Heuristically Speaking an intro to heuristic evaluation Ann Culp & Cory Madaris





What is it?

Why do it?

When to do it?

What do I need to do it?

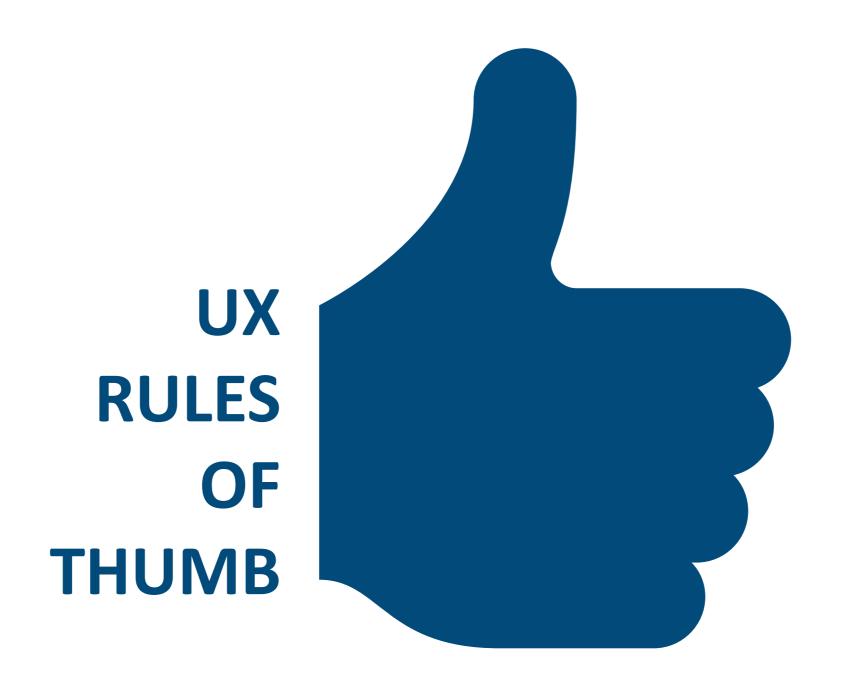
What does it look like in practice?



What is a heuristic evaluation?

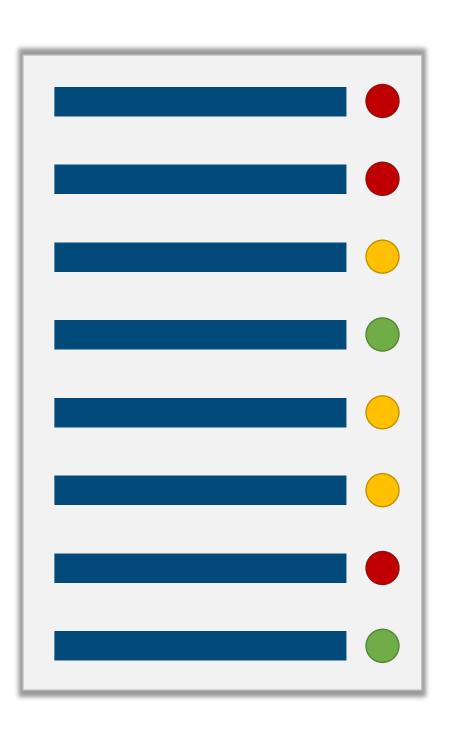
What is a Heuristic Evaluation?

A technique to evaluate digital experiences using...



What is a Heuristic Evaluation?





What it is, and isn't...





An effective method for uncovering usability issues

A consistent way to evaluate experiences

An input that product teams can use to inform their work

Perfect

Going to uncover every usability issue

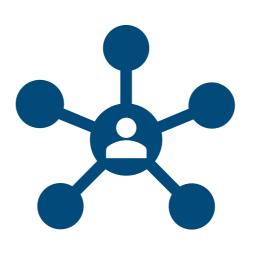
A replacement for talking to users



Why do a heuristic evaluation?

Why do it?









