Intertext: User Evaluation

The simplicity of consuming data is lost within the complexity of modern-day applications; nowadays, something as simple as checking the weather, reading a news article, browsing an image gallery, buying a product or service and filling out a form can be frustrating and time-consuming. We identified fundamental problems that leads to user experience problems and the compromise of user privacy and security. The address these problems as much as possible, we created Intertext.

DISCLAIMER: Some of the Intertext applications and/or the features mentioned in this survey are not yet fully implemented, and should be thought as proof-of-concepts for the time being. As of now, only the core engine that powers the rendering process, and the Intertext web client is implemented. An Intertext command line client is under the works.

* Required

1. Worker ID *

_____

2. What is your age group ? *

   Mark only one oval.

   - ⬭ 0 - 16
   - ⬭ 17 - 30
   - ⬭ 31 - 45
   - ⬭ Above 45

3. What is your gender (optional) ?

   Mark only one oval.

   - ⬭ Female
   - ⬭ Male
   - ⬭ Other: _____

4.   Your country of origin (optional) ?

Evaluation

Intertext is a platform that provides developers with a set of building blocks to build their applications. These building blocks are merely definitions/descriptions of actions and UI components in a functional sense without any form of presentational and experiential concerns. The development output of applications built with Intertext are functional descriptions with no visual cues. One can think of this output as "headless" applications definitions.

Intertext also offers a set of client applications that can render these outputs into fully functional front-ends. These are to include clients for different platforms, optimised for the host environment given its constraints. For instance Intertext web client renders these application definitions using web technologies suitable for a Desktop experience, whereas Intertext client for mobile renders them as Native mobile application.

Intertext clients can be thought of as web browsers such as Google Chrome and Safari, and it works in a similar manner. A user visits a website through a web browser, and the browser renders the website for them. It is similar to how Intertext works, with some fundamental differences and key benefits.

Please see below link to preview Intertext web client, and some of these UI components:
https://inx.oguzgelal.com/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fintertext-backend-demo.herokuapp.com%2Fdemo

UI / UX Inconsistencies

Problem:
It is not uncommon to see visual presentation of components with the same functionality to differ across front-end implementations, often confusing the end users. Inconsistencies are often seen not only within a platform or cross-platform, but even a single front-end application can have inconsistencies within itself. This can arise from a variety of different reasons ranging from poor design to poor implementation.

Solution:
Intertext comes with building blocks that consists of standardised UI components that guarantees every instance of every component looks consistent. This guarantees consistency not only within a single application, but also across different applications and even across different platforms.

5.   Standardised UI components will improve the consistency across front-end
      applications *

      only one answer

      Mark only one oval.

      ⃝ Strongly disagree

      ⃝ Disagree

      ⃝ Neutral

      ⃝ Agree

      ⃝ Strongly Agree

6.   I prefer consistency over variability *

      Mark only one oval.

      ⃝ Strongly disagree

      ⃝ Disagree

      ⃝ Neutral

      ⃝ Agree

      ⃝ Strongly Agree

Intrusive Advertisement

Problem:
A common source of frustration for users is intrusive online advertisement and numerous other attention-grabbing call-to-action popups that diverts users attention from the content they are consuming.

Solution:
Intertext provides a set of UI components that can be used to build applications with, and is in complete control of the rendering process. While it cannot stop websites from advertising, the advertisements are also subject to these provided UI components, thus eliminating any non-standard attention-grabbing annoyances that users commonly faces.

7.   I prefer advertisements to blend in naturally to the look-and-feel of the website instead of sticking out *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Strongly disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Neutral

( ) Agree

( ) Strongly Agree

8.   I am okay with seeing non-intrusive and respectful advertisement (with no compromise on privacy), OR paying a small fee in order to support the creator *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Strongly disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Neutral

( ) Agree

( ) Strongly Agree

Lack of Accessibility

Problem:
Due to its high costs of implementation and maintenance, accessibility is often overlooked by developers. For many users with accessibility needs, applications are often hit-or-miss with no consistency of how accessible applications are.

Solution:
Intertext comes with standardised UI components, that are implemented with full accessibility support. Every application built on Intertext platform uses the same set of UI components, which guarantees the same level of consistent accessibility support for every Intertext application.

