PLANTR PAPER PROTOTYPE & USER TESTING

JEN JIANFEN ZHANG, JORY RICE, PAUL BARTELL, WHITNEY SCHMIDT.
Plants can improve mood and health

But many plant owners struggle with caring for their plants
SOLUTION

Phone app allows user to interact with plant

Sensor tracks plant’s basic condition
SOLUTION

- Phone app allows user to interact with plant
- Care reminders
- Basic care information
- Sensor tracks plant’s basic condition
- Anthropomorphize plants if something is wrong
Determining how to care for a plant
Remembering to care for a plant
Handling care when something is wrong
PROTOTYPE STRUCTURE

PLANT

WATER CUP

PLANTR SENSOR

CARDBOARD IPHONE FRAMES

PAPER SCREENS
PLANTRTASKS
Add a plant
Learning how to care for a plant

**TASK 1**

- Jack has just purchased a cactus from IKEA
- He wants to get basic care info for his cactus by adding it Plantr
Add a plant
Learning how to care for a plant
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TASK 1
Add a plant
Learning how to care for a plant

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Task 1
• Jack has killed 5 IKEA cactuses before

• Now that he has Plantr, Jack has no trouble regularly caring for his cactuses
Plant reminders
Remembering to care for a plant
Plant reminders
Remembering to care for a plant
Plant reminders
Remembering to care for a plant
Plant reminders
Remembering to care for a plant
Diagnosing a problem and getting help

- With the help of Plantr, Jack is able to take care of his cactuses.
- He becomes an indoor plant enthusiast and takes on the challenge of caring for an orchid.
- Jack notices that his orchid has black spots.
- He wants to know what the problem is.
- He wants to know how he can help his orchid.
Diagnosing a problem and getting help
Diagnosing a problem and getting help
Diagnosing a problem and getting help

**TASK 3**

- **Butterfly Orchid**
  - Location: Living Room
  - Date: 2013/11/05

- **Condition**
  - Water: N
  - Light: N
  - Temperature: N

- **Symptoms**
  - Yellow blotches
  - Red-orange spots
  - Black spots
  - Brown spots
  - Wrinkled leaves

- **Diagnose**
  - Find an Expert
Diagnosing a problem and getting help

TASK 3
Participants & Environment
• UW student – CSE atrium
• Two women from plant store – Ravenna Gardens in U Village

Tasks
• Add a plant to Plantr
• Water a plant after receiving a care reminder
• Diagnose a plant’s ailment when something is wrong

Procedure
• Introduce computer, facilitator, note-taker
• Give tasks
• Go over questions and feedback from participants

Test Measures
• Verbal & visual feedback from participant
• Time to complete a task or action
• Wording of reminders

• Inputting care information on ‘Add a New Plant’ screen

• Finding an expert

• Scrolling
INTERFACE CHANGES

Diagnose by Symptoms

Yellow Blotches
Red-Orange Spots
Wrinkled Leaves

FIND AN EXPERT

Diagnose

Wrinkled Leaves
Brown Spots

Find an Expert

1. Molbaks
2. SKY Nursery
INTERFACE CHANGES

Before:
- diagnose by symptoms
- yellow blotches
- red-orange spot
- wrinkled leaves

After:
- diagnose by symptoms
- brown spots
- wrinkled leaves

Additional options:
- find an expert

Maps:
- map to location
- map to expert's location

New options:
- find an expert
  - molbaks
  - sky nursery
• Participants liked seeing plants talking and showing emotion with facial expressions

• Users want to be offered more than one way of doing something – custom care parameters

• Simpler interfaces are better – ‘Find an Expert’

• Paper prototypes have limitations - scrolling
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