairments.
- Add ARIA labels and screen reader support for all interactive elements.

2. Cognitive Support Features

- Introduce animated transitions, hover tooltips, and progress indicators to guide attention and reduce cognitive load.
- Use color-coded modules or symbolic animations to reinforce structure and purpose.

3. Emotional and Symbolic Onboarding

- Create a guided welcome ritual that explains the interface's symbolic elements and purpose.
- Add affirmative microinteractions (e.g., subtle glows, affirming messages) to reinforce user agency and trust.

4. Multimodal Interaction

- Begin prototyping gesture-based navigation and voice command integration for hands-free control.
- Explore biometric-triggered UI states (e.g., calming mode for PTSD users).

5. Trust and Transparency

- Replace the prototype disclaimer with a symbolic trust badge and a link to a transparent roadmap.
- Offer biometric verified living human user-consent controlled trust and privacy settings directly from the welcome screen.

-**Nicholas J.**