Ari Vogel
4/24/13

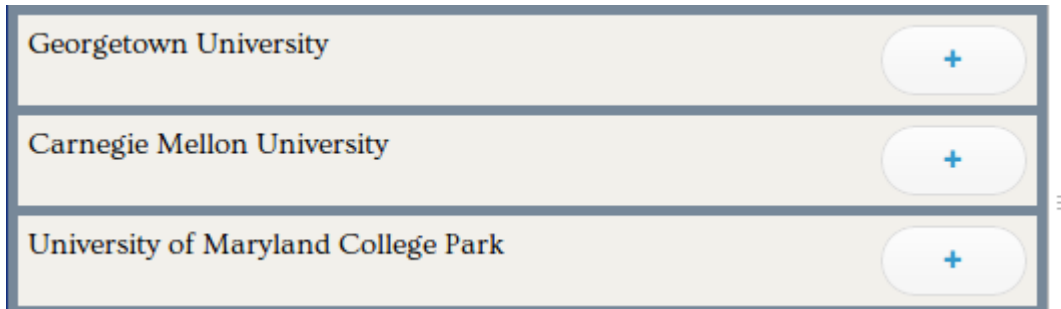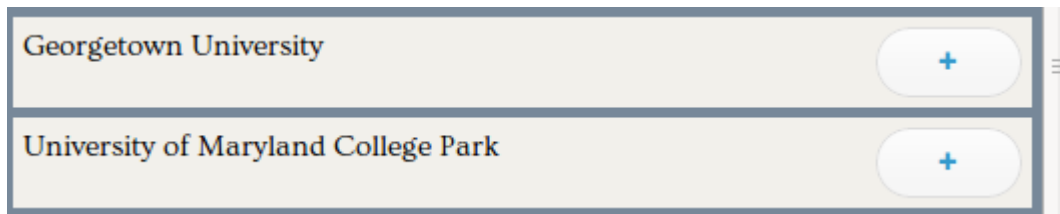## Ice Geckos Heuristic Evaluation

Image 1

Image 2

When adding schools to the trip, the feedback from pressing the button is lacking. After pressing the "+" button, the school disappears from the list, then appears in the top section of selected schools. However, if the list is scrolled down so the selected schools are not visible, then clicking the "+" only removes the list. The first time I tried adding a school, I was unsure of whether the school was added or not because of the lack of feedback. (Feedback) (minor)
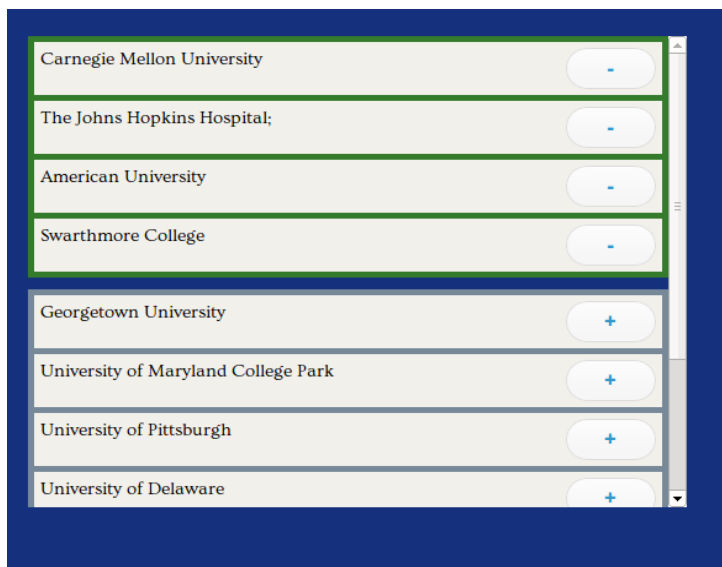

