Couch Potato
Media Management System

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What's the Problem?

It's Messy

"Honey, where did you put the DVD?"

It's Complicated

"Why won't the TV do what I tell it to?"

It's Expensive

"Doesn't Jimmy already have that?"

It's Boring

"I've already seen all of these.
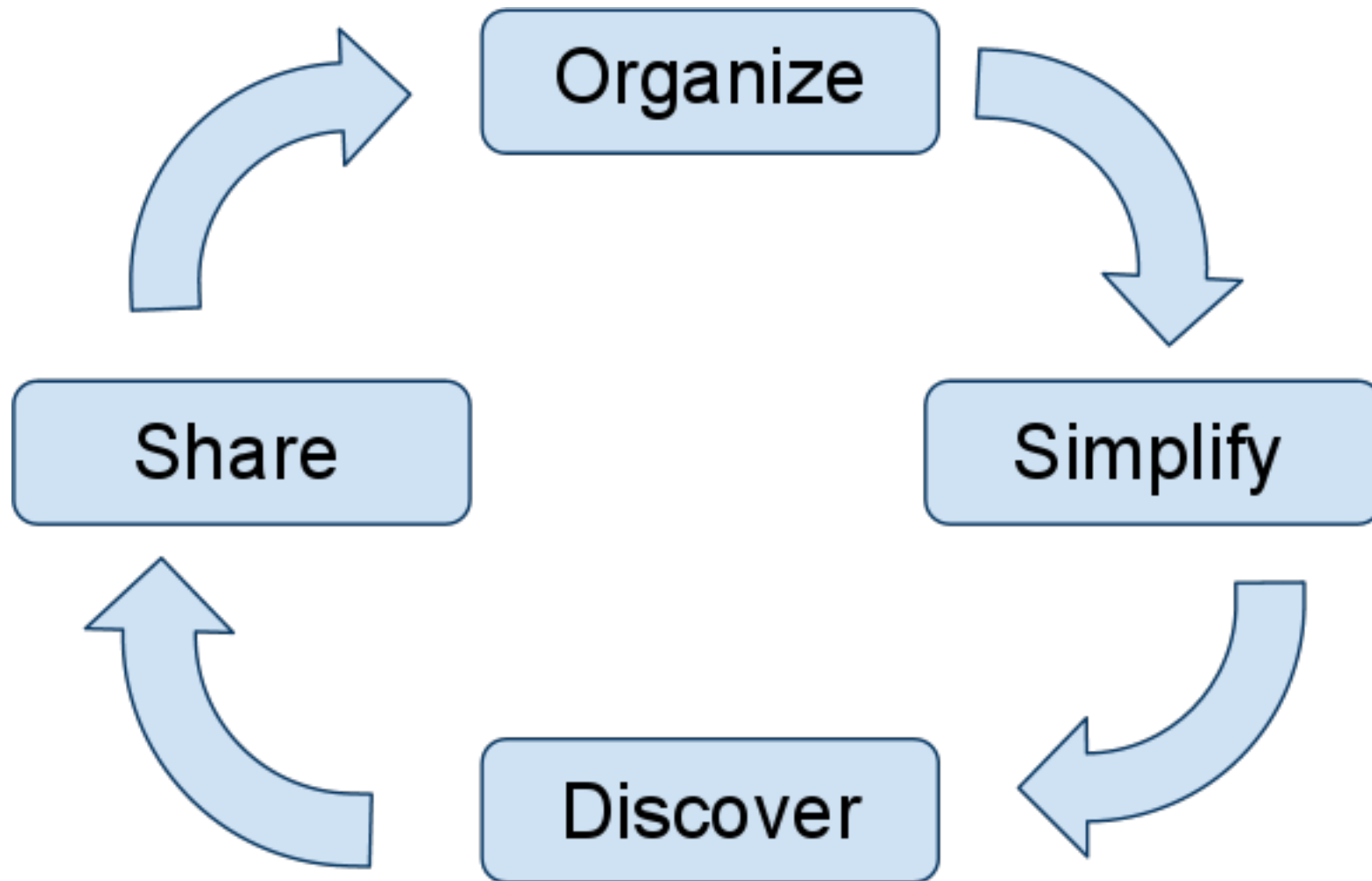I want to watch something new"

The Stakeholders

Do you enjoy watching movies?

