# HW2: Heuristic Evaluation - MashCal

# Overall

#### Pros:

- 1. The locations of the functioning buttons (such as home, create, and invite) are both internally and externally consistent. (consistency & standards)
- 2. The sequence of actions to perform each task is clear and easy to learn. (learnability)

#### Cons:

1. **Minor:** This application can use even less color. Currently, the header and footer bars are in black as shown in Fig. 1, but the functioning buttons are in blue. (aesthetic & minimalist design)



Recommendation: I'd suggest use the same color for both of the headers and the buttons. Such as the header bar shown in Fig. 2. This will make the overall appearance much simpler.



### #Home

# **Pros:**

1. The color is simple, and the menu looks simple. Users are intrigued to know more about this application. (aesthetic & minimalist design)

# Cons:

1. **Major:** The meaning of "My Events" in this application is not consistent with other reminder applications. Normally, user would assume that those are the events he has already scheduled instead of the events require RSVP. (external inconsistency/different mental model)

Recommendation: I'd suggest use word like "Notifications" or "Invitations" and implement it as a list with count bubbles as Fig. 3 meaning how many events are waiting for your RSVP.



Fig. 3

2. **Nitpick:** The word "Create" does not provide enough information scent about what the user is about to create. Is it going to create a calendar or a MeshCal? (information scent)

Recommendation: Use the sentence "Create Event" would be more concrete.

### #create

### **Pros:**

1. The default words in the text box are fragile. (flexibility & efficiency)

# #schedule

### **Pros:**

1. Hovering the calendar gives good feedbacks. (feedback)

### Cons:

- 1. **Severe**: The way to select time slots can be made more efficient. Currently, user needs to wipe more than 10 times if he wants to select 11PM. (flexibility & efficiency)
- 2. **Severe:** The color of the time slots is misleading (as shown in Fig. 4). Are there any differences between white time slots and black time slots? (internal inconsistency)



Fig. 4

- 3. **Major:** "..." (circled in red in Fig. 4).does not provide enough affordances for swiping. An icon might be helpful. (affordance)
- 4. **Major**: The calendar has limited capability. What if user wants to choose the dates in May? What about the year? (user control & freedom)
- 5. **Minor:** "apr 28" is not a common way to specify a date. It should be "Apr. 28." (match the real world)
- 5. Minor: The footer bar blinks when user chooses the time slots. (System error)

### #invite

# **Pros:**

1. Search bar provides auto-complete, and the default words are fragile. (flexibility & efficiency)

#### Cons:

- 1. Major: After user creates an event, a summary should be provided. (feedback)
- 2. **Minor:** The selected friends are colored in green, but in #schedule page, the selected dates are colored in blue. The difference is shown in Fig. 5. (internal inconsistency)



Fig. 5

3. **Minor:** The arrow icon (circled in red in Fig. 6) right to the name in each menu itemis redundant. It provides an affordance of viewing friend's information, which is not provided in this application. (redundant affordance/simplicity)



Fig. 6

# #respond\_selector

# **Pros:**

1. Non-clickable time slots give user good feedbacks to learn that those slots are not available. (feedback)

### Cons:

 Severe: The colors of selected/non-selected/possible dates as shown in Fig. 7 do not provide enough affordances, there is also no instruction that can help user to understand the differences between those four colors (white, black, dark green, and blue). (affordance/ help & documentation)



Fig. 7

- 2. **Severe:** User is unable to view all the available time slots at a glance. He needs to swipe through the whole time table to get this information. (flexibility & efficiency)
- 3. **Severe:** User must recall all the time slots he has chosen before he clicks "RSVP." A summary of a list of chosen time slots should also be provided to prevent error. (recognition not recall, error prevention, efficiency, feedback)