02JSKxx - Human Computer Interaction

Lab 4 - Wireframe

This lab bootstraps the work needed for Milestone 3 (M3), by asking you to create a wireframe for your application. The lab should be completed as a group and its result will be used next week, in Lab 5.

Wireframe

By reflecting on the results of Milestone 2 (Low-Fi Prototyping) and starting from the selected paper prototype, create a **medium-fidelity digital wireframe** of your application. As illustrated during the Prototyping lectures, a wireframe provides the main details about the layout of a screen and the rough information it holds, leaving out smaller details and styling. As for paper prototypes, in your wireframe you must assume that all the trivial (yet mandatory) steps are done, for instance that the user has already logged in and that all information is in her profile. Therefore, the wireframe should have all the pages of the prototype stemming from the results of M2. Also, consider that next week you will use such a wireframe to conduct a heuristic evaluation, so the pages should be linked together to completely fulfil a few tasks of your choice.

You do not need to worry about aesthetics/styling for the pages in the wireframe, as it is important to help you organize your app and, eventually, decide how you would like to implement it (in code). The wireframe needs to clearly convey the task or goal of each page, so that a person can look at it and understand what function each page will serve. The wireframe has to include all the buttons, text boxes, … necessary to perform the main action(s) on its pages. You are also asked to create the connections between pages (i.e., clicking on a button jumps to the appropriate new page).

Save the (static) pages of your wireframe in PDF/PNG, since you will need to include them in the M3 report. M3 will ask you to describe the navigations among pages either textually or with some arrows.

The wireframe must be completed before Lab 5, i.e., next week, and will be used during that Lab for conducting a heuristic evaluation among groups.

How?

For this lab, we *suggest* that you use an online tool such as Balsamiq Cloud, Marvel, or Google Slides to create your wireframe (with the connections between pages). Below, you can find a few notes and recommendations about them.

Balsamiq Cloud (https://balsamiq.com/wireframes/) is the evolution of myBalsamiq. Differently from the past, they are not offering an easy-to-access educational version, so you can rely on the free trial, only. The trial should give you full access to *all* the Balsamiq features for 30 days.

Marvel (https://marvelapp.com) allows you to create wireframes or more advanced (and realistic) prototypes. Should you use it, create a wireframe in grayscale and do not be tempted by more colorful and realistic options. Marvel has a free version, for a single user. You can use that version, sharing the account.

Marvel will not allow you to download the wireframe pages in the free version (but you can screenshot them).

Google Slides, part of the Google Suite (https://slides.google.com), works like PowerPoint or Keynote and allows you to collaborative working on slides. It does not have explicit support for wireframe creations, but you have more freedom in the drawing. You can simulate actions (e.g., pressing a button) by creating a link from the element to another slide, given that each slide has a different URL can be used to link directly to it. This operation can be done as shown in this short tutorial.

Obviously, you can use other tools you are familiar with, if they allow you to create a wireframe and show the actions of its interface.