The interface gives the affordance of which schools have been selected, and which can be selected by the color surrounding the tile. However, the visibility of this status is poor because the color does not contrast with the background well and does not really stand out when performing a squint test. Furthermore, this can prove to be a problem for colorblind users as green is usually used as an indication for success, but red-green colorblindness is the most common form of colorblindness. (Visibility and colorblindness) (minor)
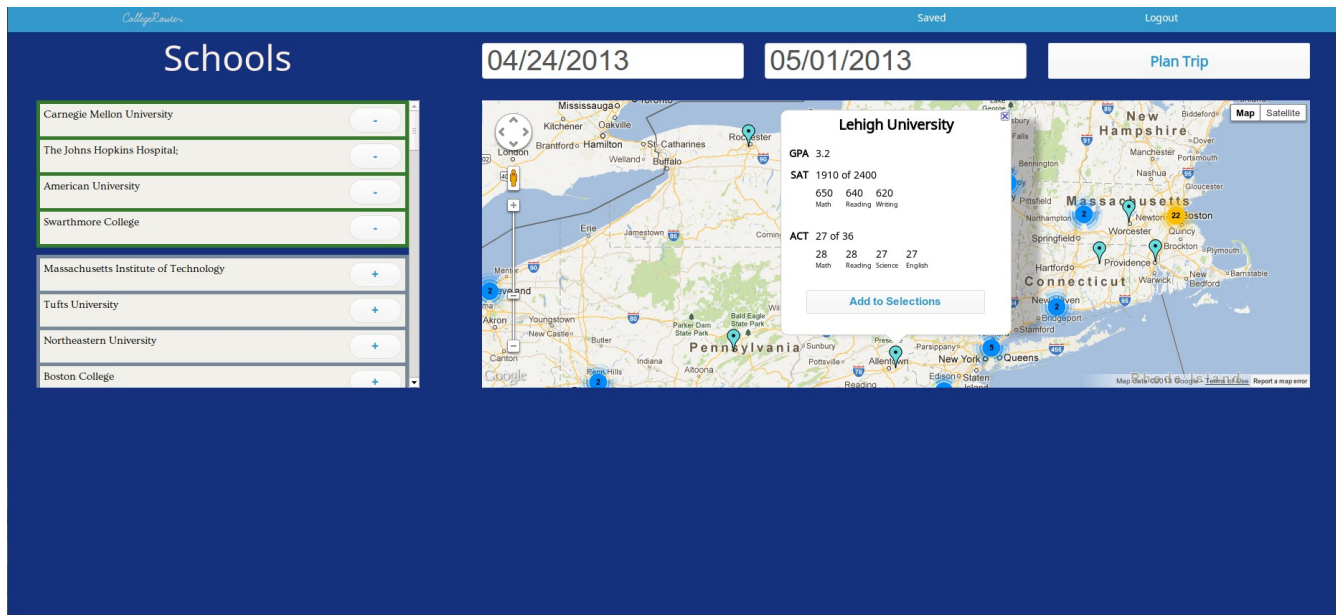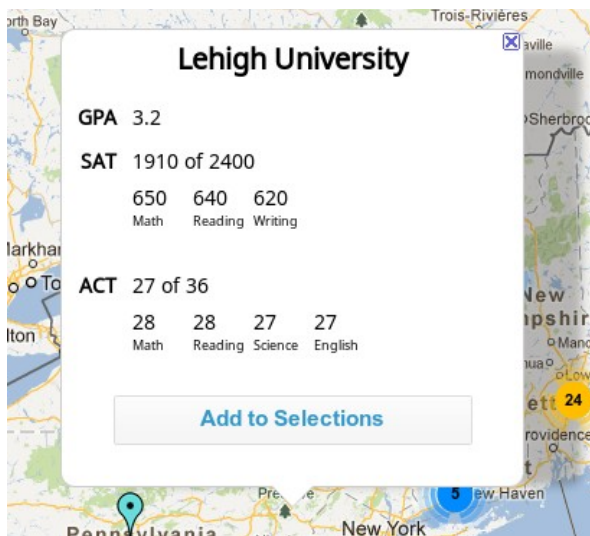
Image 3

Image 4

The height of the map and school selector div's were limited to 400px which limits the users ability to effectively use the interface. For the map in particular, flexibility and efficiency are limited as it is harder to navigate around a smaller map. (Flexibility and efficiency) (minor)