Days vs. Weeks



Recruiting

Compensation

Common
Understanding
of Experience
Quality

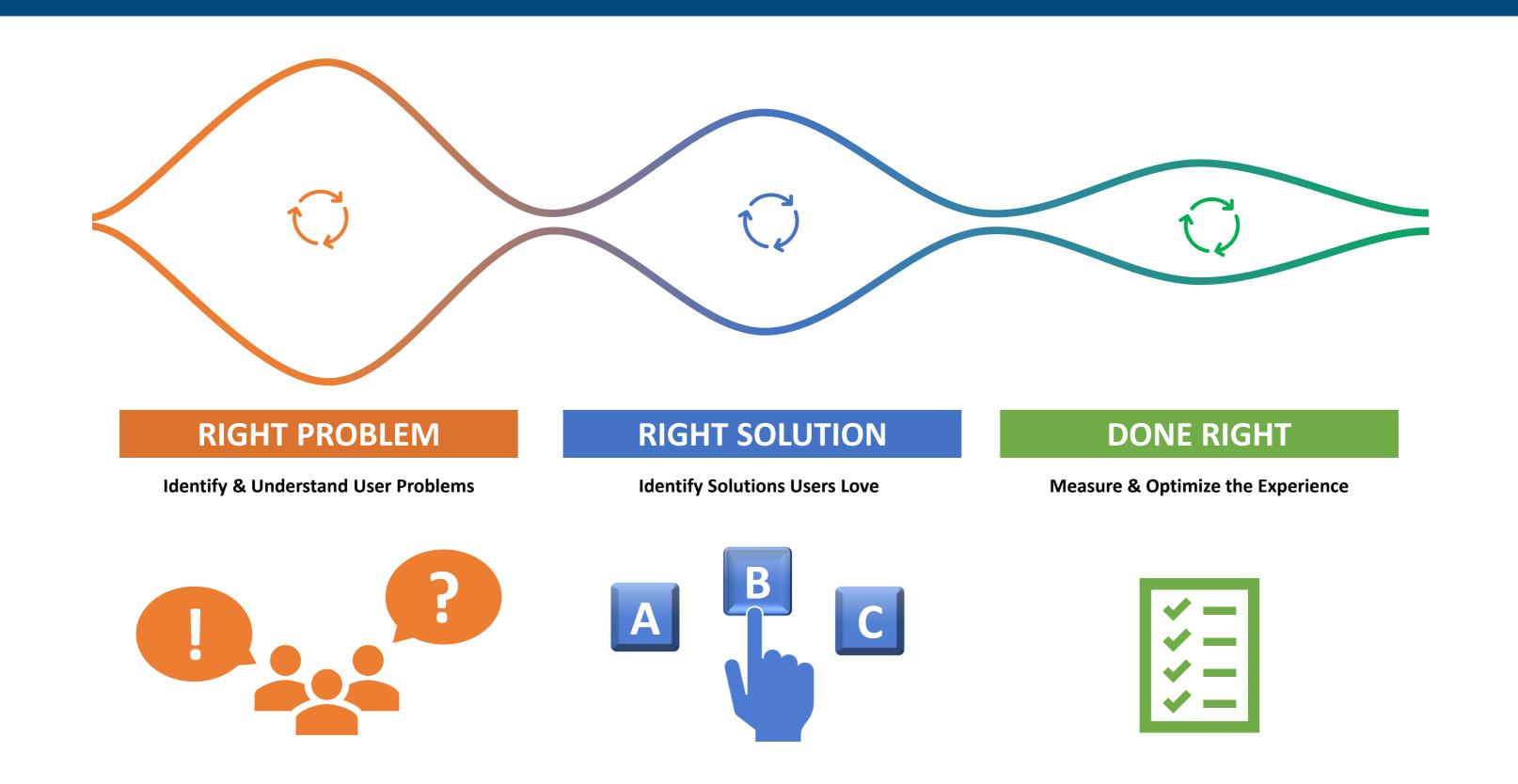
Baseline

Leading Indicator



When to do a heuristic evaluation?

Design Research Framework



Transformation Projects



RIGHT PROBLEM

Identify Frictions in Existing Digital Experiences

Heuristic Evaluation

Contextual Inquiry

In-Depth Interviews

E2E Experience Observation

Live Site Usability Testing

Existing Research Review

RIGHT SOLUTION

Generate and Evaluate Experience Strategies

Ideation

Customer Co-Creation

Rapid Concept Testing

DONE RIGHT

Design, Develop, Test, and Measure Solutions

Heuristic Evaluation

Prototype Usability Testing

Live Site Usability Testing

User Perception Survey

User Behavior Measurement (Analytics)



RESEARCH SPRINT

RESEARCH SPRINT RESEARCH SPRINT



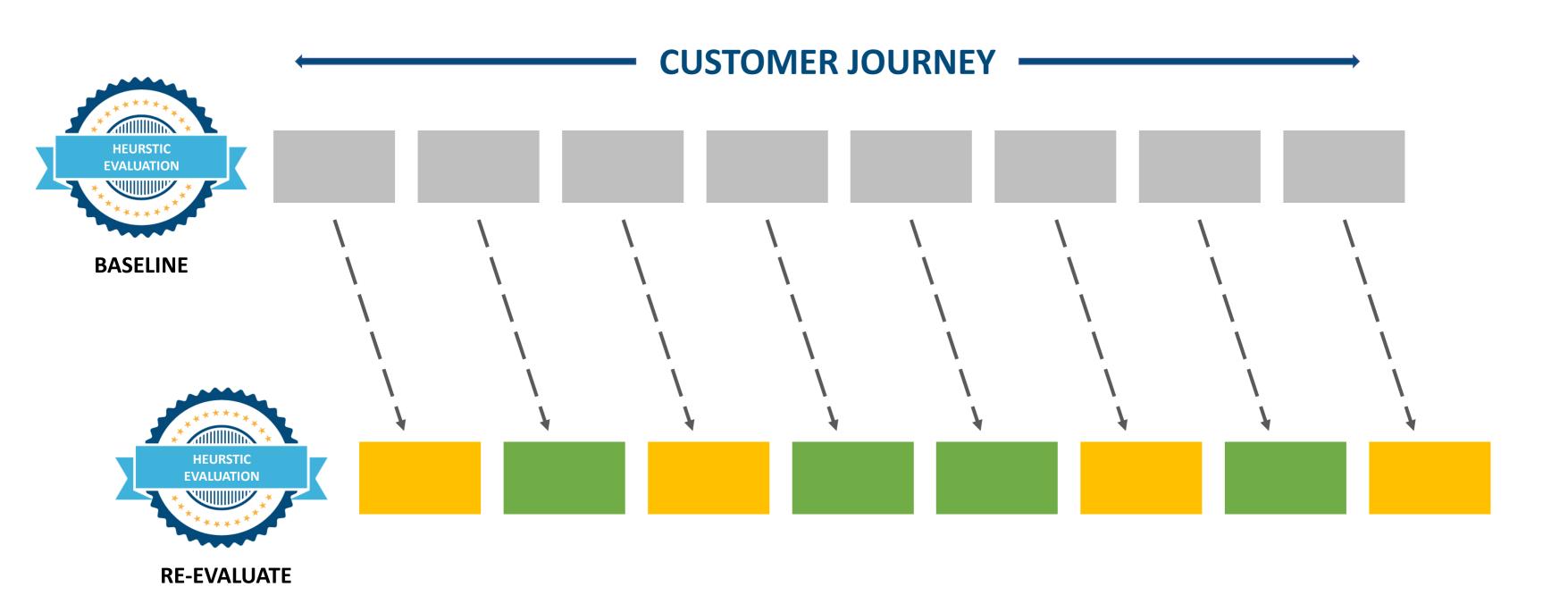
RE-EVALUATE

BASELINE

Gauging UX Quality Across the Customer Journey



Gauging UX Quality Across the Customer Journey





What do I need for a successful heuristic evaluation?

