Team

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Video Showing Prototype in Action:

[https://youtu.be/oasJc7\_2RI4](https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FoasJc7_2RI4&h=ATNNaEQZKkgx6u9MiL43cjSzRZv_NG4vbCzwO6jkXPbmDfqYu6260h2q6XNKFmPy9XSPt3iAIgoQJC89QkHZVValGiyis0wS4EpV47ZpNeaDVqo52mGRMwynlJ2KC7QvX9VsLhyv4U6rEXfDTpH0M4snSKT31w)

Github Repo Link:

<https://github.com/mintseng/cs160-final-project>

**Conceptual Use Study**

**Measures**

Survey Questions:

1. What do you think about how much power the speaker has?
2. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate the UI?
3. What did you like/dislike about it?

For Dark Horse:

1. Do you think you would be willing to use the web app with the inclusion of the Venmo feature?
   1. Why/why not?

**Procedure**:

1. Split into two groups, one to test out the traditional prototype and one to test out the dark horse prototype
2. Have each group interact with prototype while also allowing them to critique and give feedback as they go
   1. We explain our thought process and additional considerations about the UI as they go
3. Ask survey questions pertaining to each prototype at the end
4. If there is still time, have the two groups talk about their respective prototypes and discuss their general thoughts

**Survey responses:**

Group 1:

Dark Horse:

1. Agreed that the speaker should have the final say in deeming whether a comment was good or bad
2. 5, seems intuitive
3. Liked the that the venmo feature forced users to quality control their contributions and prevent trolls
   1. Thought that the inclusion of Venmo was very interesting (for the reasons as said above) and said they would at least check out an application with such a feature

Traditional:

1. Wondered if the speaker should have so much power (in the case that the speaker was more extreme on the political spectrum and had incentive to downvote opposing comments)
2. 4
3. Mostly asked about why the speaker had so much power and suggested having a weighted point distribution among participants and speaker; possibly take into consideration political leanings of both speaker and participants

Group 2:

Dark Horse:

1. Also questioned if the speaker should have as much as they do. Proposed that participants be able to vote on comments and speaker have the ability to overturn rulings (in regard to venmo charges) they deemed unfair
2. 5
3. Disliked how much initial power the speaker has. Liked how the venmo feature gave participants a personal stake in the quality of their contributions.
   1. They also said they would be willing to try out the application with the Venmo feature
   2. Seemed intrigued by the possibility of “social repercussions” as the final venmo charges would be public and people’s social circles would see if they had been fined for trolling in the app

Traditional

1. Agreed that the speaker should be the final arbitrator on the quality of comments/contributions
2. 4
3. Liked the overall execution/idea of the prototype. Questioned how the speaker would be able to quality control so many comments

**Conceptual Use Study Reflection**

Users reacted positively to the Venmo feature that was introduced in the Dark Horse prototype. The general consensus was that it would not only discourage trolling, but also help foster more carefully crafted contributions from users. Our test users said they were intrigued by the concept and the potential heightened quality of the conversations. We liked this because by forcing the users to have a personal stake in the conversation, we were able to address our group’s initial concern about managing trolls and spam comments. In addition, the last group really liked the possibility of “social repercussions” keeping users in check should their friends see their public Venmo transactions of getting fined for trolling in the application. However, getting over the initial barrier of connecting Venmo was something that a few of our users mentioned in passing. This made us realize that even though people generally liked the edgy concept, they would not necessarily be down to actually follow through if they were hesitant to link their Venmo account or didn’t have an account similar to Venmo.

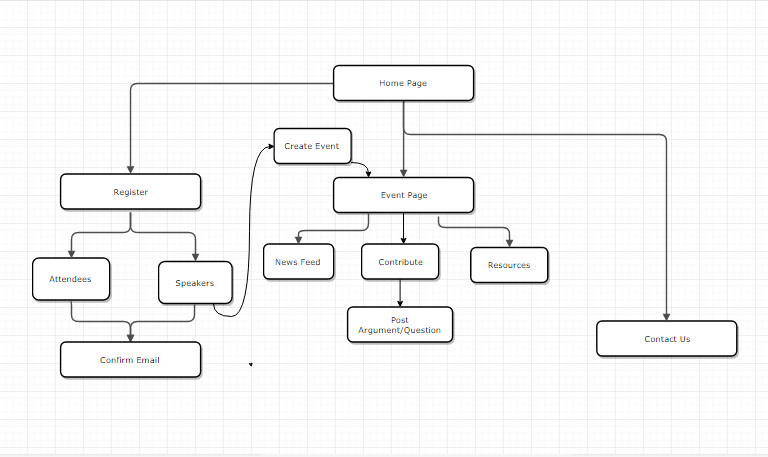
We included a question to measure how users felt about the speaker having a lot of power in quality controlling comments because that was a concept that not everyone seemed to be completely on board with. Because most of the groups ended up bringing up concerns about the speaker having a lot of power, we are considering exploring other ways of determining the quality of comments (especially if we were to have something tangible like money at stake). As per our discussions with the groups at the end, we ended up thinking of some more ways to judge comments. One way would be to have users upvote/downvote comments but allow the speaker to decide whether those judgements were fairly justified. In this case, the speaker would be able to unblock/retract a fine from a comment that he deemed was unfairly judged. Another way to quality control comments would be to have the upvotes/downvotes be weighted with the speaker having say 60% weight and participants having 40%. We will consider these options as we move forward.

For the most part, users were able to navigate through the application with ease and liked the overall concept and execution of the prototypes. Although our users seemed to be more enthusiastic about our Dark Horse Venmo concept at first, as they discussed it further, they seemed to realize the initial barrier of depositing money (as well as trusting others to value their own money as much as they did) might be higher than they had thought. Moving forward, implementing a Venmo feature might be too much of a jump for a lot of users, but we will keep in mind a similar feature to keep users accountable. In addition, we will most likely follow user feedback about the speaker’s power over judging comments by creating a more balanced system from the ideas mentioned previously.

**Design Concept Statement**

Our prototype follows the design of a forum. We wanted the attendees at a panel to contribute rather than just sit there a listen. We also wanted a way where the minority opinion could be expressed in an anonymous way. We start off with the homepage where any person can browse through the events. We also allow the option of registering, but this is not required to see the information of the events. Clicking on Register will take you to a page where Attendees and Speakers can sign up, with different forms for each type of user. A person is able to see all the upcoming events on the homepage using a grid system with images. The images are large to show importance and attract the user’s attention and each event image has a clickable link in the middle to lead to further details. After seeing all the upcoming events, a person is able to click into the event to see more details of the event such as the time, location, and event summary. On the event page, the user is able to navigate to the “Feed”, “Contribute”, and “Resources” tab. The “Feed” page follows the layout of a forum. Users and speakers are also able to upvote or downvote posts. The contribute page prompts you with fillable fields and this where users can submit their questions and arguments, similar to posting to a forum. The “Resources” tab provides more details about the topic and provides links/texts for additional reading.

**State Diagram**

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