Looking at the same picture above, there is actually white space at the bottom of the webpage. This affects the aesthetics and minimalist design of the interface and can easily be fixed by setting a background-color for the page. (Aesthetic and minimalist design) (cosmetic)
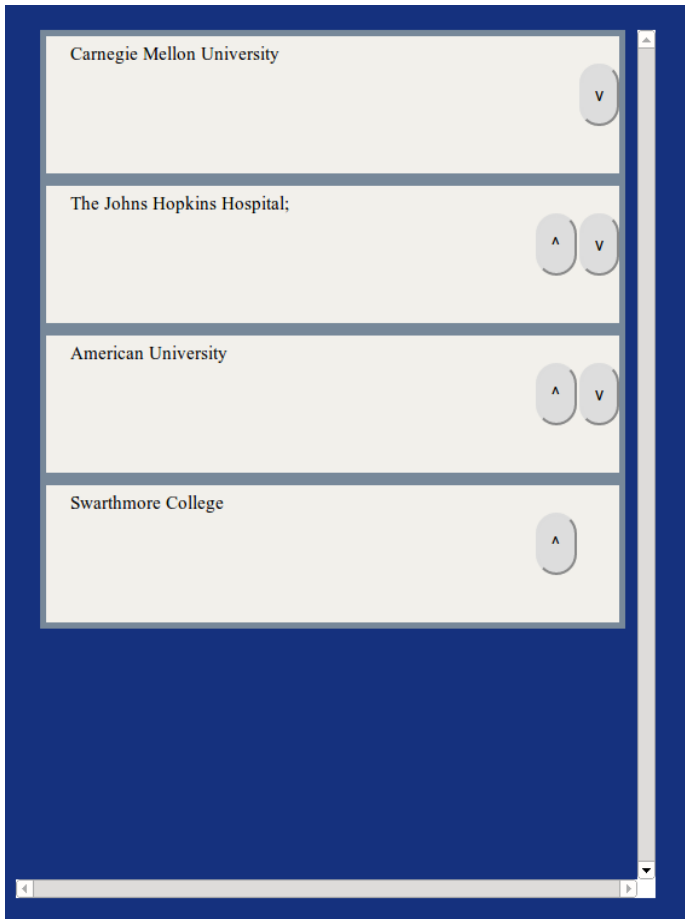
If a user is looking for a specific school, there is currently not a good way to quickly and effieicntly find a school. By simply adding a search bar a lot of efficiency could be gained. (Efficiency) (major)

The use of popover on the whole is really effective in this interface. One problem however is the size of the close button. By Fitts's law, this button should be made bigger as the popovers will be closed often. In addition, it would be nice for a click outside of the popover to close the popover. (Fitts's Law) (minor)

In addition, when looking at the contents of the popover, the typography of the title and "GPA, SAT, ACT" headers works well to set up a very readable popover. (Readability) (good)

Image 5

On the Itinerary page, the schedule pane should only have the scroll bars when necessary. The horizontal scrollbar seem to always be there unnecessarily, and vertical is always present, but superfluous when only a few schools are selected. The presence of these unnecessary scroll bars violates the Aesthetics and minimalist design heuristic. (cosmetic)

Looking at the list of schools in image 3, the tiles are much shorter, and the name fits better within the tile. Having a different sized tile with a font thats too small compared to the tile size creates an inconsistency within the interface. (Consistency) (minor)

The size of the text in comparison with the buttons and the tile size violates the minimalist design as the tiles take up more space than necessary and could free up more space for more tiles or more white space within the interface. (Aesthetic and minimalist design) (minor)
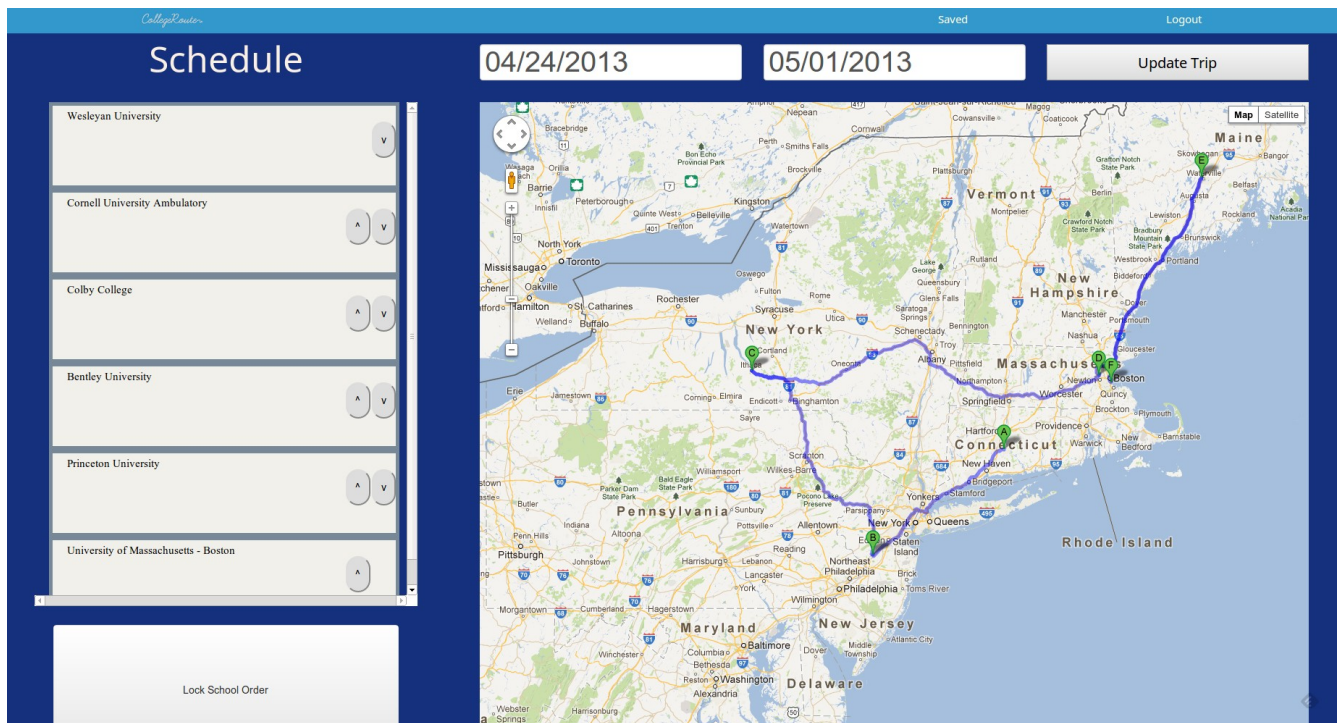
Image 6

