6.813/6.831 • User Interface Design and Implementation

HW2: Heuristic Evaluation

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Declaration of collaboration

I declare that I did not discuss this assignment with anyone.

Evaluating Prototypes

In this assignment, Nielsen's 10 heuristics are used as the metrics to evaluate the UI prototype from team SETistics. Team's wiki can be found here
https://wikis.mit.edu/confluence/display/6DOT813sp13/SETistics.
The problems or positive features are categorized by usability heuristics. The severity is indicated at the beginning of the comment. (the comment are indicated by stars where necessary.. or something..)

Below is a screen shot of the webpage. To use space more effectively, instead of a separate screen shot for each comment, the stars below represent the places where comments are made. Since this is a fairly simple layout, the comments should be easily located. Some specific comments below also have pictures below the comment.

1. **Match the real world**

   - **Major**: The player numbers (1 to 6) are arbitrary and do not match the actual player numbers on the court. The user should be able to input player names and their numbers at the beginning which will be displayed instead of the arbitrary numbers to help the coach and the referee to better identify the players on the video.
   - **Minor**: The position of players in the picture below the 'Start' and 'End' field is not exactly matching the real location on the court.

2. **Consistency and standards**

   - **Major**: After the user open and click on one of the 'shot' or 'outcome' field, only the abbreviation of the kind of shot or outcome appears in the field instead of the full word. This is inconsistent and the user has to recall the full word from the abbreviation, which increases user's cognitive load.

3. **Help and documentation**

   - **Minor**: Help button is not present on the page. First-time users could be confused and may need help.

4. **User control and freedom**

   - **Major**: There is no way to record the time when a move is made. This could be useful for finding and re-watching the move later. The webpage could automatically record down the time on the video when a command is made and add that in the command.
   - **Minor**: User cannot add comments they have for a particular move. An optional 'comment' field could be added to allow users to write down the specific comments, if any, for a particular move for reference later on.

5. **Visibility of system status**

   - **Catastrophic**: When the previous comments column fills up, there is no scroll bar to access the older commands.
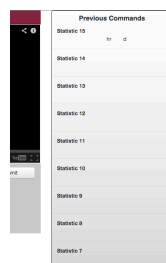
6. **Flexibility and efficiency**

   - **Major**: The previous commands column adds in commands based on the time the commands are created. There could be other options to sort the commands such as by player or by position to help in searching or for an overview of the match.
   - **Major**: There are no column names in the 'previous commands' section. The user will have to refer to the left for the commands order, which is inefficient.
   - **Minor**: Auto-complete could be useful if the user prefer to write in the field instead of using the dropdown box.

7. **Error prevention**

   - **Catastrophic**: Submit button will submit response even if nothing is entered in any of the field. The button should be disabled until the user enters data into the required fields.
   - **Good**: Clicking on the previous commands allow users to directly edit the statistics.

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   - **Minor**: The picture of the court has the affordability of interaction when it is only a static picture.

8. **Precognition not recall**

   - **Minor**: The picture below the textbox only shows up when an option is selected. Especially for the 'shot' and 'outcome' section, the user have to recall the word that correspond to the movement they saw and select from the menu. Instead of asking user to select from only a list of words, you can show users all the pictures with a description word on them and let the user to select from both pictures and words.

9. **Error reporting, dialogue and recovery**

   - **Major**: When the user types in the text field even with words that are not in the drop down list, the submit button does not report error.

10. **Aesthetics and minimalist design**

   - **Good**: The overall design is simple yet contains all the necessary features.

- **Major**: The 'previous commands' column does not look integrated with the rest of the web element. The banner could span the over the previous commands and the white space between the video and commands column could be smaller to make it look more integrated.
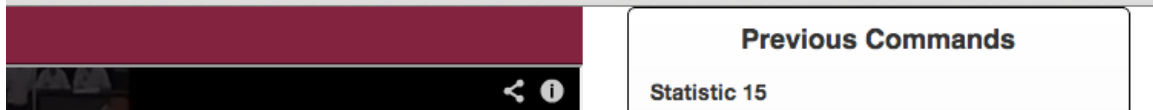
- **Minor**: The picture of the court under 'start' and 'end' has too much contrast with the background. Maybe can consider remove the border and reduce the color saturation of the court color.