Heuristics

Nielsen Norman Group: Industry Standard Heuristic



Visibility of system status

Keep users informed

Examples: "You are here" map, breadcrumbs



Recognition rather than recall

Visibility of options, actions & elements

Examples: Recent documents, bookmarks



Match between system and the real world

Use familiar concepts & language

Examples: Trash can for deleted items, highlighter in documents



Flexibility and efficiency of use

Tailor to all users

Examples: Defaults, shortcuts



User control and freedom

Give users an out

Examples: Emergency exits, undo features



Aesthetic and minimalist design

Remove distractions

Examples: Three-legged stool, search engine



Consistency and standards

Maintain consistency throughout

Examples: Placement of check-ins, product lines



Help users recognize, diagnose & recover from errors

Clear error messaging

Examples: Error messages, Page not found



Error prevention

Avoid slips and mistakes

Examples: Guard rails, Email attachment errors



Help and documentation

Provide help

Examples: Tool tips, info kiosks

Nielsen Norman Group: Industry Standard Heuristic



Visibility of System Status

Keep users informed **Examples:** Shopping mall map, breadcrumbs



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Match Use fam Examples

User co

Give use **Examples**

Visit Nielsen Norman Site for more...

https://www.nngroup.com/articles/ten-usability-https://www.nngroup.com/articles/ten-usability-heuristics/



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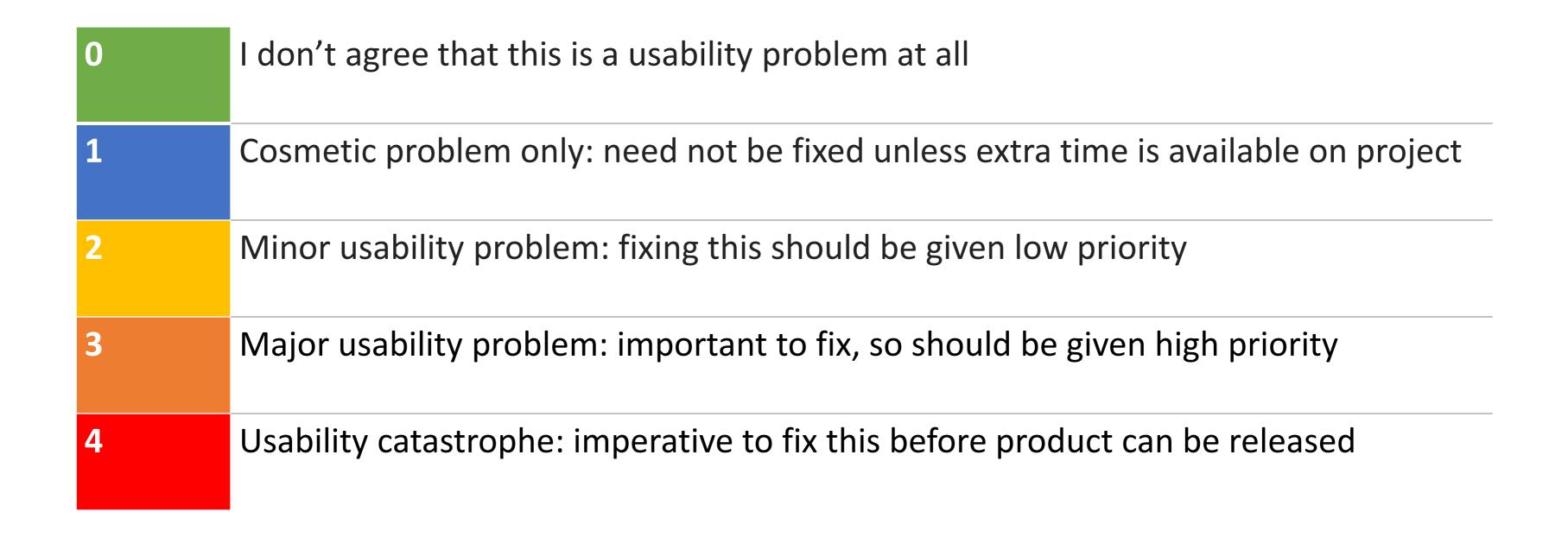
Scores

Nielsen Norman Scoring Scale

0	I don't agree that this is a usability problem at all
1	Cosmetic problem only: need not be fixed unless extra time is available on project
2	Minor usability problem: fixing this should be given low priority
3	Major usability problem: important to fix, so should be given high priority
4	Usability catastrophe: imperative to fix this before product can be released