Image 7

The page seen in image 7 is not consistent with the page shown in image 4 in terms of the general layout of the page. In image 7, the interface takes up the whole page, and actually I need to scroll down a little in order to see the full map and "Lock School Order" button. This is inconsistent with the intentionally short page in image 4 in which the height of the map was limited. One possible solution is to adopt the larger map on both pages because it allows the user to be more efficient, so maybe change the page shown in image 4 to utilize more screen space. (Consistency, Aesthetics) (major)

One very important part of your interface is allowing the user to rearrange the schools to find the best order to visit schools. However, when I first arrived at the page shown in image 7, I assumed that the schools order had been already rearranged for me to create the most efficient route. However, I had to look at the map for a little to realize this wasn't quite the case. Give the user a better indication that they are meant to rearrange the order of the schools. (Affordance, Learnability) (major)

I found that using the buttons was not very effective in changing the order of the schools. I think a solution would be to use drag and drop tiles to allow the user to drag the schools within the list. (Efficiency) (major)
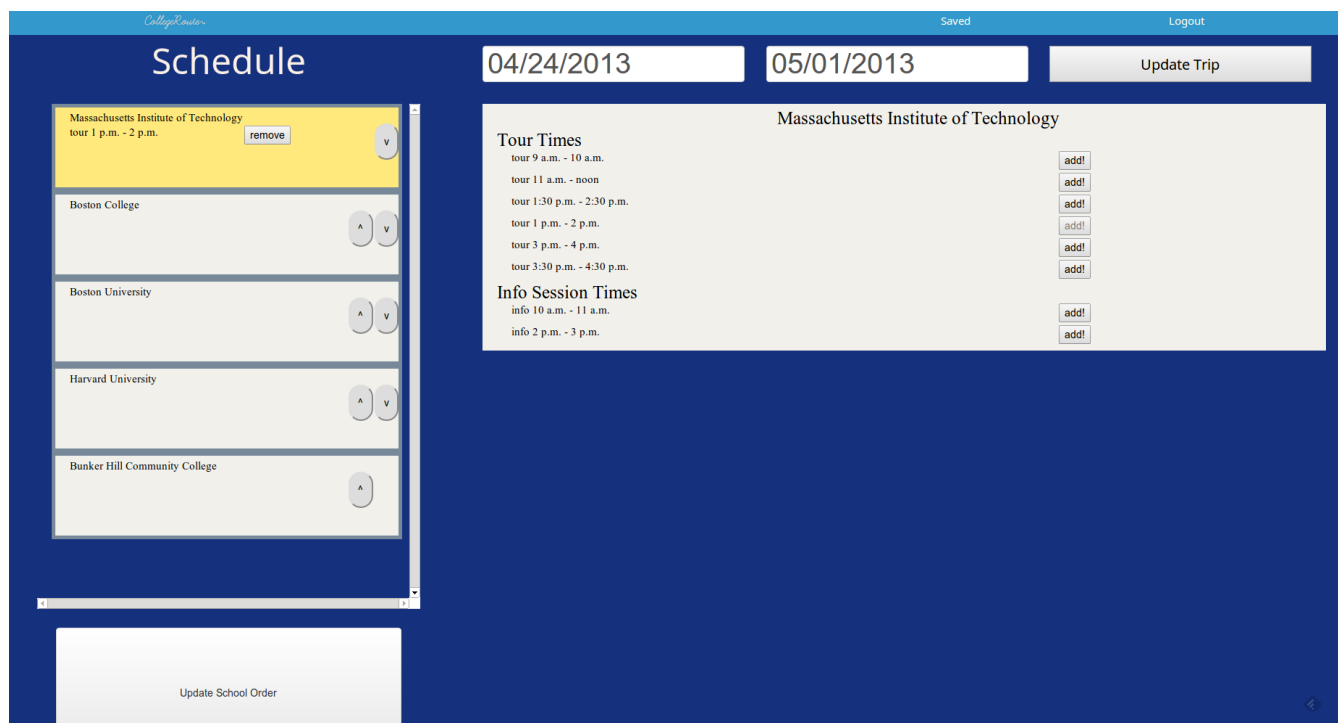

