

Daniel Gray
6.831 Homework 2

Heuristic evaluation of Plasma Kitten 3000k's "outfit.me"

Simply mousing over a suggested outfit selects it. This makes it harder to select the outfit I want to see, as other things get pseudo-randomly selected as I move my cursor around the page.

Heuristic: User control, error prevention.

Severity: Major.

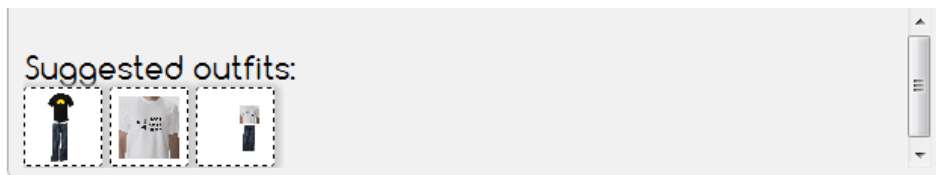
Screenshot: None.

Scroll bars appear in the non-scrolling 'Suggested outfits' sections.

Heuristic: Affordances

Severity: Cosmetic.

Screenshot:



Most of the site has two vertical panes, but one or two pages have a single centered block.

Heuristic: Consistency

Severity: Cosmetic

Screenshot:

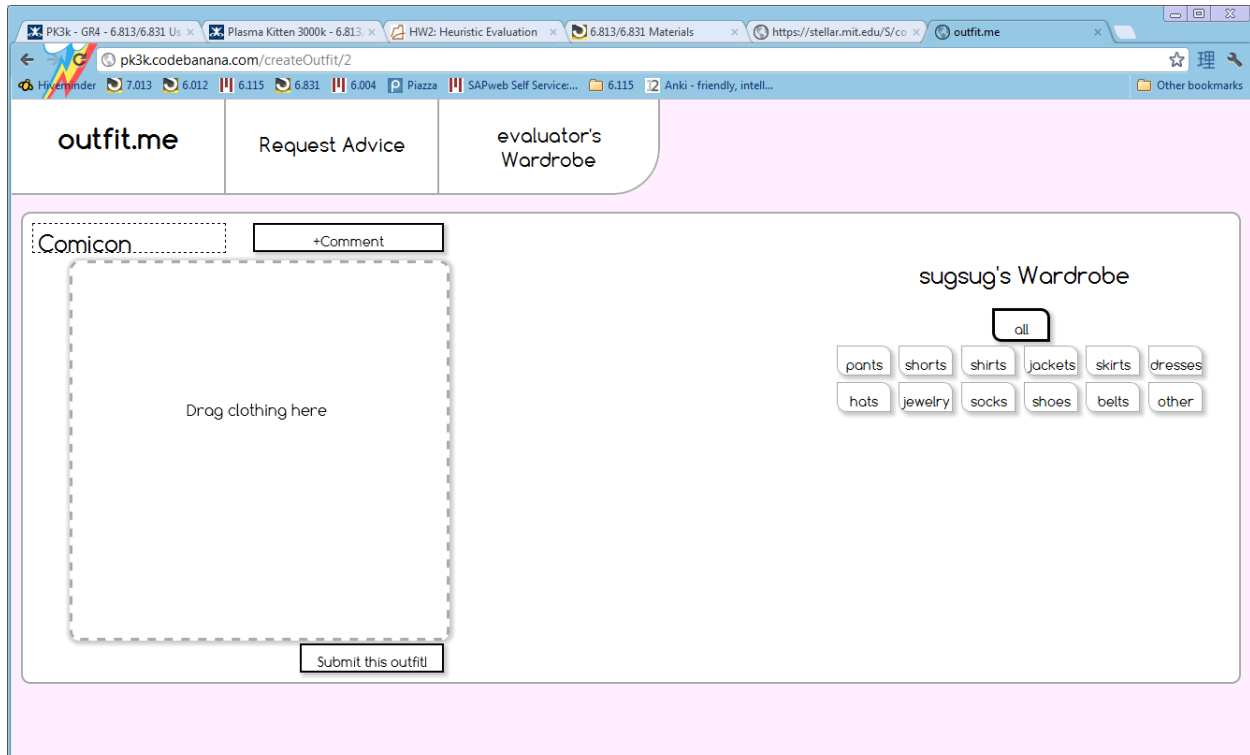
A screenshot of a web form titled "Request Advice". The form is centered on the page and contains a text input field labeled "Title", a larger text area with the placeholder text "Give some details here.", and a "Submit request" button at the bottom.