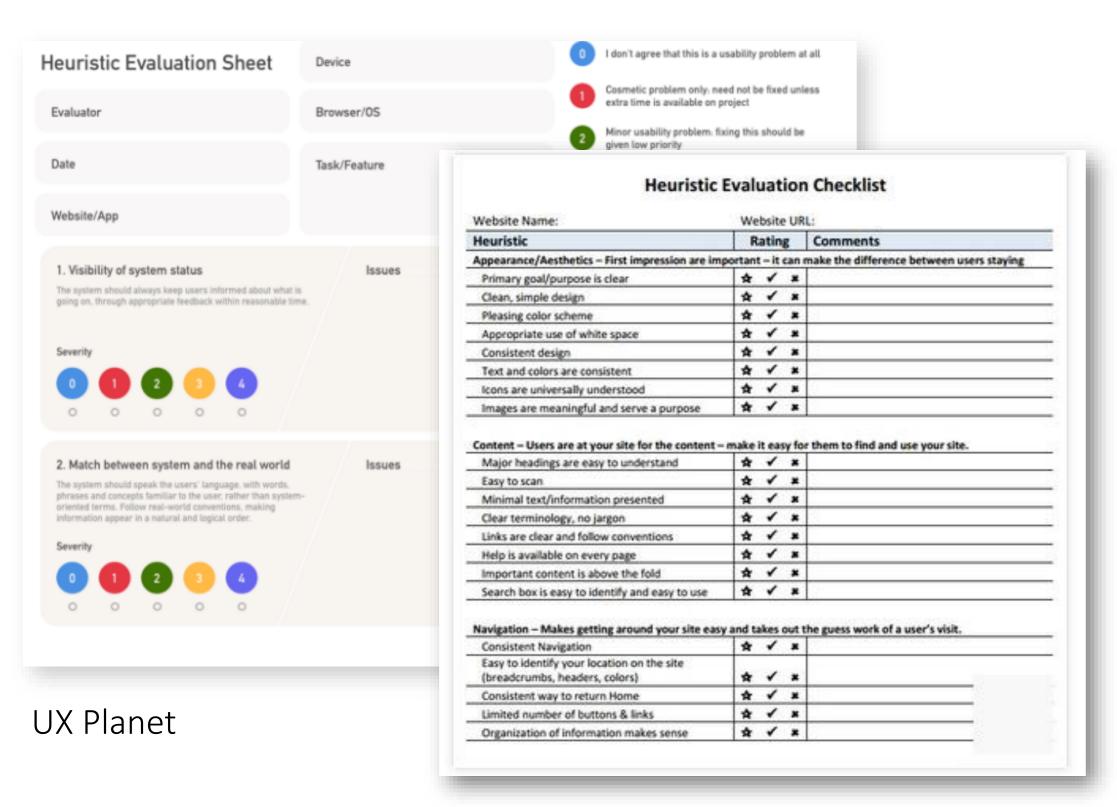
Some industry experts make the high score the best score.

Nielsen Norman Scoring Scale



Some industry experts make the **high score** the **best score**.

Scoring Sheets to Make It Easy to Evaluate



- Include "hints" by showing the experience flow.
- Include information about accessing the product.

Sampleexamples.com

Scenarios, Tasks and Personas

Scenario

Set the stage

The reason why a user comes to the system, site or application.

Task

The to-do for the system, site or application.

Example

Nora enjoys cooking in her spare time. She is tired of the same old recipes she has been using and wants to find some new recipes. She goes on easyreceipes.com to see if she can find any recipes she likes and is especially looking for one that includes chicken and pasta.

Additional Items

Additional Considerations with Heuristic Evaluations

Evaluators

3-5 evaluators

Scoring process

Score independently and then have consensus meeting OR score in one meeting.

