

Research

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SLIDES ADAPTED FROM SCOTT KLEMMER

Today

- From prototypes to a research vision
- Starting to work on our code infrastructure
- Milestone 6

**Tell us about one of
the idea prototypes**

To the panel!

Prototypes make ideas concrete

- We can argue ideas forever, but prototypes instantiate them to make tradeoffs concrete
- Two approaches from here
 - Try out your prototypes “manually” to see how people react to them
 - Reflect on the prototype (without users) to inform our decision

Research contributions

Time for synthesis!

So far: lots of ideas

- Reputation
- Task authorship
- Mediation
- and more!

Now we need to emphasize a conceptual point of view

- A string of features is not a research contribution
- A *point of view* gives us a single angle that informs our decisions and features
- This is going to be an important week!

Foundations

- A new high-level approach to organizing our crowd platform to improve *trust* and *power*
- Examples:
 - Workers review all tasks before posting and make all payment decisions
 - Workers organize themselves into collectives

Features

- Ideas which improve the strength of *any* platform but aren't holistic or don't give it a high-level purpose
- Examples:
 - Task recommender systems
 - Mediation strategies
 - Specific feedback mechanisms

Starting to code

Building a sharable infrastructure

Code infrastructure

- We are looking for a few teams who want to start thinking about the basic architecture of our platform
- We'll want it to be modular enough that many teams can contribute

Quick infra poll

- <http://hci.st/codeinfra>

Milestone 6

Choose your path!

Two paths: platform or code?

- Each team picks a direction to explore this week

Platform: Foundations and Features

- Look at the ideas from Milestone 5, as well as back in our original brainstorm with Milestones 3-4 for inspiration
- Work with your team to synthesize toward a few big ideas: which are the foundations?
- Then consider which features you think will be most important

Platform decisions

- Given all of our ideas and prototypes, your team should propose one–three core *foundations* that will form the basis of our platform
- Then, propose two–three *features* that you think will be the most influential and helpful

Platform milestone

- To focus our foundations around big ideas, we'll use a common tactic of writing up our deliverable like an academic paper introduction
 - ~6 well-written paragraphs
 - This is similar to Amazon's tactic of writing the press release before the product
- We've given you a few template papers that you can use to pattern yours

General format of an intro

- What's the problem you're solving?
 - *Specific* problem! Not just “crowdsourcing”. More like how trust and power are broken.
- Related work
 - What else have people tried, and why haven't they worked?
- What's the high-level insight?
 - This is the general idea, and what other platforms would want to replicate
- What's the system?
 - How might this idea look or work as a running system?

Code: kickstart an architecture

- Start creating the infrastructure for a crowd marketplace
- Either pick a few ideas just for testing purposes, or make it look and work like Mechanical Turk
- We'll aim to agree on a programming platform ASAP:
<http://hci.st/codeinfra>
- Also join the new #infra channel on our Slack