Image 8

When adding a tour to the schedule, it would be useful if the user could schedule which days they plan on being at a given school. It is tough just looking at the schedule on the left pane and remembering which day the user will be at a given school. This is most important because a user may want to schedule multiple tours at different schools on the same day, and it would be nice if there was some grouping to indicate which schools will be visited on which day. (Reduce short-term memory load) (major)

When trying to add the tours to a given school, it is hard to choose the correct "add" button. Make a better indication (such as alternating a shaded and unshaded background) so that the user can be more accurate in choosing the correct button. (Efficiency) (minor)
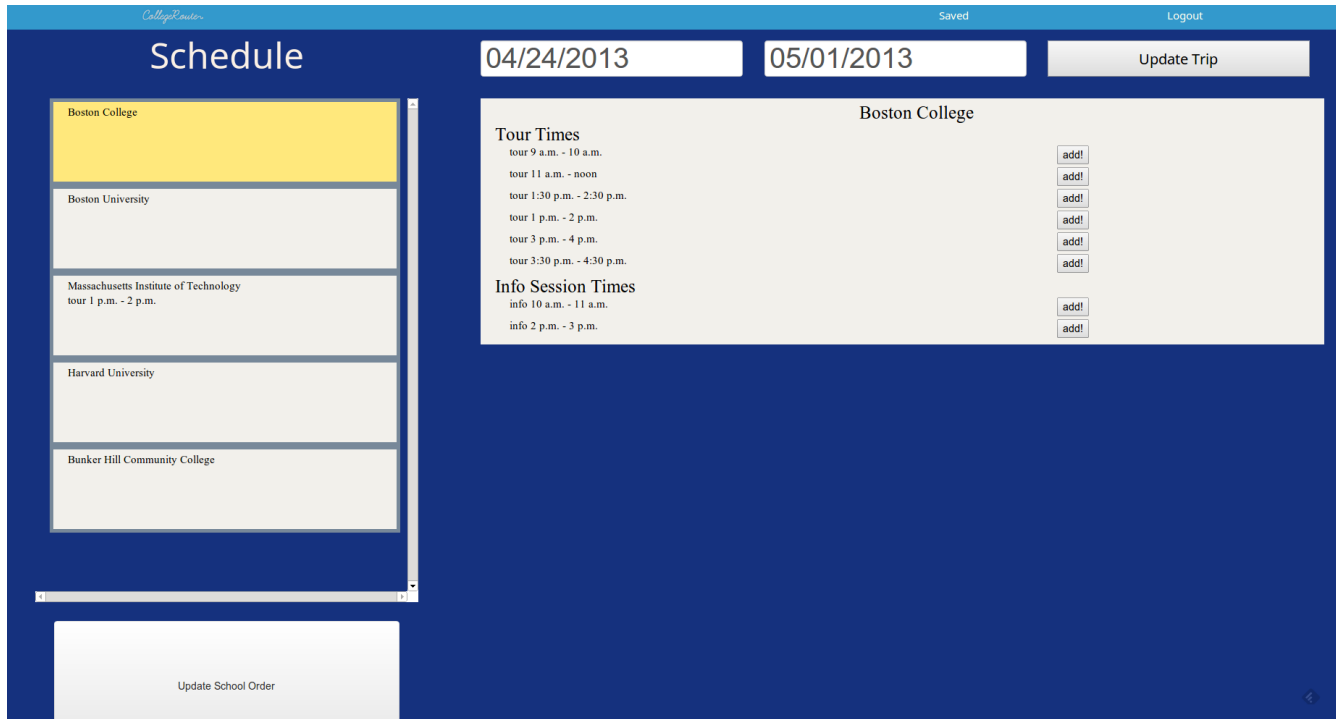