Do you enjoy sharing with friends?

Do you enjoy experiencing new, exciting things?

Yes? Then you are a stakeholder.

The Solution?

Organize

- Keep track of the movies so users don't have to.

- Searching, Sorting and Filtering

- Keep track of the users wants and needs.

Simplify

- Make the system do the work, let the user relax.

- Automatically turn on necessary components.

- Save movies, no interaction necessary.

- Change the controls to fit the task so that every option is tailored to the user's current goals.

Discover

- Introduce the user to new experiences

- Recommend movies based on their rating and movies they've borrowed from friends.

Share

- Help the users share with friends.

- Connect friends who want to watch a movie with friends who have a movie.

- Make sharing a movie easy.

I don't know what to watch

Action	Figure out what movie to watch and start the movie.
Data	Keep track of the movies you have and any relevant information.
Interaction	1. Select a movie from your collection. 2. Setup your electronics for playback. 3. Start the movie.

- The movie box: Gives information about the movie. And stores the content.
  - Replaced by data stored on the system.
- The remote: Controls movie playback and menu navigation
  - Replaced by your phone.

Sounds interesting. I should get that.

Action	You get a recommendation for a new movie. Remind yourself to get it or borrow it from a friend.
Data	Save a list of all the movies you want to watch. Keep track of what movies your friends own and alert the user when something in the "Watch List" is added by a friend.
Interaction	1. Open the mobile application. 2. Add a movie by clicking Add and typing it in. 3. If a friend gets the movie, select them and ask to borrow it by selecting the option.

- The List: User keeps track of things in a list, whether its not paper or electronically. Replaced by part of the mobile application
  - Separate from wherever users normally store their reminders BUT the list ties into their friends' movie lists.
- The Borrow Request: Ask a friend to borrow a movie.
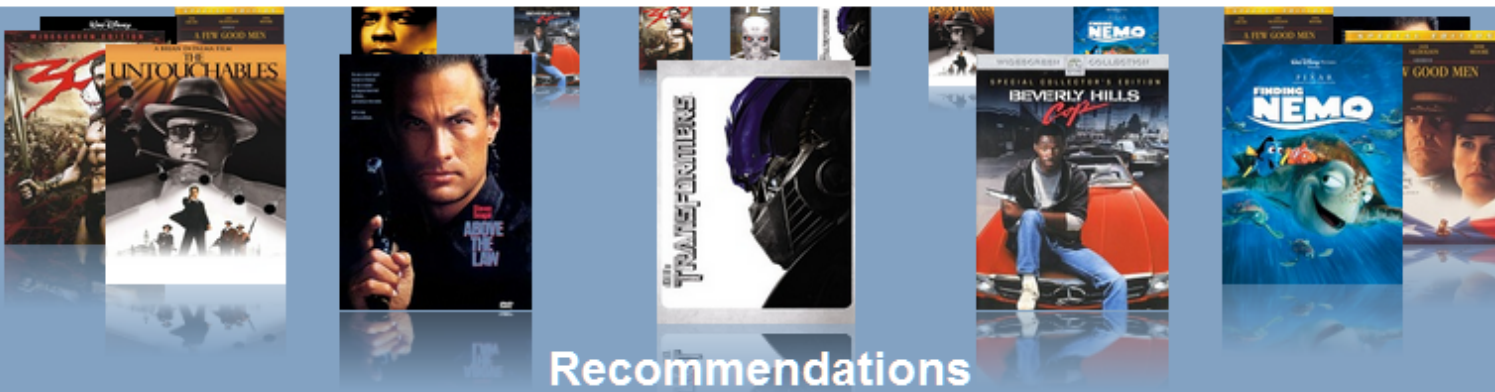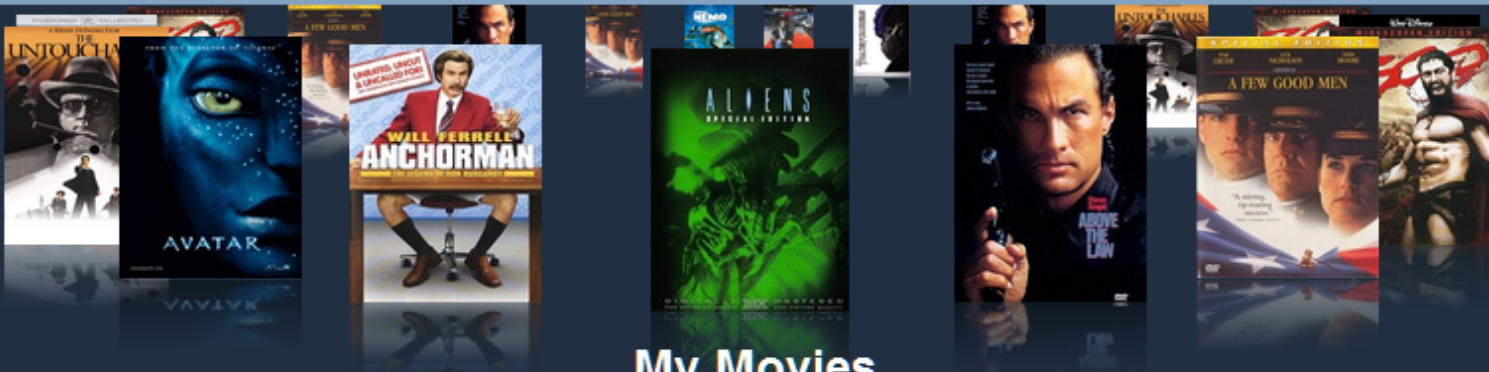 - Just like a phone call or an email, but less hassle.

