

TESTS WITH USERS

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Objectives of the test

The purpose of this test is to prove the following parts and functions of the Weather Application.

- Observe and evaluate the experience of the users, while they are using the application, taking into account the information architecture, navigation system, graphic design, content structure ... As they perform some of the most important tasks that can be carried out in the application.
- Check that the navigation system works correctly, performing a series of tasks through the navigation system (menus) and ensure they follow the more common mental models among users.
- Ensure that the process of checking the details of a specified date works correctly.
- Verify that users can change the location of which they are visualizing the forecast and all the data is updated throughout the application.
- Check that the users can modify the system of measurement units.
- Ensure that the users can receive severe weather notifications.
- Check that once an action has been completed it can be restored to the previous status easily.
- Locate and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current prototype, and find ways to improve the design of the application.
- Establish a baseline to be able to compare the effectiveness of the next prototype re- design.

Socio demographic profile of the users

For conducting the usability test of the Weather application, we are looking for men and women over 16 years who are interested in receiving weather forecast data regularly.

Referring to the general data, these are not necessary, however acquiring them can help identify more appropriately each type of participant in the test. The really important questions are: if they are using any weather application currently, if they check the weather forecast and whether they would be interested in using the new application on smartphones.

Within the professional profile, we have no preference, it is indifferent their work, except for the professions that are related to web design, programming, usability engineering, graphic design or computer science in general, etc. As in this case, these people do not interest us, as they are not basic users, and their computer skills are above the average users, and their test could falsify the results.

Regarding the technological devices, the users are using, it is not an excluding factor, as the application development is being conducted to create an application tailored for experienced users and users without knowledge.

The frequency of use of the application is not an excluding factor as we are looking for users that check the weather forecast regularly; and users that use the application for specific occasions.

Summing up, the user target of our applications is made by people who meet the following characteristics:

- Men and women over 16 years.
- Are current users of any other weather forecast application.
- Are interested in using the application.

Screening

Introduction

Hello, my name is Jordi Gomez Alberti, I am developing a weather forecast application and I am looking for people to participate in some tests of the new application.

The main objective is to analyse the usability of the application, the consistency of the content, the ease of use, the layout of the elements, etc.

In order to perform the tests, you may have to travel to a previously accorded location and the test would last a maximum of three hours.

Thanks for your cooperation, it will allow to improve the application and the user experience it offers.

Do you find this interesting, would you like to take part? Before taking part in the final test do you mind answering some questions?

General questions

- Are you a man or a woman?

Man, woman.

- Which of the following ranges best describes your age? [We require users older than 16 years.]

15 to 20, 21 to 30, 31 to 40, 41 to 50, 51to 60, 61 to 70, 71 to 80, 81 or older.

- What is your educational level?

Have not completed Secondary School, GCSE or similar, A-levels,

Undergraduate, Graduate, Post-graduate

- What is the family structure at home?

Single parent, couple, family, family with grandparents.

- How many people live in the house?
- How often do you check the weather forecast? [We require users interested in the weather forecast.]

More than once a day, daily, more than once a week, once a week, never....

- Do you have a weather application on your smartphone? [We require users that already have an application.]

Yes, no.

- Do you check webpages for the weather forecast?

Yes, sometimes, no.

- Would you be interested in receiving weather updates from the application?

Yes, maybe, depending on the frequency and content, no.

- Would you change your current application for another one if both of them had the same level of accuracy?

Yes, maybe after trying, no.

Professional questions

- What is your job? [Web designers, programmers, and similar jobs are excluded, as they can alter the test.]

Experience with new technologies

[There may be several answers, however to be a valid user they must check the weather forecast.]

- Do you use computers?
- What do you use the computers for?

Check e-mail, play games, read news, e-commerce, watch videos, listen to music, online banking, check the weather forecast, employment, online paperwork, others.

- Do you use smartphones?
- What do you use the smartphones for?

Check e-mail, play games, read news, e-commerce, watch videos, listen to music, online banking, check the weather forecast, employment, messaging, social networks, online paperwork, others.

Contact details

[If the user passes the screening]. Can I get your details in order to contact you?

