**Design Workout 1**

**PAPER PROTOTYPING:** Make a paper prototype of a cell phone app and try it out with 5 potential users. Be sure to take a picture of the paper prototype and hand that in with a summary of your experience trying it out with users. Your summary should include the implications for future iterations of your prototype.

* **Introduction of a cell phone app**

In contemporary society, the era of Information Globalization, as fast development of different means of transportation and communication, more and more people choose to leave their hometown to study or work in other cities or countries and change the place where they live more often than before. So nowadays, it is very common that couples study or work in different cities or counties. However, long distance relationship couples cannot know each other’s everyday life as well as those who live in the same place. As time passes, the contact frequency between the couples will decrease. Contact too often will become a burden rather than romantic thing. But knowing less and less of each other’s daily life will cause couples have less and less common topics and feel their mental distance becomes farther and farther.

I designed this cell phone app to help long distance relationship couples can know each other’s daily life better with less effort. This phone app will help couples to record and share daily life information from two kinds of ways: (1) Like traditional contact methods (e.g. call, email, instant message, etc.) , couples need to open the app and record the information they want to share with their significant others by themselves. The differences between this app and traditional methods are that this app helps to decrease the effort of managing information and provides multiple forms of information sharing. (2) The app can automatically collect and record users’ biological information and what they use their cell phone to do such and such. Because cell phone has already been one of the most important things that people always take with them every day even nearly every moment, recording what people do with their cell phones can reflect what people do in a day to some degree. Even if the frequency of active contact with each other decreases, couples still can receive constant information of daily life from each other.

**If A (boyfriend) share his daily life information with B (girlfriend). A would see following interface:**

**Press “Breakfast” Button**

**B would see following interface (A’s daily life information will be presented in a graph):**

* **Potential users**

All potential users were randomly selected in campus. They agreed that attending the short interview without payment and share a little bit private information about their relationship status and history.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Users** | **Country** | **Gender** | **Cell phone** | **Relationship status** | **Experience of long distance relationship** |
| A | South Korea | Male | Iphone | In a stable relationship | Will experience in one year |
| B | South Korea | Female | Iphone | In a stable relationship | Will experience in one year |
| C | America | Male | Regular phone | Do not in a relationship or date girls | Experienced once before |
| D | China | Female | HTC | Do not in a relationship or date boys | Have no experience |
| E | America | Female | Regular phone | In a stable relationship | Is experiencing now |

* **Experience**

Potential user A and B is a couple. They both felt exciting about this new cell phone app and expressed their strong willingness of using it. User A likes the functions of automatically recording what users do with their cell phones in a day. He would love to know when and what his girl friend is doing with her cell phone, it made him feel that his girlfriend was very close to him, just liked they were walking side by side. But he didn’t like the activity level curve, because when the cell phone was left at home or locked in a cabinet, it could not reflect accurate biological information anymore. He suggested that the app should also automatically record users’ locations at different time and then draw users’ footsteps on a map. He thought it would be more interesting to him if this app could not only provide the activity curve, but also footsteps map.

User B thought the app was easy to use and interesting. She said in her opinion, it seemed girls usually were more likely to want to know what their boyfriends do in a day than boys want to know what their girlfriends do in a day. So she thought the design of interface should be more feminine. As a real couple, user A and B said they really wanted to use this kind of cell phone app when their relationship became long distance relationship next year.

User C said that he would not to use such cell phone app because although this app allowed users to customize information they want to share, he still felt that the app let him share too much private information of his daily life to another person, even if this person and he were in a very stable relationship.

User D said she liked this app and said she not only wanted to use this app with her future boyfriend but also her close friends who live in different places. She liked the design of customized categories of daily events, she could clearly record anything, no matter big or small, with many forms conveniently without concerning that when she had time to call or email to her boyfriends or close friends, she had already forgotten many small things happened in a day. Sometimes, those small things were very good chatting topics and made people a lot of fun. She thought that if this app could provide some small cell phone games which allow boy friend and girl friend to play together, such as raising a digital pet together, this app would be more interesting and attractive to couples.

User E concerned the price of this app. She said If this app was free, she would definitely want to try it, but if it was not free, she would consider the price first. Because she thought that her boyfriend and she have already been in constant contact via phone, email, instant message and twitter, they contacted with each other very often and enjoyed the contact. It seems not that necessary to pay for additional app. And she was not only student, but also an intern, so she would add one or two categories of daily events about work. She liked the map function very much. She would love to know where her boyfriend is sometimes.

* **Implications:**

All the five potential users felt this app was easy to use although one of them did not want to use it. User A, B, D, and E hold positive attitude to this app and believed it can benefit long distance relationship. There is no useless feature in current design of this app. All the features were mentioned by at least one potential user when they pretended they were using the app. However, the design of this app is far from sufficient. First, the interface design should be more beautiful. Second, the design can be improved by adding entertainment games which not only make the app more interesting and attractive, but also increase the interaction behavior between couples. Third, except activity curve, other ways of displaying users’ daily life information can be added, such as the footsteps map mentioned by one of potential users. Fourth, this app can be designed not only for long distance romantic relationships, but also long distance friendships and long distance family relationships.