Prototype

- Couch Potato Set-Top-Box

- 10 Foot UI

- Mobile Interface

Set-Top-Box
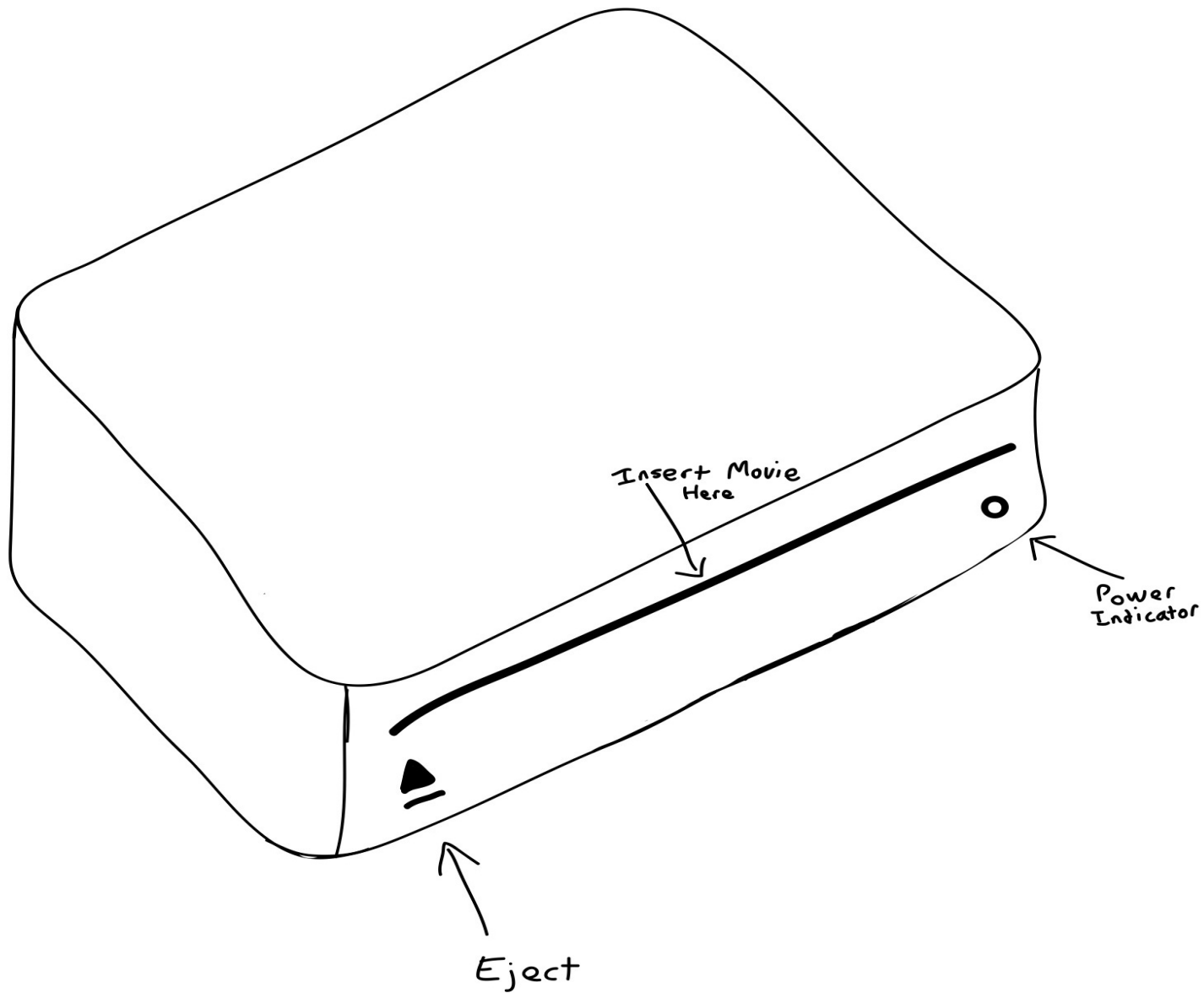