Involvement

Decide who else should be involved in the process or observe in the process

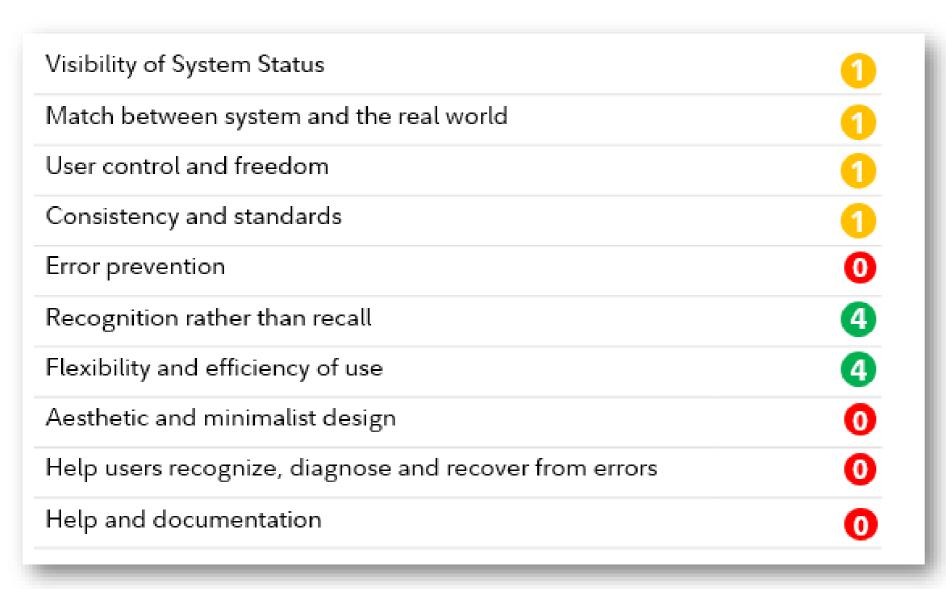
Product

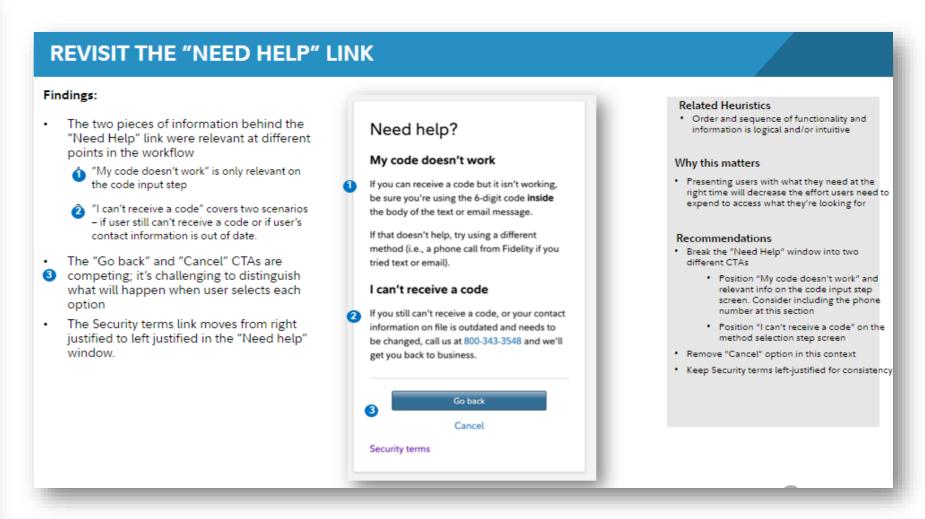
Is this a current site or a prototype?

Report

Create a report that resonates with both design and business.

Reports that Resonate with Design and Business Teams

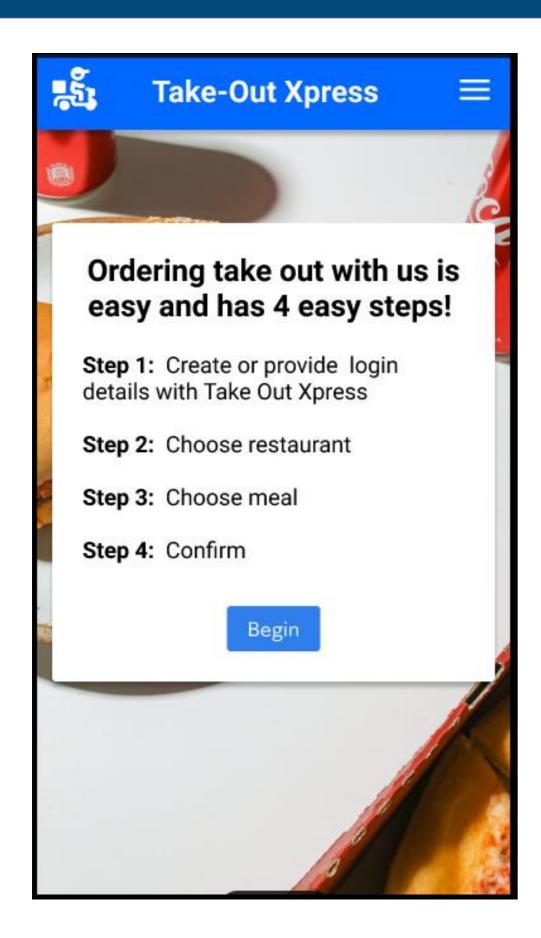






What does a heuristic evaluation look like in practice?

Site to be Evaluated



We will be looking at a fictious site for having take out delivered.

Set of heuristics?
Which score?
What is the scenario?
How many evaluators?
What is my scoring process?
What is the product?
What should the scoring sheet look like?
What will the report look like?





Visibility of System Status

Keep users informed Examples: Shopping mall map, breadcrumbs



Recognition rather than recall

Visibility of options, actions & elements Examples: Recent documents, bookmarks



Match between system and the real world

Use familiar concepts & language Examples: Stovetop controls, highlighter in documents



Flexibility and efficiency of use

Tailor to all users Examples: Defaults, shortcuts



User control and freedom

Give users an out Examples: Emergency exits, undo features



Aesthetic and minimalist design

Remove distractions Examples: Three-legged stool, search engine



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Help and documentation

Provide help Examples: Tool tips, info kiosks



0	Usability catastrophe: imperative to fix this before product can be released
1	Major usability problem: important to fix, so should be given high priority
2	Minor usability problem: fixing this should be given low priority
3	Cosmetic problem only: need not be fixed unless extra time is available on project
4	I don't agree that this is a usability problem at all



Samantha works full-time and is short on time. She and her partner are hungry for dinner, and tonight is one of those nights where she is too tired to make dinner for the two of them. They are hungry for a nice hand tossed pepperoni pizza. She decides to order dinner through "Take Out Xpress." It's a new, local delivery service that just launched their beta app.



3 Evaluators





Score individually for a week and then have a consensus meeting.