The system lets you request advice with nothing in your wardrobe. Relatedly, you can suggest an outfit for someone with nothing in their wardrobe, and suggest empty outfits in general even for people with full wardrobes. This doesn't make much sense.

Heuristic: Matching the real world

Severity: Major

Screenshot:



Clicking on a user's name doesn't make it obvious that you're filtering to their posts – it took a while to realize that I wasn't still on the main list of requests,

Heuristic: Visibility

Severity: Minor

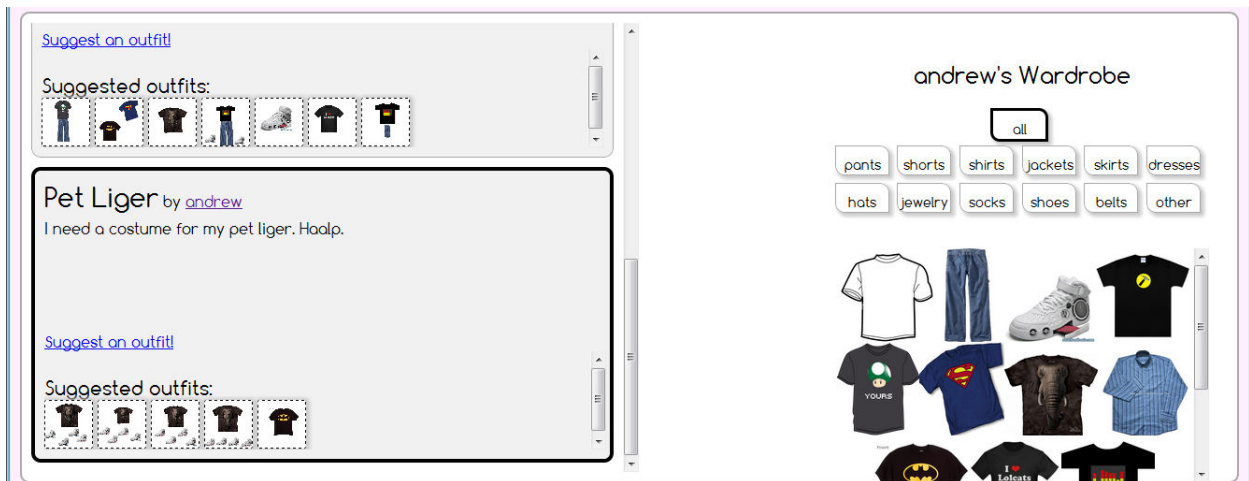
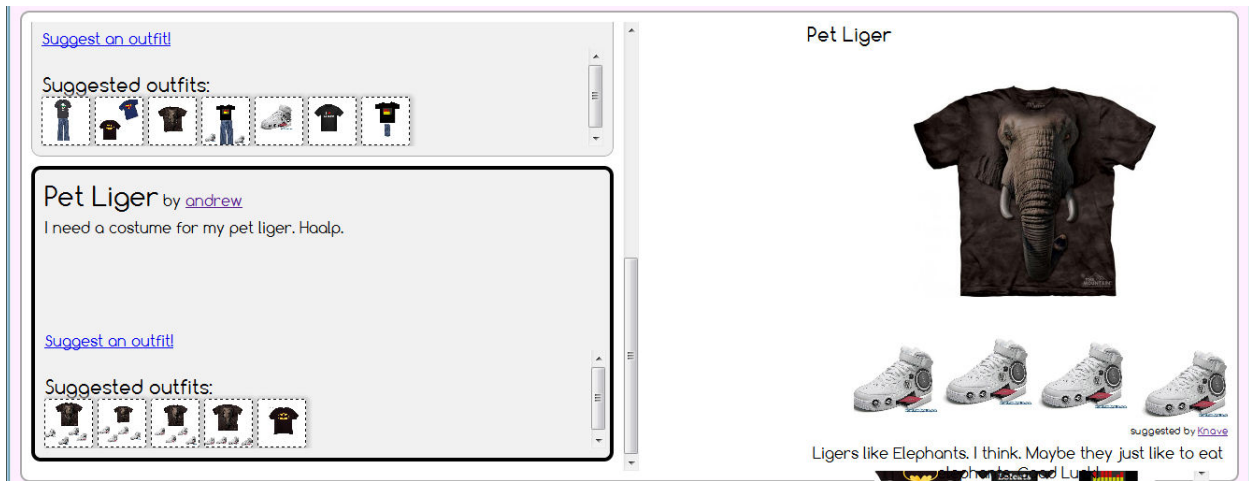
Screenshot: None.