Insert Movie Here

Power Indicator

Eject

10 Foot UI

Movie Info
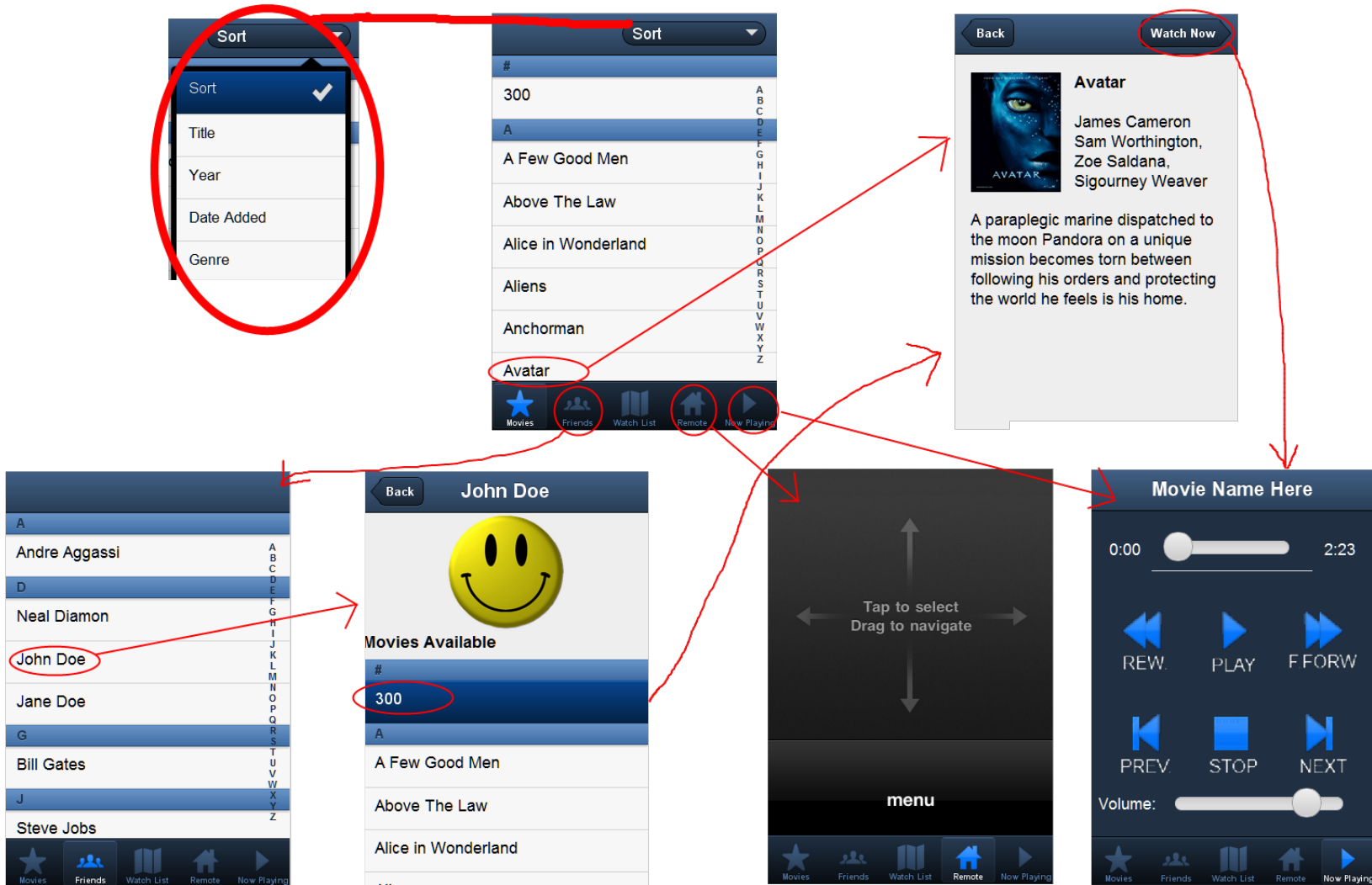
Mobile Interface

Watch List
