Co-designing a data management tool with chef school members



Problem Statement

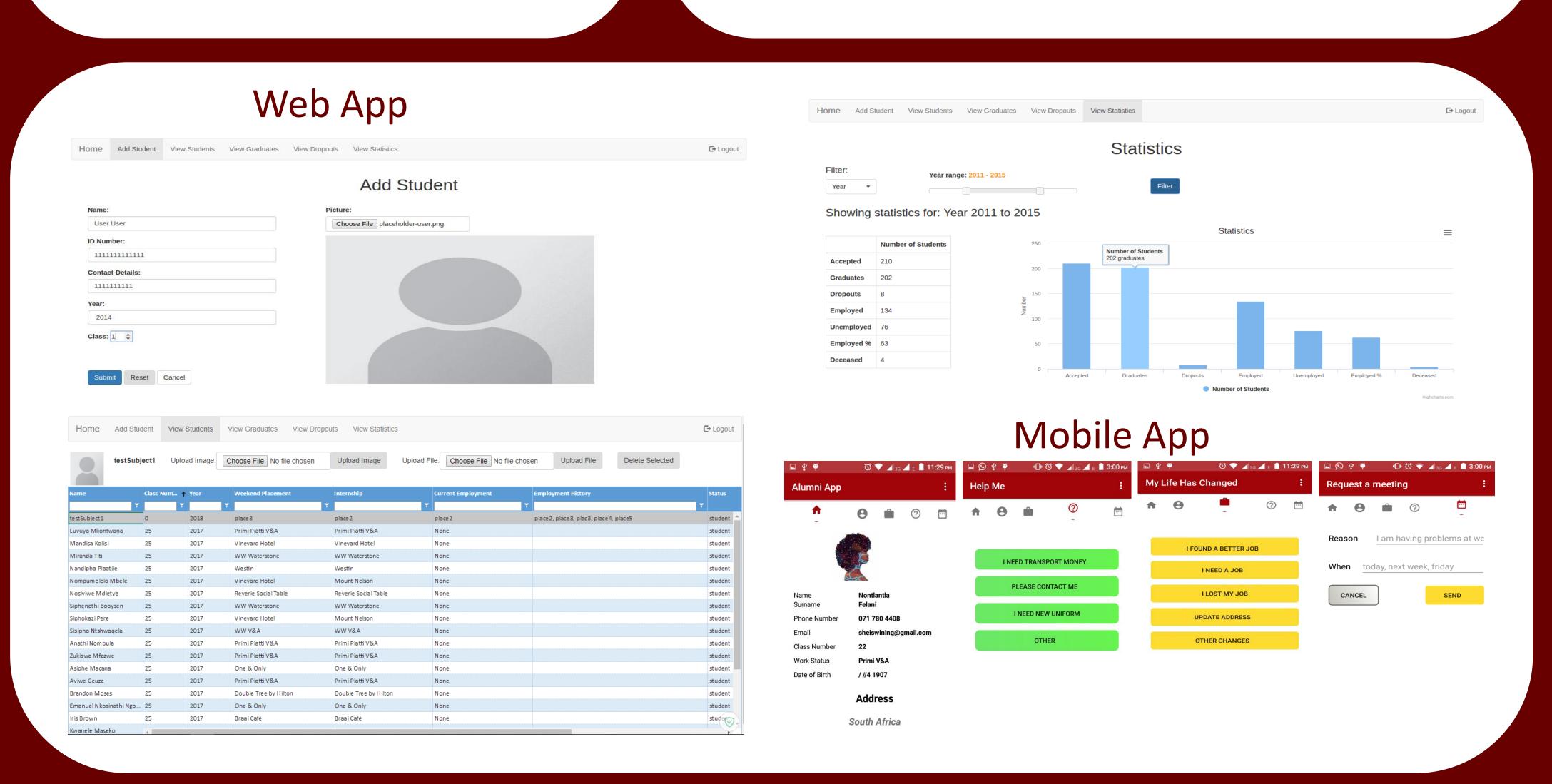
The administration staff of Infinity Culinary Training (ICT), a chef school in Cape Town, has challenges with their current system of storing and managing student information. Their spreadsheet-organised system is becoming increasingly difficult to manage with a growing number of graduates. Thus, ICT seeks a data management solution with minimal costs, requires no technical support, and provides an easy-to-use interface that meets their exact requirements.

Objectives

Our research set out to investigate these research questions:

- How do users perceive the system?
- How would users want to interact with the system?
- What features do users identify to be the most important in the system?

We used co-design methods to collaboratively design the system with admin and students of ICT. We followed an iterative design process, in which we designed paper prototypes, mediumfidelity prototypes and finally software prototypes, which were evaluated using cognitive walkthroughs, post-test questionnaires and a heuristic evaluation.



Conclusions

- We identified that users wanted a system that will enable them to:
 - Easily manage information about students and graduates.
 - Allow students and graduates to update their information in the mobile app, which then updates the admin database.
 - Visualise the school's statistics.
- Users felt that through the process of co-design their ideas were heard and valued. It allowed for a solution that was something the users wanted to use.
- The use of co-design throughout the project was beneficial in designing an admin system and student app for ICT with high usability.





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