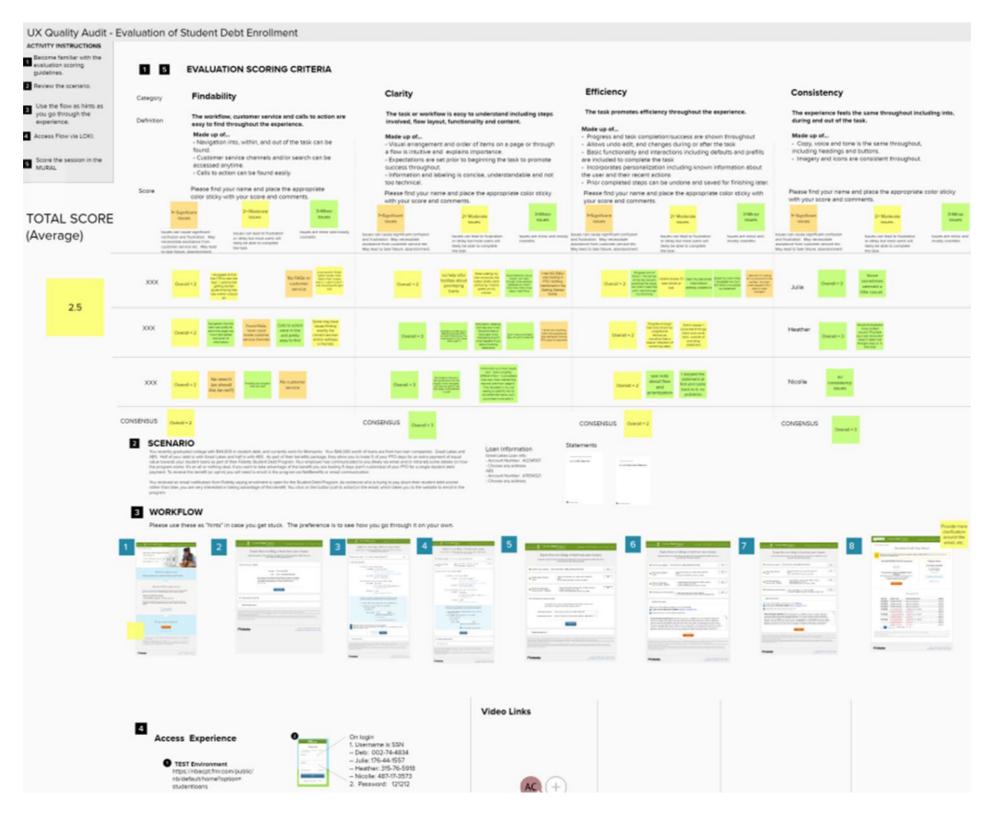
Beta app from a local company that delivers take-out meals: Take-Out Xpress.

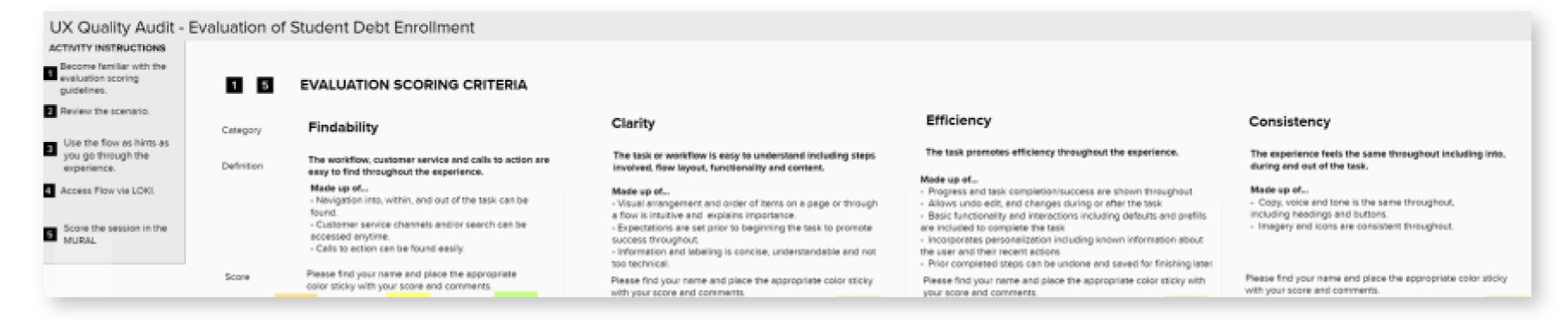


Checklist for Heuristic Evaluation

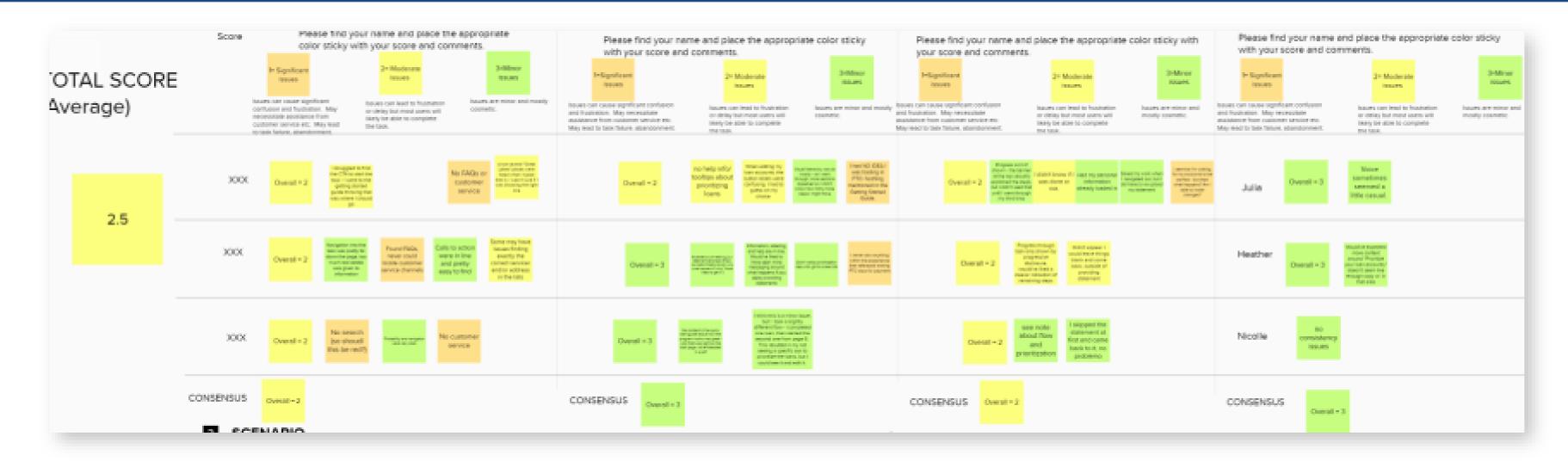


What should my scoring sheet look like?

