Project Part 2 – Design Alternatives

Project Description

Our project hopes to make events on campus more accessible to Georgia Tech students. These events would include free food availability around campus, rush timings for fraternities and sororities, volunteer opportunities, career fairs, information sessions, seminars etc. Our project would involve the extensive use of Google Glass. We came up with three design alternatives, each unique in its own way to accomplish our goal. We also presented them in class and received a lot of great feedback in which we have incorporated into our conclusion section.

Summary of Design Options

I. ***Design 1: Live PopUp option*** - This view would have a notification like system setup.

Description: When the user walks past an area where an event is occurring or going to occur in the near future, the application pops up a notification giving details about the event. This application would run in the background so as to limit interaction between the user and the application to the amount dictated by the user. The pop up would have limited space and thus the event description would be limited to Where the event was occurring? What the event was? and When the event was occurring? Events would be color coded, free food events would be in green while other social events would be in blue. Free food events would also include a pizza picture to further reinforce the availability of free food.

Advantages

1. It requires that no effort be extended by the user
2. Pings the geographical location of the user and therefore only displays events happening in the present location

Disadvantages

1. Limited interaction with the user. We are thinking of including a link on the pop up to combat this disadvantage, so that the user could have greater access to information.
2. The user would not be able to access events happening at a time in the future. We were hoping to add a tabular view to this application i.e. combine it with Design option 2, to erase this disadvantage.
3. Once an event has passed, there is no way to recall the given event.

II. ***Design 2: Tabular representation option*** - This view lists in chronological order all the events taking place on campus in the vicinity of the user.

Description: The user consciously clicks on the app to open a list of events occurring within a particular time slot. These events will be sorted by time and proximity to the user. Similar to the pop up view, the event description for the tabular view would include the What? When? and Where? of events. The user can then click on any particular event to read more information about that event. As each event finishes, it is removed from the screen to make space for the next future event. A picture of the building in which an event is occurring is also provided as a precaution against the user getting completely lost.

Advantages

1. Lists events in order of time and location, so users know which events in the near future they are able to go to and which they aren't.
2. Clicking on any event on the list, will give more information about the event (time, location address, food/no food, short description)

Disadvantages

1. User has to scroll down the application to see events that are happening a while from now.
2. Since events are removed from the screen once they are over, the user will not be able to check back to see details of events that they missed but probably wanted to learn more about.
3. Does not give a map location of the event, so it might be harder for the user to locate the event.

III. ***Design 3: Geographical representation option*** - This view is going to look similar to that of Google Maps.

Description: The user will be able to see the map of the university campus and be able to see pins scattered across the map that represents Event locations. Each "Pin" will be color coded to signify whether or not free food is provided and whether it is good food... or just pizza. The user can select a particular pin to view more details including what time and what room number the event is held at. These Pin's would provide visual affordances to the map, clearly indicating where events are happening and that users are expected to click on the Pin for more detail about an event. To select a particular "Pin", the user will simply scroll on the google glass that would then cycle through each "Pin" in a randomized circular clockwise rotation. The selected "Pin" will be highlighted to show which event is selected.

Advantages

1. The adjacent representation of multiple events, all events happening at or around that time would show up on a map thus allowing the user to freely pick an event he/ she would be interested in while simultaneously considering all other viable events. This would be akin to a calendar view of events on a map.
2. Clicking on the event pins would give the user more information about the events

Disadvantages

1. The scope of this view however is too large to fit comfortably on the Google Glass thus skewing the user's vision.
2. Too many events may be displayed at the same time thus cluttering the screen.

Conclusions

The alternative that best suits our needs best is a mix of Design #1 and Design #2. The weakness of Design #3 is that the the screen size of Google Glass is too small to be effective. Putting a picture of an entire map onto the screen would be difficult to see. We took feedback from the in class poster session and we've received several suggestions for future models:

1) Icons instead of colors - We have taken into account that color coding events will be difficult for first time users to understand. Instead of user different colors to represent whether or not there is food, we should use a fork symbol or a pizza symbol instead to represent whether or not there is food present. We would be improving visual affordance.
2) Schedule conflict - People can't go to events that conflicts with their existing schedule. Users will be able to login to their Google account which will allow Glasslife to correspond events with personal availability. If a schedule conflict occurs, Glasslife will raise a notification (color coding red) explaining the conflict
3) Smartphone application - Given that most college students do not have access to Google Glass, we have considered making a smartphone application where users will be given the option to input their opinion about events they've been to. Other users will be able to see the feedback. In this modification, the user would be using the conceptual model of a smartphone to send their feedback.
4) Application Activation - Every user upon installing the application will be presented with a sign in process. The user's Google account and time/location preferences will be registered. Settings for time will be from 5 minutes to 1 hour. Location will have a maximum 2 mile radius.
5) Creation of event database - Create an entry form which will allow event organizers to upload their event details into a centralized location.