

Video Prototype

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Video Creation Process

Our video prototype was created with a few props, a green sheet of construction paper, and Sean's amazing video editing talent. We shot the video on the sixth floor of the Paul Allen building using two empty prescription medication bottles and an iPod Touch. Sean used a camera to shoot 5 to 8 separate takes of Katherine acting out our three scenarios in one storyline. He then used Adobe After Effects and Adobe Premiere Pro to merge and edit the takes into one video. In the final product, we had a narrator talk over the entire video, and explain the steps that the user (Katherine) took to use our interface and take her medicine.

New Techniques

The most interesting technique that we used to create our video prototype was the green-screen technique. We taped a sheet of green construction paper to an iPod Touch, so that we could superimpose our interface on top and allow the final video to show the user navigating from one screen to another. By scripting the finger movements from one step to the next, we were able to produce a realistic interface on video that seemed to respond to touch, without having to code up an interface to work with.

What Worked Well

Our video prototype has a simple plot with one user that navigates through the three tasks using our interface. Not only did this allow viewers to have a better understanding of how the different parts of our interface tied together, but it also made the video-shooting process easier on us. The green-screen technique that we used was mostly successful. Tracking the corners of the screen worked well, and the user interface is fairly stable on the "phone". Putting together the multiple takes was not that difficult, and by presenting the video with a narrator, we made our lives simpler by taking out the sound of the video altogether and simply adding the narration as the sole sound source.

What Was Difficult

When working with the green-screen technique, there was some noise at the top edge of the screen, where a small area of shadow was casted by the edge of the case. Other shadows created a smaller amount of noise as well. However the biggest difficulty was the amount of time required to edit the video. Planning the video only took an hour or so, and the shooting with props took half an hour at the longest, but the video editing took hours on end. It was not only necessary to connect the different scenes together, but also to artificially create the interface of the mobile device using the green-screen technique. This was the first time that any of us had attempted to implement this sort of special effect, so a big part of the time investment of the video editing process was learning how to use this technique.