- Name:
- Address:
- City:
- Telephone:
- Email:

We have finished all the questions; your profile corresponds to what we're looking for. Can you take part in the test on 7 May 2016 at 10:30?

Before the test begins, I require your permission to record you during the course of the study. The recording will only be used for internal evaluation, if necessary, it will not be made public. Would you authorize the recording?

The study will take place at the previously accorded location. Some days before the test you will be notified of the exact location and time. Do you have a time preference to be notified?

Cognitive walkthrough

Users and reviewer analyse together a series of tasks broken down in steps and then every element of the interaction is discussed, to verify the usability of the application and ensure it follows the mental models of the different user profiles.

Task 1

Check the weather forecast of the night for a given day.

Task 2

Change the city on which the information is being displayed.

Task 3

Add a new location using the GPS.

Task 4

Change the measurement units used by the application.

Task 5

Decrease the update interval in order to reduce data consumption.

Task 6

Delete a city you no longer require.

Task 7

Enable notifications.

Definition of scenarios and tasks

Task 1

This Monday is bank holiday and you are planning a day out with the family and the kids, however you are worried about the clouds and the rain.

How will you check for the radar imagining of the clouds and rain?

Task 2

Soon you are travelling to Paris, France and you would like to know what the weather is going to be like so you can plan your outfits.

How will you add the city and check the weather forecast for the date you are interested in?

Task 3

You are coming back after several months of backpacking through Asia and during this time you have been adding many locations to the application, now you are back at home and you have a really long list of locations.

How will you delete the outdated locations?

Task 4

You just installed the application, however the predefined units used in the application are not known to you, as you are used to different ones.

How will you change the units to a format you can understand?

Task 5

Your data plan is running out and the new cycle is still quite far, so you are interested in decreasing the update interval, to try save some data.

How will you decrease the update interval of the application?

Task 6

You are going on holiday to Riviera Maya, however you are a bit concerned as it is heavy rain and hurricane season. So you would like to know if they happen to close your resort.

How will you enable the notifications for severe warning?

Post-test questions

Before leaving today, I would appreciate if you could answer a last questionnaire.

I would like to thank you for participating in this study. Your answers are very important, as they enable me to offer to you an application that meets all your needs. I hope you found the experience interesting and enjoyable. Thank you very much!

- What was your general impression after using the application?

Very negative 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Very positive

- In general, how has the ease of use of the application been?

Very difficult to use 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Very easy to use

- How did you find the navigation system of the application?

Very difficult 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Very easy

- Were the menus well organized and the functions easy to find?

Completely disagree 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Completely agree

- All the functions you expected to find, were they there?

Completely disagree 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Completely agree

- Were the contents sorted in a logical manner?

Completely disagree 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Completely agree

- In case errors happened, were they easy to fix?

Completely disagree 1... 2... 3.... 4... 5... 6... 7... Completely agree

- Do you think you have successfully completed all the task proposed?

Yes **No**

- Have you found any difficulties while performing any of the ask you have been asked?

- What is your opinion about the application?

- Could you describe the application with three words?

- Could you say the three things that you liked most about the application?

- Could you say the three things that you liked least, or you feel that they need improvement?

- How do you find the organization of the content in the application?

- Do you think the colour scheme is right?

- The typography (font and size) was clear to read?

- Do you consider the application useful?

- Will you use the application again? Why?

- Will you recommend the application to your family or friends?

- Do you have any other questions or comments regarding the application?

- Will you change your usual application for this one?

Authorization letter

I agree to participate in the study and agree to be videotaped during the test conducted by Jordi Gomez Alberti at the following location:

62 Silverwood Close
CB1 3HA
Cambridge

I understand and agree with the use of the information and video planned by Jordi Gomez Alberti. I understand that the information collected and the video will be used exclusively to be analysed by the study, that is being carried out and that this recording will not be published.

I understand that my name and my image will not be used for any other purpose. I waive my rights to the video.

I understand that I can leave the test at any time.

I agree to express my doubts and concerns immediately with the facilitator of the study.

If I want to revoke the authorization, you must inform in writing to the address provided above.

Full name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you!