9.   I would benefit from the guaranteed accessibility aspect of Intertext (see
     description below) *

A common misconception of "accessibility" is that it is intended only for people with disabilities. W3C on
accessibility: "Web accessibility also benefits people without disabilities" ... such as, "people using mobile
phones, smart watches, smart TVs, and other devices with small screens", "older people with changing
abilities due to ageing", "people with 'temporary disabilities' such as a broken arm or lost glasses", "people
with 'situational limitations' such as in bright sunlight", "people using a slow Internet connection" and so
on.

Mark only one oval.

⬭ Strongly disagree

⬭ Disagree

⬭ Neutral

⬭ Agree

⬭ Strongly Agree

Lack of Customisability

Problem:
For many front-end applications, customisability is rarely a concern. Front-end ecosystem works in the way that
the developer decides on the look and feel of an application rather than the user. In the recent years, there is a
slight trend shift towards some level of customisability, however, very few front-end applications provide such
features.

Solution:
Thanks to the UI components being standardised, Intertext clients allows users to customise them and/or apply
pre-defined themes. With this approach, user decides on how applications across the Intertext client looks and
feels like.

10.   I prefer customisability over variability *

Mark only one oval.

⬭ Strongly disagree

⬭ Disagree

⬭ Neutral

⬭ Agree

⬭ Strongly Agree

11.   I love that I can create my own theme OR chose a theme I like ~~that applies for~~ all my *(and apply it to)*
      applications *

      Mark only one oval.

      ◯ Strongly disagree

      ◯ Disagree

      ◯ Neutral

      ◯ Agree

      ◯ Strongly Agree

12.   I prefer choosing the look-and-feel I like for all apps, instead of each app
      ~~choosing their own for me~~ * *(having their own look-and-feel)*

      Mark only one oval.

      ◯ Strongly disagree

      ◯ Disagree

      ◯ Neutral

      ◯ Agree

      ◯ Strongly Agree

Lack of Cross-platform Support

Problem:
Every now and then, we find ourselves in situations where we are trying to operate a web application with no responsiveness or touch support from our phone—or having to stand up from ~~in front of~~ our computer to reach for our phone because the messaging application we want to use is only available for mobile. Hardships in cross-platform application development often result in poor user experience due to compatibility issues and sometimes *(a)* complete lack of availability.

Solution:
Intertext offers a number of clients for multiple platforms that offers Native experiences, ~~such as~~ *(include)* Intertext for web, iOS, Android, macOS, *(or)* Windows ~~etc~~. Once an Intertext application is built using the building blocks we provide, it can run on every Intertext client on every device.

13.   I would be interested in seeing applications running natively on alternative
      platforms/devices (ie, *i.e.* other than desktop/mobile - such as wearables, command
      line interfaces etc.) *

      Mark only one oval.

      ◯ Strongly disagree

      ◯ Disagree

      ◯ Neutral

      ◯ Agree

      ◯ Strongly Agree

14.   If all devices/platforms/environments supported all applications *that* I use natively, it
      would increase the use of my other devices. *

      Mark only one oval.

      ◯ Strongly disagree

      ◯ Disagree

      ◯ Neutral

      ◯ Agree

      ◯ Strongly Agree

Privacy and Security Concerns

Problem:

In the open market, where everyone can create user-facing applications, there is little to no enforcement mechanism or quality control measures. At times, this results in a compromise in users' security and privacy. Users, especially of old age, can be lead to downloading and executing harmful software. Without alerting the user, a foreign script can be executed on the users' device/browser, leading to severe security and privacy concerns.   third-party

Software applications are coded in programming languages, which gets executed by the host platform to run the application. While the host platform can apply some restrictions, it is very hard, if not impossible to detect malicious intentions in a code before execution, and prevent everything it can do during the execution.

Solution:

Intertext's approach to combat this problem is to take away the ability for applications to execute code on user devices all together. Intertext clients expects applications to implement their business logic on the server side, and only send instructions to them in a text-based and non-executable format. After receiving these instructions as text, Intertext clients only parses them, and no foreign code execution happens. Data providers have no influence on the workings of Intertext clients, other than providing simple text-based instructions. Intertext clients are in full control of what happens on users devices, providing a fully secure environment to the user.

15.   I would prefer guaranteed privacy and security over rich front-end functionality
       *

       Disallowing foreign code execution on device has a limitation that rich front-end functionality cannot be implemented by the developer; such as animations, transitions etc.

       Mark only one oval.

       ◯ Strongly disagree

       ◯ Disagree

       ◯ Neutral

       ◯ Agree

       ◯ Strongly Agree

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