Image 9

Starting from image 8, then clicking on the "Update School Order" button, and then clicking on "Lock Order" button again, you are returned to the page shown in Image 9. The remove button along with the navigation buttons disappear. Then upon pressing another "add!" button, all the buttons show up again as seen in image 10. (Consistency) (major)
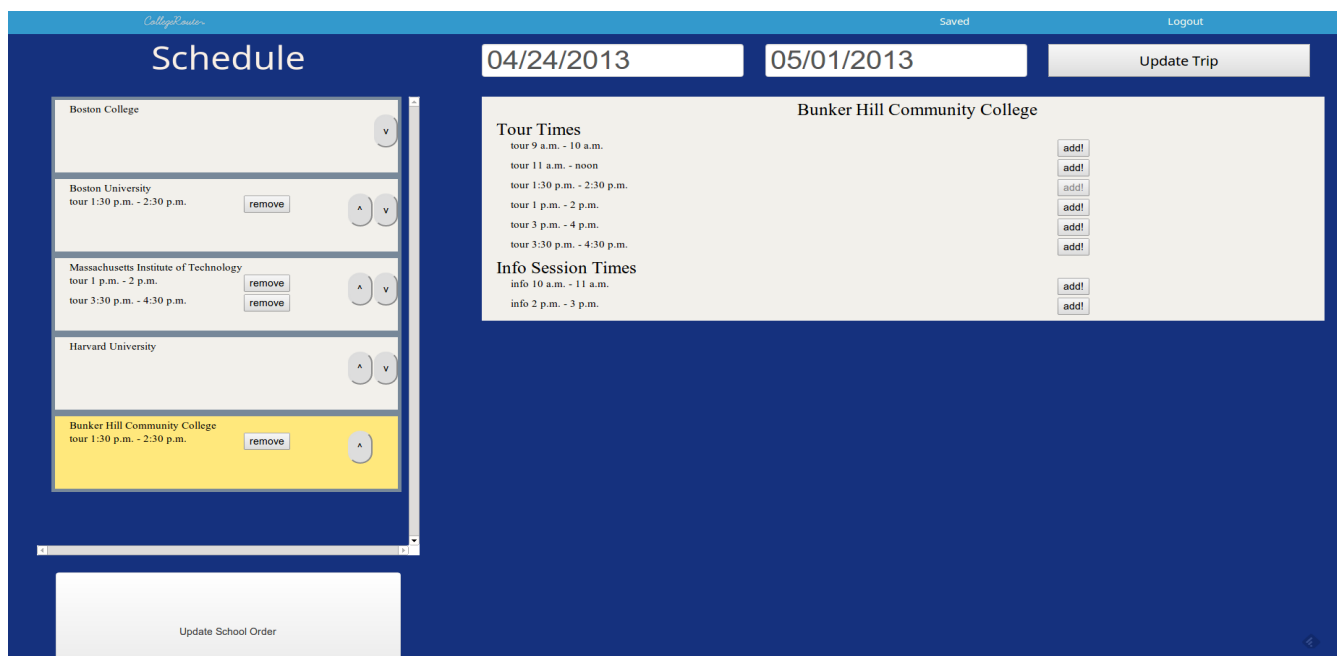

Image 10

There should be better navigation between the tour times of each school. It is inefficient for a user to have to go back and click each school when adding a tour time. I think an easy solution is to have "Next School" and "Previous School" buttons at the top of the right panel. (Efficiency and visibile navigation) (minor)

The user should have the ability to remove a school from the list at any point in this process. (User control and freedom) (major)

My mental model of the interface is as a linear walk through of building a trip. If that is what you were aiming for, then the large "update school order" button in image 9 breaks this metaphor, and instead seems like a toggle between two pages. If you want it to be linear, I would change that button to go above the list view and have a back button icon along with it. Also, at the end of this trip creation, I had no indication that I had finished or where the next page should go. (Visible navigation) (major)