

ID2216 Developing Mobile Applications

Assignment 2 Report

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Chapter 1

WebApp prototype

After we have agreed to develop an application that helps users to find and offer SL cards in the previous assignment, we now focused on creating first prototypes and getting a preliminary structure for the application. Therefore, we created at the beginning a paper-based prototype and collected feedback from potential users and friends. Based on this, we then aimed to create a site-map of the different screens and views of our application and how the user navigates through our app by creating a clickstream. Additionally, we then developed a new digital "paper-based" prototype of our app by using the online tool Balsamiq.

1.1 Paper prototype

The very first step for creating the paper-based prototype was to think about which basic screens and functionalities does our user need. So, we took a paper and a pencil and started drawing the main views. Of course, we discussed a lot about, which features are really necessary for the first version of our app, since our goal is to build the app as slim and lean as possible.

Furthermore, we tried to incorporate basic design principles of Android applications, so that the user will easily adapt to the usage of our application. Realized was this by using common design pattern of Android apps as well as a really clear structure.

The outcome was that we have had a paper prototype based on eight different views, which had all a quite similar design and an easy usability in our point of view. See figures A.1 and A.2 in appendix A.

1.2 Site-map

After finalizing the paper-based prototype, we showed it to friends and other potential users in order to gather their impression and feedback. All in all, they liked the first prototype quite much, since it was also very simple and good in their opinion. Nevertheless, some also showed us that we missed little things or could improve the prototype at certain points. Some of the major feedback points we discovered are listed below:

- It would be nice to have start screen with the logo of our app, before reaching the home screen.
- There should be a "Log out" button in the swipe menu on the left.
- It would be cool to have settings screen, where you can define the date/time format and the displayed currency.
- The offer details must definitely contain the user behind the offer and his contact details. Furthermore, it would be good to see how long he has been registered in the app.
- A support tab in the swipe menu would also be nice, in case there are any questions or feedback for us.
- As a matter of privacy, there should be an option if people searching for a SL card can see the mobile number of the seller or not. I think if someone sees the email address, this is fine, but the mobile number is quite sensitive.
- It would be cool to have, maybe in a later stage, also an integrated chat system to contact the seller of a card.
- It would be nice to see a suggested price for the given validity period.
- Be sure to implement the insertion of the date with the popup calendar.
- Why so much data at login? Would it be enough with username and password to log in?
- It would be nice to change free text for extra information or comment or something more understandable.
- Credit is not very clear and could be confuse with Price. What about Saldo?
- It would be good to change Pick Up Place for Pick Up Station, if that is restricted to stations, we ensure that the buyer has a chance to check the validity of the card. In addition, it feels safer to meet that way.

Next, we discussed which of the feedback will be implemented in the next prototype and which not. For this new prototype we created the following site-map that displays all views and screens of our app structuredly.

1.3 Balsamiq prototype

With the existing site-map, it was time to create a new prototype. This time not with a pen and paper, but with the online tool Balsamiq. This tool was also already used to draw the site-map chart. Balsamiq is a quite handy and useful tool that allows you to develop prototypes for apps and other software in a very fast way by offering drag-and-drop functionality.

So, we created for each screen at least one wireframe in order to make the prototype as real as possible. By using the framework of Balsamiq, we could insert a lot of real Android API components, such as the map functionality. See figure in appendix B.

1.4 Clickstream

After finishing the Balsamiq prototype, we created additionally a clickstream of the current prototype that shows how the user later will travel through the app. See figure in appendix B.

Appendices

Appendix A


Paper prototype

Home

Search

Offer

Log In



First name
Last name

email address

mobile number

LOG IN

Offer

Start
1/10/2016

End
9/10/2016

Category
Student

Price
100kr

Pick up place
Kista

Pick up date
22/09/2016

Credit
0kr

Flexible dates
yes
no

Freetext

Offer card

Search

Overview

Specify search

Figure A.1: Paper prototype

← Overview

Start	End	Category	Price	PickUpPlace
1/1/17	3/1/17	Student	50kr	Toby
10/10/16	11/11/16	Normal	60kr	Kista
1/1/16	3/1/16	Normal	30kr	Husby
20/11/16	3/1/17	Student	400kr	T-Centralen

← Offer details

Start

10/10/16

End

15/10/16

Category

Student

Flexible dates

no

Price

50 kr

Credit

0 kr

PickUp-Date

8/10/16

PickUp place:

Additional information:

info info

← Specify search

Start

1/1/16

End

5/11/16

Category

Normal

▼

Max. price

100kr

Flexible dates

☐ yes
☒ no

Search

← Profile

Firstname

Last name

email address

mobile number

Facebook account

Google account

Save

Figure A.2: Paper prototype

Appendix B

Site-map and Balsamiq prototype figures