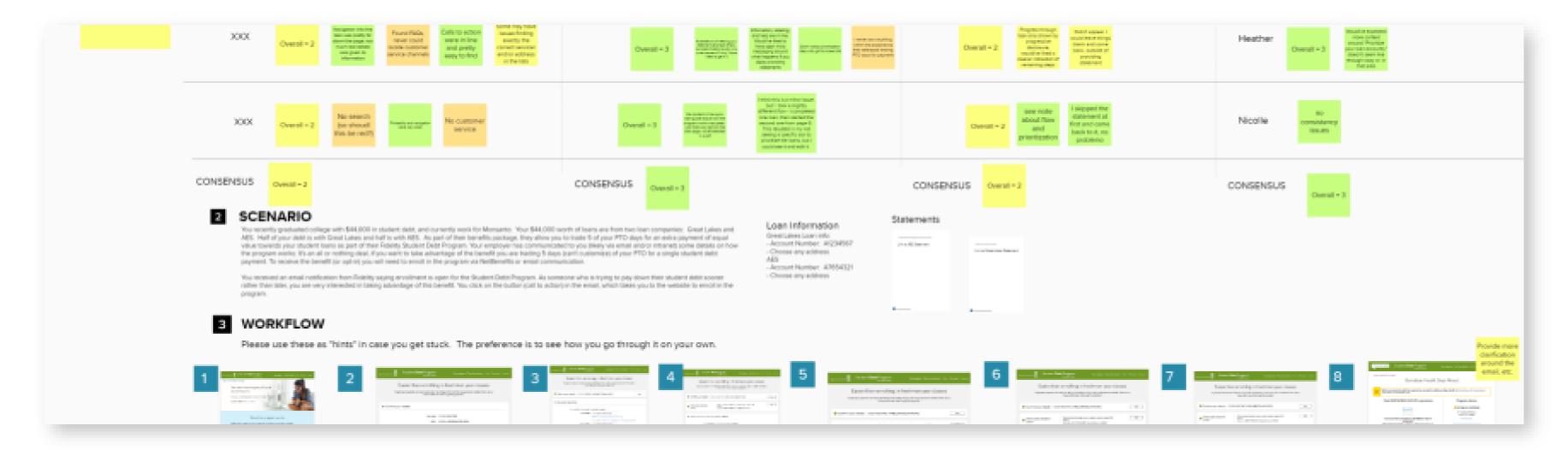




Heuristics



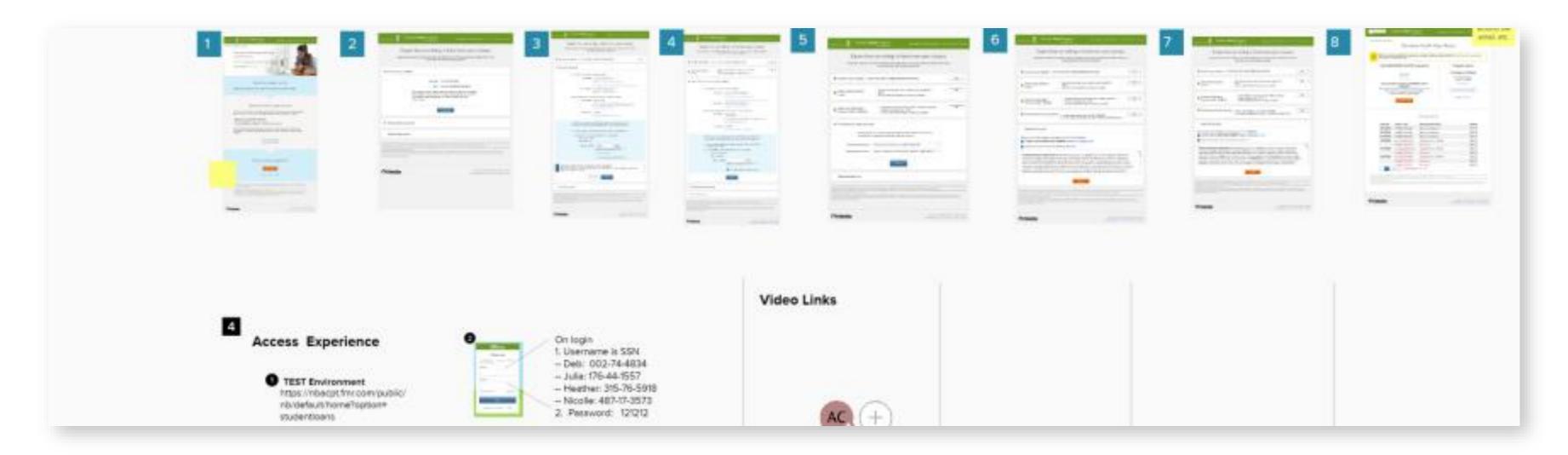
Evaluator Area



Scenario



Hints



Product location



Tallied score with detailed findings.



