Bi-Weekly Report: NeuroResponse

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Overview

The work on NeuroResponse project is continued from last year OOP project with a new team. Currently our app is done for two major mobile app platforms: iOS and Android, both are written natively using Xcode on Swift and Android Studio on Java. During first two weeks we held two meetings with the client and met our member, who has not been working on this project previously – Yixuan Cui.

During the first lab session we were suggested to read a research paper "Quantifying the Body and Caring for the Mind: Self-Tracking in Multiple Sclerosis ", which was written by UCLIC professors. This research paper contains interviews with MS patients and will be applied for the HCI assignment, as according to Dr. Evans we are not allowed to make our own interview with patients.

Meetings

First meeting – 3rd of October 2017

During our first meeting we were summarising the work done for the project during summer as an internship. App on both platforms has similar UI design following Apple's and Google's design standards. Our aim for this year is to launch mobile app with a working integration of a safe data transaction system. Since the app is ready on both platforms, only remaining part is creating a back-end for the NR. We were given a task to concentrate on our HCI assignment, as well as researching on Data encryption, secure data transaction, User authentication systems and designing database to start collecting data as soon as possible.

Second meeting – 19th of October 2017:

This time we were meeting with the representatives of NeuroResponse project from NHS and Dr. Delmiro. Main topic of this meeting was deploying an app, including which server and organisation will hold the back-end of our app. Dr. Delmiro suggested possible solutions of this problem, however NHS representatives could not straightly confirm them (UCL-Servers, NHS Servers or InHealthcare UK).

Since we could not come to a compromise with the NHS, Dr. Delmiro postpone the development of back-end, as the app can possibly be used as a fitness tracker for patients with multiple sclerosis and data would not be collected in this case. He also proposed to arrange a meeting with the authors of the research paper from UCLIC.

Achievements

1. Set up Slack group chat.
2. Designated team roles.
3. Met with our UCL point of contact and the NHS client and introduced our new team member.
4. Gave an overview of the work done on the project to the client.
5. Found useful research for a deeper understanding of the limits and possible issues that might occur due to a poor UI and UX design. Also, new interesting features could be added to the app in order to make it more user-focused.

Future tasks

1. Bug fixing.
2. Attempt to apply information from the research paper and decide on whether changes are needed in the UI design.
3. Try to arrange a meeting with UCLIC professors (authors of the research paper) with Delmiro.

Our plan for the next 2 weeks

We are waiting a response from the NHS in order to know the location where are we going to deploy the back-end server.

Individual reports

Sanzhar Aitimov

After reading a research paper on MS and applying knowledge received on the HCI lectures, I came up with an alternative UI design for Symptom Check section of our app, as an old design might be a bit challenging to use for people affected by tremors. I have also done sketches of possible UI design and helped my teammates with contents for the HCI website.

Yixuan Cui

During the past two weeks, I have introduced myself to my teammates and got to know my teammates. As a team member, I had my first meeting with our clients, NHS and Dr. Delmiro. I have also done some research on various programming languages which are needed for the development of back-end. However, since the back-end development is suspended at this stage, our team will wait until the response from the clients and focus on the HCI assignment and improve the existing front-end design for the app.

Miquel Rigo

I researched about different back-end technologies to implement our server, the combination between mongo.db and node.js resulted in one of the most interesting. I also read the research paper about self-tracking techniques in patients with MS. After gathering the requirements, I made the personas and scenarios based on direct experiences from the research paper. Thanks to that I could understand better the disease and it helped me to design a new and improved prototype of the app with more user-focused features.