To: Howard Clauser, Professor

From: Tan, Yongshan; Peoples, Caylah

Date: November 2, 2015

Subject: Usability Test Report

This memo gives a report on the usability test and the descriptions on the methodology, results, and discussions of the test. Methodology includes the description of our two test subjects and the procedures that we used during the testing. The results state what happened as we test the subjects, and the discussion explains what we interpreted from the results.

**Methodology:**

**The description of our two test subjects**

* Both test subjects are senior DePaul students. One of the test subjects has a major in mathematics, while the other majors in management. Both of them are Python beginners who have no knowledge of the program. They met our requirements of our target audiences because they are DePaul students who have limited to no knowledge of using Python.

**The procedures that we used during the testing**

* Before the subjects begin the test, we told them a brief summary about Python and what they will be doing in the test. We want the subjects to understand what Python is used for and goal of this test.
* We gave the subjects the option to read the instructions by using paper form or digital form because we want to know which one the subjects’ prefer.
* We encourage the subjects to say what they are thinking about. Also, we tried to guide (but not help) the subjects go through any steps that they are confused on. These procedures help us to be aware of problems from specific steps that the subjects struggle with.

**Results**

* As we tested the subjects on “How to Download Python from a Website,” both subjects chose paper form instruction, and they quickly went through all but two steps which were step 3 and 11. Out of the two subjects, Subject 1 appeared to have more trouble with Steps 3 and 11.
  + In Step 3, Subject 1 focused on the pictures and tried to click on all boxed-in options shown in the pictures. Then, she stopped and

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slowly read Step 3’s text again, leading her to click on the correct option and proceed onto the next step.

* + In Step 11, Subject 1 slowed down when she tried to open Python from the Search Engine. She tried to open Python as a program, but she clicked on the exiting Python file. Therefore, instead of popping up the Python Shell, the Python Script was opened.
* In the test “How to Run Code from a Python Document,” both subjects chose paper form instruction and they looked back and forth from the computer screen and the pictures on Step 1 and Step 2. They then asked about the words in the pictures that being shown in those steps.
* In the test “Opening a Python Document from a Folder,” both subjects chose paper form instruction and they seemed to look closely at the pictures, causing them to slowly read the instructions and look through each pictures.

**Discussion**

Both subjects chose paper form instructions because for them, paper form instructions are easier to use.

Both subjects struggled to complete the test, “How to Download Python from a Website” because they were stuck on Step 3. Because Subject 1 focused on the pictures more than the text, we realize that the graphics play a crucial role in guiding the subjects through the instructions. We also understand that the subjects were confused on the connection between the instructions and the associated pictures. In the Window user download part, we decide only introducing the best option instead of using two download options. We also decide to state in the beginning of Step 3 that if the programmers are using the Mac system, they can skip the part of Python downloading in Windows system.

In “How to Run Code from a Python Document,” the subjects had trouble using the pictures to guide them. Step 1 only showed the results of completing a step, causing the subjects to be unsure of where to start from. At the same time, the subjects were confused about the text in the picture from Step 2 and why it’s important. To help the users to

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understand the pictures, we decide to add another picture to Step 1 and to tell the users to use the code from Step 2.

In the instructions “How to Run Code from a Python Document” and “Opening a Python Document from a Folder,” the subjects seemed to squint their eyes onto the pictures. This indicates that the pictures and the content inside of them are too small to see. A possible solution is to adjust the size of the pictures.

**Conclusion**

The usability test shows that we should focus on the way we use the pictures per step. To help the user to understand how the pictures relate to each step, we decide to adjust the pictures’ size and the content inside of them. We also need to pay attention of the order of texts which should easy to users’ eye and should waste their time of read what they don’t need.

We appreciate you looking over the report. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at our emails, [ki45123ki@yahoo.com](mailto:ki45123ki@yahoo.com) and [kiki.burns@yahoo.com](mailto:kiki.burns@yahoo.com). Thank you for your consideration.