

Project Proposal

Project Title: Portable Devices Purchase Helper

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Overview

This project aims to build a purchase guiding system that helps potential customers search, compare and choose a fittest portable device.

In modern days, people spend more and more time on their portable devices than a PC. The market share of portable devices is growing fast, and so many companies have participated in this area by launching their creative products. These devices have different target customers and emphasis on certain parameters. Therefore, it may be an issue for customers who don't have much knowledge on electronic devices but want to purchase one that meets their needs. Our app is developed to resolve such difficulty by providing a clear and simple interface. All users need to do is to input their demands and the app will give a list of devices and intuitive comparisons among them, so that users can weight their options upon our results.

The app is designed for mobile platform because its purpose is to give users an intuitive comparison among several devices on technical parameters while they are at a shop browsing devices, or simply because it's easier to use than opening a browser on a PC.

Functional Properties

1. Search function
 - 1.1 Sort by various criteria such as price
2. Comparison
3. Display results containing pros/cons

- Descriptions for above functionalities

When users open our app, a navigation with buttons of above functionalities will show at the top.

If users choose search function, they will be asked to input one or more specifications. Then a list of devices that meet the criteria will be outputted. Users can further sort the results in certain order by using drop-box implemented.

At this point, users will be looking at several choices that are almost equally good and want to obtain a full comparison among them. This app allows them to add candidate devices to a compare list. Once a compare list has been constructed, a comparison can be conducted for comparisons among various specifications of devices.

A full detailed comparison will contain all rows where each row is one of the specifications. Beyond that, pros and cons among specifications will also be highlighted to provide an intuitive feeling.

- Scenarios

Scenario #1:

When users open our app, the default functionality is search function. Users can select Apple from brand box, C\$1000~2000 from price box, 32GB from capacity box, 12 MP from camera box and 2GB from memory box. Then, users conduct this search by touching search button, and a list of results will be displayed to the screen. Users can select sorting by price in a descending order in price bar.

Scenario #2:

Users conduct a search for iPhones, and obtain a list of all iPhones. Users can add a cheapest iPhone to compare list by using the plus sign icon beside that iPhone. Then, users can go back to search page and conduct a new search for Samsung and add a cheapest Samsung to compare list. Finally, users can touch compare button on the top to obtain a full detailed comparison among all specifications of selected two devices.

Non-functional Properties

1. A User Agreement
2. A latest compare record
3. A guide for how to use this app

A user agreement will include information such as intellectual properties, exception clauses, etc. It is necessary because all resources and information are obtained from online public sources, by agreeing to such an agreement can make sure there will not be any legal disputes.

Every time user opens this app and goes to compare tab directly, a record of last comparison that user conducted will be remembered and displayed. If there were not any records, the comparison will show blank. This property is critical and useful, because users do not have to conduct repeated searches but simply use last record to view their choices instead.

A simple guide will be provided to show users how to use this app after the agreement. Users who need this app to weigh their choices are also probably not very proficient in using apps. A simple guide can help them have an idea of all functionalities of this app in a short time without exploring by themselves.