Tallied Score for Heuristic Evaluation

Visibility of System Status	1
Match between system and the real world	3
User control and freedom	0
Consistency and standards	4
Error prevention	1
Recognition rather than recall	2
Flexibility and efficiency of use	3
Aesthetic and minimalist design	4
Help users recognize, diagnose and recover from errors	1
Help and documentation	3
TOTAL POINTS	22

Key

0= Usability catastrophe

1= Major usability problem

2= Minor usability problem

3= Cosmetic problem

4= Not a usability problem

Interpreting the usability rate

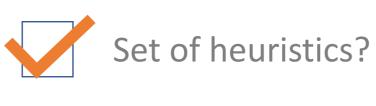
0-33= Poor

34-66 = Average

67-100= Excellence



Allows comparison or if evaluating the beginning and end of the experience.



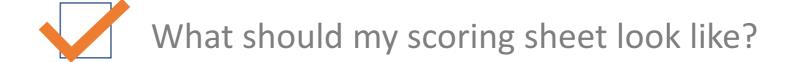






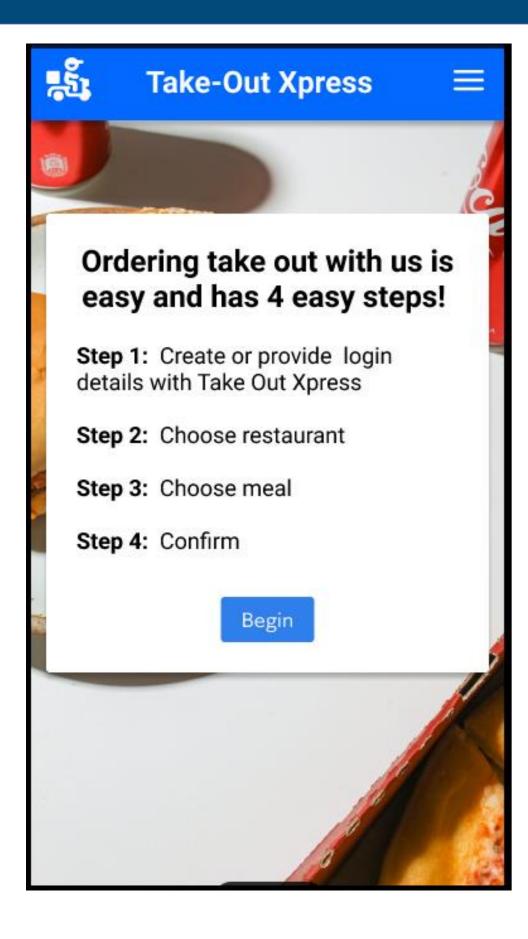








Let's evaluate!



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Tallied Score for Heuristic Evaluation

Visibility of System Status	0
Match between system and the real world	2
User control and freedom	0
Consistency and standards	0
Error prevention	1
Recognition rather than recall	2
Flexibility and efficiency of use	3
Aesthetic and minimalist design	3
Help users recognize, diagnose and recover from errors	0
Help and documentation	0
TOTAL POINTS	11

Key

0= Usability catastrophe

1= Major usability problem

2= Minor usability problem

3= Cosmetic problem

4= Not a usability problem

Interpreting the usability rate

0-33= Poor

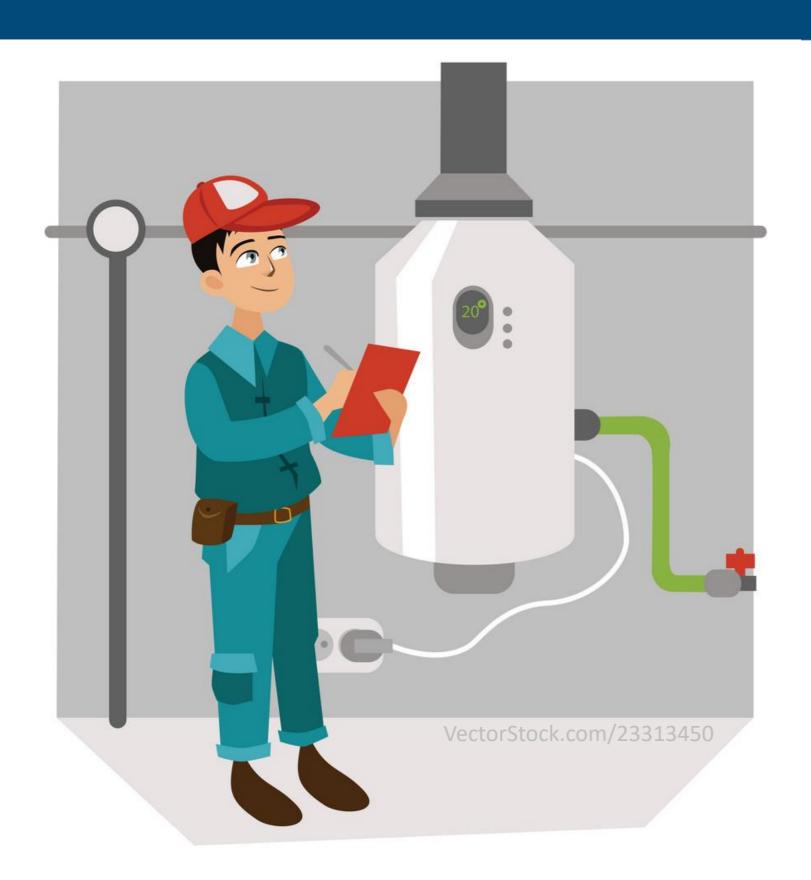
34-66 = Average

67-100= Excellence



Allows comparison or if evaluating the beginning and end of the experience.

Wrap-up



Identify usability issues quickly & cheaply

Provides information for product teams to help determine how and where they should focus their efforts

Provides a user-centered mechanism to measure progress over time

Questions?

