Discover.Me Heuristic Evaluation

Overall the app looks and works very well. There are very few major, and some minor problems (and also a lot of things I liked):

Major

- **No welcome screen**
  - When you first start up the application, or at least when you first download it, there should be some kind of welcome screen that states the purpose of the app (and perhaps how to use basic functionality). If I had not read your problem statement in the class wiki, I'd be very confused as to what the app is actually helping me do. In my opinion, this is a major **help/documentation (Learnability)** failing.
- **Events List Ambiguous**
  - Looking at the list of events, it's not apparent whether they are listed in any particular order. You also have to click on an individual event to see when and where it is. If you plan on helping people schedule events, I highly recommend a "Google Calendar"-like layout, which allows you to see when events are during your day. I would label this primarily an **efficiency** issue, as it hinders the user from quickly glancing all of his events to check availability.

Minor

- **Pushing Back When Looking at a Friend**
  - If you select a friend from your friends list, and then click back and/or the back arrow, you are sent to the main screen instead of back to the friends list. This functionality is ultimately up to you; however, it is a bit of a **consistency** issue, as clicking back usually returns you to what you were just looking at.
- **Pushing Back When Looking at an Event**
  - Identical to the above problem. A user might be expecting to return to his list of events, but will end up being directed to the main screen. Consider looking into this **consistency** issue.
- **Green and Red Dots for People**
  - Colorblind people currently might not be able to distinguish between the two. This is an easily fixable **visibility** issue. Just change one of the two colors, or add another indicator (shape?).
- **Specifying an Event Location**
  - The text box you would click on to type in the event location instead brings you to the map. While this is a really cool feature, and a great way to select locations nearby, you should change the representation. The text box is misleading the user into thinking it has a certain functionality, when in fact it has a very different functionality. I would consider this a decently important **consistency** problem, especially because there are identical text boxes on the same page with their normal functionality.
- **Specifying Participants**
  - Similar to the above issue, the text box for the option "Participants" is in fact not a text box. Fix this **consistency** issue by altering the representation.
- **Trying to Add an Already "Friended" Friend**

- When you go to add a friend using the little plus button in the friends list, and then proceed to select a person you are already friends with, you are brought to their friend page. While this makes perfect sense, you aren't given any immediate indication that you are view a different page than if you weren't friends with them. Basically, I went to select a person, and add them as a friend, but deleted them as a friend by accident. This might not occur very often, but it definitely would be possible to make this mistake. You should have some way of improving **Error Prevention**, which brings me to my next point.
- **Deleting a Friend**
  - Basically, it's way too easy to delete one of your friends by accident. It's a big button in the middle of the screen just asking to be pushed. If you do push it by accident, there's no warning pop-up, and no way of undoing it. This is a reasonably big **safety** problem. I would seriously recommend implementing warning pop-ups and/or some sort of undo.
- **No Back Button in Friends List, Events List, etc.**
  - If you are looking at your events list, and you want to go back to the map, you currently have to click on an individual event, and then click back. It would be much more **efficient** for the user if there was some sort of back button in these lists.

Cosmetic

- **Button got cut off on the Create New Event Page**
  - I'm assuming this was just an issue with the formatting of the prototype, but currently the "Wi-Fi" check button is being cut off, affecting **visibility** somewhat.

Awesomeness

- **Simplicity of Design**
  - I really like the main screen, and how it just has three simple pictured buttons.
- **Map Representation**
  - It's great to be able to see the whereabouts of your partners and such (make sure it doesn't get cluttered when someone has a lot of friends).

PS: Sorry there are no screen shots. I couldn't figure out how to take them on my phone. If need any clarification on my comments, please feel free to contact me (alagnam@mit.edu).