amazon

Jessalyn Wang

SDE Intern @ Amazon
Bellevue, Washington
6/27/2022 - 9/16/2022

I designed an implemented a smartwatch application. The app will allow Amazon to replace the devices they currently use with smartwatches, resulting in a better user experience and a reduction in hardware costs.

Technical Skills

The main technical challenge I faced was working with unfamiliar technology. My project was very new and hadn't been worked on much yet, and as a result I had to create a new package from scratch and do a lot of research for how to solve ambiguous problems. I also had never worked with Android before, and it took a while to learn about it. In one instance, I had to use a third-party package that had not been used before within Amazon and was not very well documented to build a feature. It took a lot of time, debugging, and looking through decompiled class files on my end to build the feature and then research how much we could customize it to our needs. As the project went on, my debugging and researching skills got better and I was able to work more efficiently.

Personal and Professional Growth

One of the first things I learned was how to ask questions effectively and communicate concisely. When I was first talking with my manager about the internship, he advised me on ways to communicate better, such as sending bulleted agendas for meetings I schedule as well as making sure I provide context on solutions I've tried when I reach out to coworkers with technical questions.

As my internship went on, I also realized I had to be more proactive to ensure that progress was being made. For example, I had a potential networking problem with my smartwatch that wasn't being resolved, so I took initiative and reached out to people on different teams as well as my manager to kickstart progress.

Ethics and Society

My project will result in the replacement of many hardware devices around the world. This will positively benefit users as the current devices are heavy and awkward to use, while smartwatches will be much lighter and easier. Many users have commented on the weight and size of the current devices, and with a new smartwatch rollout their experience should be much better.

Overall, my project is part of the retail organization at Amazon. Retail has a huge impact on society, especially by making people's lives easier as they can buy goods online and receive their purchases they purchased quickly. Additionally, people with mobility issues can use Amazon to buy things they need without needing to leave the house.

Connection to UCSD

From my coursework, I applied a lot of the testing and debugging techniques I have used over many classes. For example, I used Junit for all the unit tests that I wrote and was able to write test quickly because I had experience in using Junit from coursework.

From my experience at Amazon I will be integrating better coding practices and communication skills into the continuation of my education at UCSD. Over my internship I learned about the importance of writing code in a way that it can be reviewed incrementally, which I will be trying to do more often going forth. Additionally, when I have team projects or other group work I will use the communication skills I developed to communicate with my team effectively.