Design to enhance happiness and reduce tensions among British international students living in shared housing

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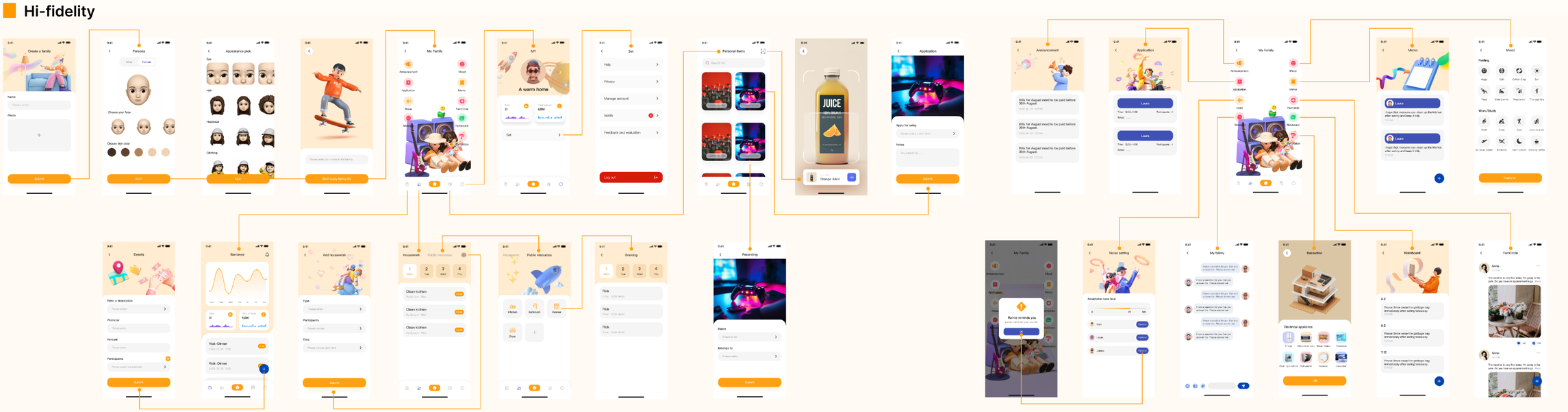
Abstract

The well-being of overseas students studying in the UK is being improved by paying attention to shared housing situations. This overview examines the investigation and creation of ground-breaking software intended to promote tranquil co-living. The study provides strategies to enhance co-living by comprehending the opportunities and difficulties of shared housing for international students. The experiences and difficulties of international students living in shared accommodation are explored through in-depth interviews and a review of previous studies. The experiences and difficulties of college students living in shared accommodation are explored through in-depth interviews and a review of previous studies. In order to foster an environment where roommates may coexist peacefully, the app is created with capabilities for efficient communication, conflict resolution, and collaboration. The project's importance lies in addressing the difficulties faced by international students and offering workable alternatives for a better co-living experience in the UK.

Introduction & Background

The popularity of the UK as a study abroad destination for international students has sparked a rise in shared housing. With this type of co-living, students can split expenses, meet new people, and communicate with people from different cultures. Co-living can promote friendships and cultural understanding in addition to cost-sharing, which is important for newcomers getting used to life abroad. These contacts improve the study abroad experience by fostering global awareness, social skills, and professional development. The main objective of the project is to create an app that will enhance the co-living experience for international students studying in the UK. The well-being of the expanding international student population in the UK depends on shared housing. The programme aims to develop technology solutions to the challenges faced by international students who live with roommates from different cultures. By doing research to comprehend the challenges experienced by international students living with roommates, an app will be developed to help with communication, dispute resolution, and cooperation between roommates, ultimately enhancing their sense of overall pleasure and well-being.

Hi-fidelity



Study Methodology

The study and techniques for enhancing the happiness of roommates are thoroughly investigated through literature research. Review of existing study findings on the satisfaction of international students who live with roommates, as well as analysis of shared living-related apps such accounting and housework assignment apps. I carried out qualitative research, analysed previous quantitative research on co-living concerns, and performed in-depth interviews with target users. In addition, I found knowledge gaps and unexplored areas in the existing research, and I used the literature as a source of inspiration and a methodological guide for this investigation.

Testing & Evaluation

Objective user testing was conducted on low-fidelity. Firstly, it was confirmed that the application's fundamental features—such as chore assignment, reserve of public resources, noise adjustment, billing, etc.—are simple to comprehend and use. Secondly, it is examined to see if the application's user interface and navigation adhere to the standards of simplicity and comprehensibility. Finally, a quantitative analysis of the prototype was conducted using the SUS (System Usability Scale).

Usability testing is the primary technique of evaluation, with a focus on the learnings from card sorting, information architecture, and treejack testing. This enabled us to spot potential upgrades and guarantee a smooth user experience. A group of international students who are living in shared apartments and who represent our target user base participated in the usability testing. Data was gathered on completion rates, time taken, and errors made during the numerous tasks that participants were requested to complete in the programme. Participants were also asked to provide feedback on the application's user interface, overall usability, and the clarity of the instructions.

Research Results

The study's findings demonstrate that by carefully examining the requirements and issues of our target audience as well as the difficulties associated with current shared housing, we were able to develop a creative application that is intended to increase the satisfaction of shared housing for British international students. The software offers online family, household assignment, accounting, and other features to foster peace among housemates in addition to excellent communication and conflict resolution tools. Our design, which is based on in-depth interviews and a literature review, solves the research gaps and offers workable answers to the issues with international students' shared housing.

Conclusions & Future Work

The innovative application design of the project, aimed at enhancing the well-being of British international students in shared housing, has yielded positive outcomes. I created a feature-rich programme to enhance the co-living experience by researching the requirements and obstacles of co-living. The goal of the software is to encourage effective flatmate cooperation and communication. Still, there are still topics that need more research, such how to handle linguistic and cultural diversity in an effective way. The goal of the following phase is to increase the contentment and well-being of international students residing in shared housing by conducting additional user tests and gathering feedback. This will enhance the user experience and operation of the app. At the same time, we plan to investigate in-depth any outstanding problems. We can further increase the effect and advantages of this initiative by fusing its discoveries with research and applications in other connected domains.