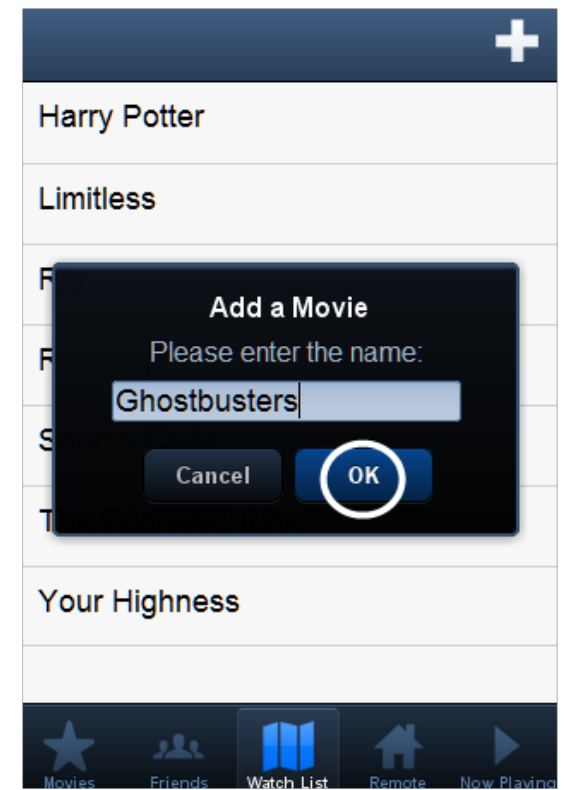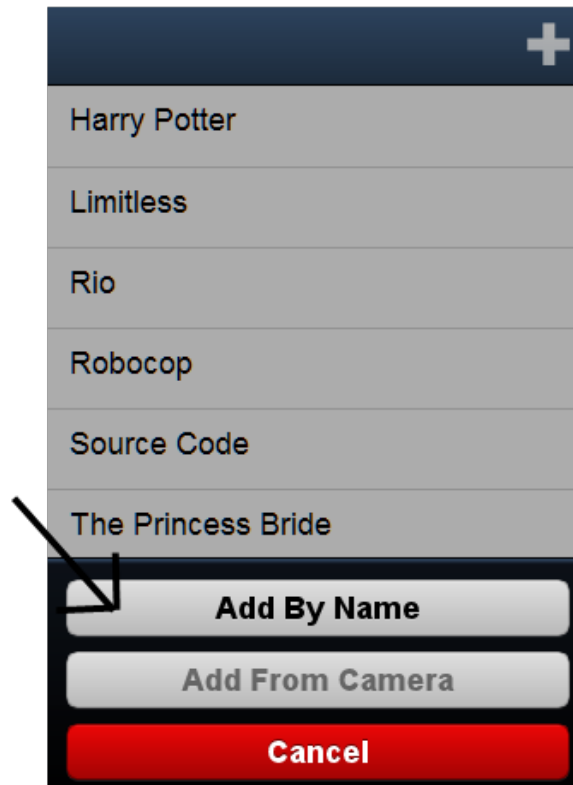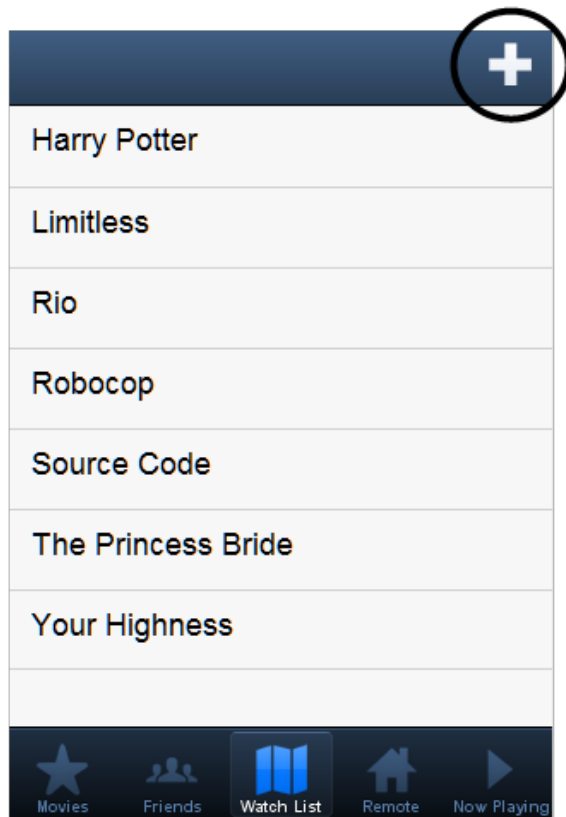
Testing Couch Potato

