Mosaic Redesign: Project Proposal

Stuart Douglas
1214422
McMaster University
dougls2@mcmaster.ca

Matthew Pagnan
1208693
McMaster University
pagnanmm@mcmaster.ca

Rob Gorrie
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McMaster University
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Derek Dagworthy
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McMaster University
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ABSTRACT

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PROJECT PROPOSAL

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Overview

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Suggested Improvements

Our suggested improvement is to have a dynamic element near the top of the home page which will provide useful information and links to pages of importance relative to the date.

For example, when close to exam season the element will display the students exam time table. During the course registration time frame the element will display information about course registration.

The items that are displayed on the dynamic element will also have permanent links on the page for users who wish to access those pages when they are not on display.

This dynamic element will help users find the information they are most likely looking for by making information more visible and easier to access.

We are also proposing to have a better, more logical layout for the system. Currently the pages with information on courses have a section for personal information. This section should instead be moved to the "My Profile" section as it would make more sense to be located there. By moving sections that do not make logical sense to sections where they do make sense we will have cleared page space thus allowing us to increase the size of what is left on the page so it is easier for the user to find what they are looking for as well as giving us a spot to implement our dynamic element.

SOFTWARE SURVEY

Five student management systems from Canadian universities have been selected for review (including Mosaic). For each system, a brief description will be followed by a critique of the major usability flaws and strengths. From this, the main goals and tasks of users using the systems will be extracted. Finally, the two most important of those features will be further analyzed via hierarchical task analyses. Screenshots will be presented throughout each software review.

McMaster University (current) – Mosaic
Description
In 2015, after several years of development, McMaster University switched to a new system for student self-administration. The purpose of the software is to allow students to manage their courses (enrolling, dropping etc.), and view information about their current status (current timetable, enrollment status, financial balance etc.). The interface for the software consists of several distinct modules encapsulating different aspects of the software. These include Academics, Finances, Personal Information, and Admissions.

Critique
The problems

McMaster University (pre 2015) – Solar
Description
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Critique

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Guelph University – WebAdvisor
Description

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Critique

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Carleton University – ??
Description

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Critique

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Waterloo University – ??
Description

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Critique

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CONCLUSION
Description

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