When filtered to a user's posts, selecting one of the outfits that has been suggested to them only works until your cursor leaves the outfit – then it switches back to showing their wardrobe. Note that the "Pet Liger" post is still highlighted in the second screenshot even though the suggested outfit is no longer shown.

Heuristic: User control

Severity: Major

Screenshots:



When building an outfit, the clothing images in the right pane are all very small. This makes it hard to effectively pick out pieces of clothing.

Heuristic: Efficiency

Severity: Minor

Screenshot: None.

After submitting an outfit suggestion, I'm brought to an "Outfit has been successfully submitted" message. There is no clear way to get back to where I was – the message just sits there with no obvious links.

Heuristic: Efficiency

Severity: Minor

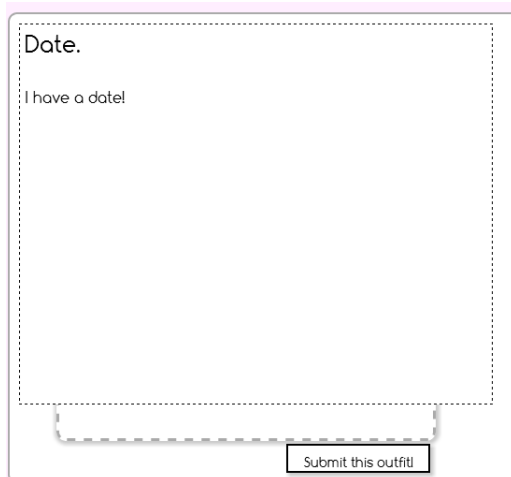
Screenshot: None.

While building an outfit, viewing the details of the request covers the entire outfit, which makes it hard to do a side-by-side comparison. The details are also hard to get rid of – the control runs away from the mouse to the lower right, and I have to move really far to collapse the box again.

Heuristic: Efficiency, user control

Severity: Major

Screenshot:



There's no way to tell what category a piece of clothing is in without trying all of the filters, or find out anything else about a piece of clothing. It would be nice to be able to select a clothing item to see information about it.

Heuristic: Efficiency, user freedom?

Severity: Minor

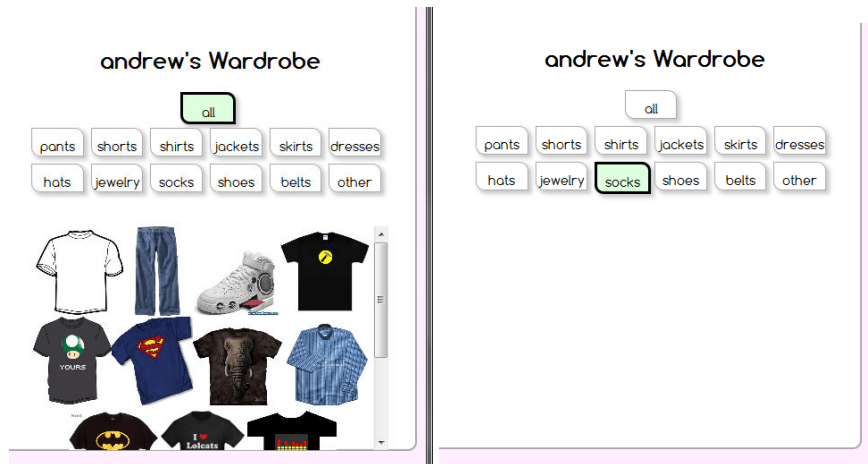
Screenshot: None.

When filtering a user's wardrobe by clothing category, all categories are presented, even if they're empty. Graying out empty categories and making them unclickable would be nice, so I can know (for example) that Andrew doesn't have any socks before I try to add them to his outfit.

Heuristic: Efficiency

Severity: Minor

Screenshot:



Adding clothing items to my wardrobe is slow. It takes many clicks, and requires having a picture on my computer already. I own several dozen unique items of clothing (and know people who own many more!), and I think I would get tired of the process of adding them to my outfit.me wardrobe long before all of them were entered. Maybe let me take a picture of the item directly with my webcam? Or at least let me upload a batch of images?