Task 1: Add a movie to your Watch List and Request to borrow it.

Task 2: Select a movie and watch it from the mobile interface. Control various playback functions.
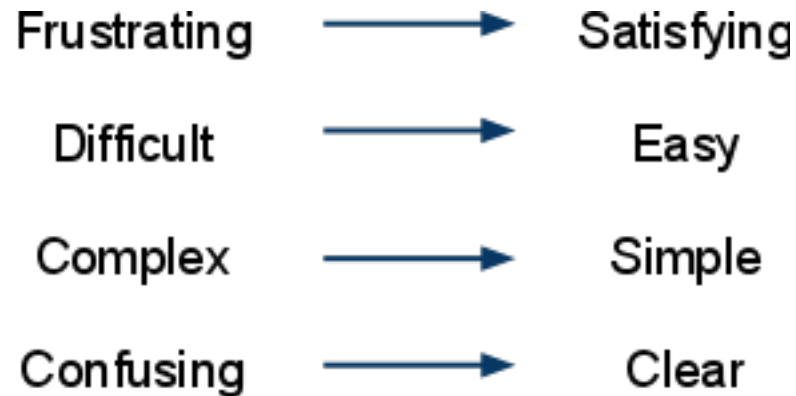
Task 3: Select a movie and watch it from the 10 Foot UI.

- 3 Users, All Smart Phone Users

- 2 Users experienced with home electronics
- 1 User is not

The Evaluation

- Users asked to rate their experience completing the tasks (1 to 5).

Frustrating ⟶ Satisfying

Difficult ⟶ Easy

Complex ⟶ Simple

Confusing ⟶ Clear

- Adding movies to your watch list was like jotting down a quick note.
- Requesting to borrow a movie from a friend was easier than calling them.
- Browsing your movie library on Couch Potato is more organized and simpler than trying to find a disc in your physical movie collection.

The Results

- All 3 users enjoyed navigating the movie list on the mobile remote.
- The 2 users comfortable with home electronics were comfortable navigating the 10 Foot UI
- The 1 user uncomfortable with home electronics was equally uncomfortable navigating the TV interface.
  - In contrast they were comfortable using the playback controls despite having trouble playing a DVD.
- The real world artifacts the system is meant to replace are easily replicated if not surpassed by the digital system.
- On navigating the TV interface, "wasn't sure where it was going to make selection."

What's Next

- Cool Animations are not necessarily useful when they look like you can interact with them.
- Fix confusion in the either/or controls for the remote.
    - Further tests to see which mode (gestures or d-pad) is best.
- Add Search functionality. Users wanted to quickly type in a movie but could not.
- Add a "Favorites" section.
- Add a tutorial / walkthrough