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HCI 454
Small Project 1

Your Current Office Hours

Select Quarter: Autumn 2016 ▾

Tuesday 9:00pm - 9:45pm
in 212 Willey Hall

Edit   Delete

Total office hours per week: .75 hours

Add Office Hours

Select Quarter: Autumn 2016 ▾

Day of Week: Monday ▾

Location: [_____]

Start Time: 5:00 AM ▾   Stop Time: 5:00 AM ▾

Cancel   Review

The wireframe to the left represents the completed design. It was completed in html, and although it is not functional, it included necessary form elements and buttons.

A user is routed to this page in order to review, edit, add, or delete an office hour time block.

They see their current entered office hours in the section at the top, and can scroll down in order to enter a new time block.

Once a user enters a new time block, they click "Review" and a pop-up window (shown here below the page break) appears that allows them to see their entry in a simplified form.

You Entered:

Tuesday 5:00pm - 5:45pm
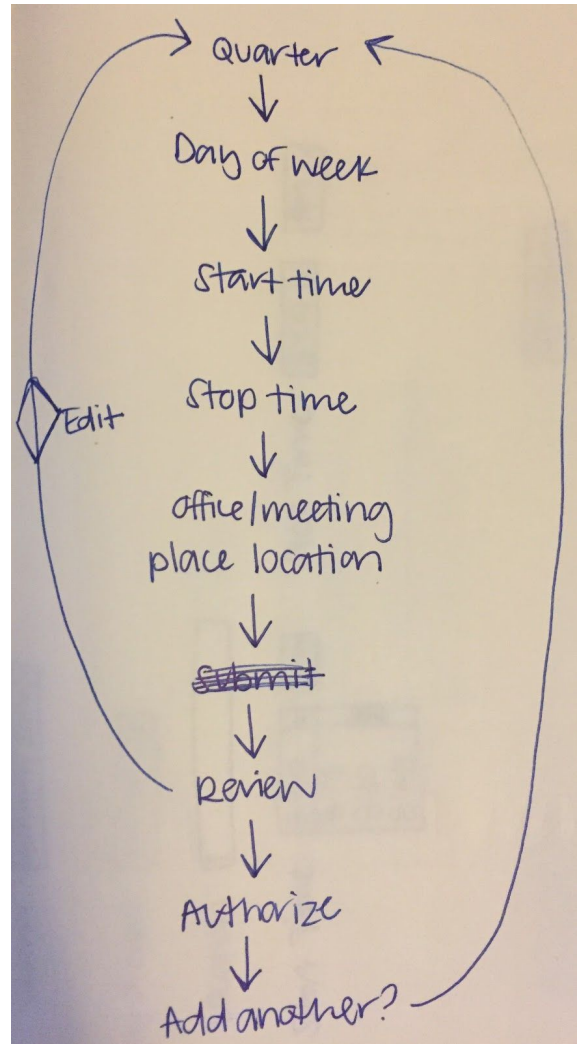in 212 Willey Hall

Is this correct?

Edit   Submit

The user can then either opt to edit the entry, or submit it.

Once submitted, this new entry will appear at the top of the previous page under "Your Current Office Hours".

Design Process

Flow Chart

     I began this assignment by creating a flow chart (right). I lead myself through the user's workflow in order to gain an understanding of what the interface should look like. This was a rough sketch, and although it provided me with a good start, I would later change placement of some features throughout the rest design process.

Wireframe Sketches

     After completing the flow chart, I began making my first preliminary sketches of the interface design (below).

Changes

A few key elements changed from these early wireframes, most notably that the "Current Hours" review section was moved to appear on the same page as the "Add Hours" section. This change happened because I thought it was important for users to be able to look at and refer to their previously entered time blocks while adding new time blocks. After playing around with this new interface in html, I realized I would like a pop-up screen to occupy the separate screen in order for users to review their new time block entry. This would also allow for error prevention, and provide users a chance to go back and edit their work if necessary.

Additionally, I removed the "AM/PM" drop down menu and instead included these options along with specific times, all in one menu. I believed that it would be easier for users to simply scroll through the list to find their time preference instead of having to click on another separate menu button. Instead of making a minimum of four clicks to enter a timeframe, users now only need to make a minimum of two clicks.

Considerations

When I first considered this assignment, I wanted to create a spreadsheet type interface where users could manually select and review office hour time blocks. However, I believed that type of interface to be more complicated than it need be. Form fields and drop-down menus are more prevalent in online spaces, and thus more users are likely to be familiar with them. One potential drawback is that many users might find it helpful to review their time blocks in a more visual manner, and a spreadsheet interface would allow

for this. However, I believe the trade-off in this situation was consistent with my final design choice.

Another potential drawback of my design is the open-endedness of the "Location" form field. There is potential here for users to enter less information than what would be beneficial (e.g., only entering the building name and not the room or office number). In a future iteration, I might consider including more specifiers for this field. These might include radio buttons to indicate "classroom" or "office" locations. I would also consider adding a separate form field just for room or office number.

Lastly, this interface does not provide the user with any information about their current courses for the selected quarter. My reason for omitting this information is that it didn't seem to pertain specifically to the task of entering, editing, reviewing, or deleting office hour time blocks. Although it is related, I opted for a simplified interface so that the user can complete these tasks without being distracted or confused by any other class information.

Note: I have attached my html documents (2 in total) to the DropBox entry so that you may review my code in full.