Heuristic: Efficiency

Severity: Catastrophic

Screenshot: None.

When I'm adding a piece of clothing, the system doesn't show me the image I've selected until I hit 'submit'. The images from my camera all have very similar filenames (IMG_####.JPG), so I'm not entirely sure what image I'm about to upload.

Heuristic: Feedback, error prevention

Severity: Minor

Screenshot:

Add Clothing

1. Upload a picture of a piece of your clothing:

24 A box\IMG_9248.JPG

As far as I can tell, I can't edit or delete anything I upload or post. There is no way to correct any errors at all. I've made mistakes already playing around with the system to evaluate it and can't get rid of them.

Heuristic: User control and freedom, error recovery

Severity: Catastrophic

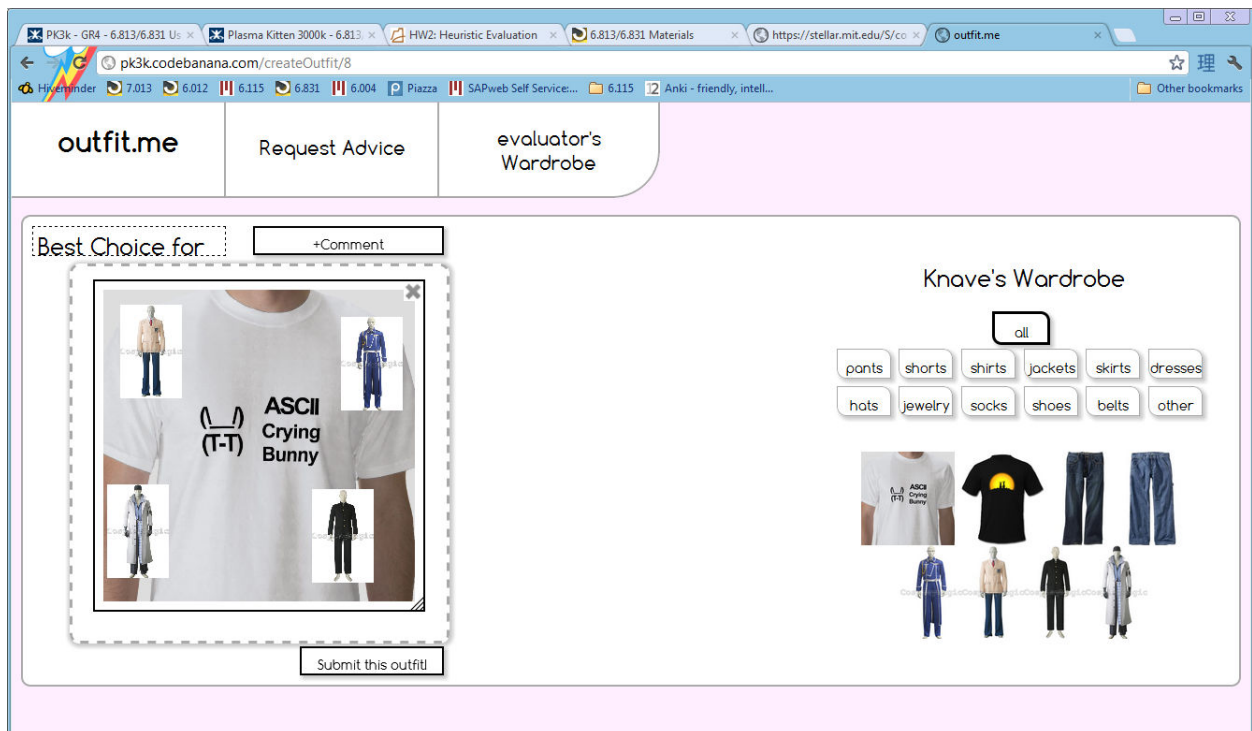
Screenshot: None.

It's hard to manipulate overlapping pictures when making an outfit. The system seems to always select the image on the bottom. In the screenshot, the "ASCII crying bunny" shirt was selected by clicking on one of the other four images.

Heuristic: User control

Severity: Major

Screenshot:



There are no sanity checks on uploaded files to make sure they're images, which is both probably a security hole and definitely a usability problem. If I select the wrong file, suddenly I have a broken image in my wardrobe and (if a non-technical user) no idea why.

Heuristics: Error prevention

Severity: Minor

Screenshots:

