From: [redacted]@syr.edu
Subject: WRT 307 - Usability Report S.S. Save Wheezy [redacted]
Date: October 27, 2011 at 9:55 PM
To: Jason W Luther jwluther@syr.edu
Cc: Alexander [redacted]@syr.edu, Michael [redacted]@syr.edu, David [redacted]@syr.edu

MR

Dear Jason,

For the past few weeks our group has been working on a Lego project we titled the S.S. Save Wheezy. It's a Lego boat created with the intention of saving Wheezy, the Toy Story penguin from evil walruses. We started our design by having each group member (Mike, Alex, and Dave) take a handful of Legos and let our imaginations run wild. After 10 minutes of free-play we convened and put our pieces and ideas together. Mike had created a penguin (Wheezy), Alex created what resembled the base of a boat, and Dave created what we later called the engine. When combining the pieces we realized more Legos were needed to better resemble a boat. Thus, the idea of a smokestack arose. After placing the smoke stack on deck, Wheezy appeared out of place. Wheezy is one of the key elements that made our project eye-popping, because of this we thought he deserved a special place to rest. Thus, we created a cargo-area on top of which Wheezy rests.

After viewing a presentation on different methods for delivering instructions, we split up and each viewed a different website. They included, www.Instructables.com, www.wix.com, and www.webs.com. As a group, we came to the conclusion that Instructables provided the website layout we desired. During our first meeting we talked about the best way to show the steps involved, pictures was the first idea mentioned. We then discussed the amount of photos needed, we decided to take a photo of every step involved at angles that provided the most detail, as we could easily remove photos if they were deemed not necessary. We uploaded the photos to the Instructables website and began breaking them up into the sub-assembly groups they followed. We decided for make the base, engine, Smokestack, Wheezy, and cargo area each their own sub-assembly. During the construction of the S.S. Save Wheezy, we noted that there were some parts that photos alone could not complete express the step involved. To solve this we found a function on the Instructables platform that allowed us to place a yellow box over parts of the photo and add memos to express what the box is emphasizing.

After completing the Instructables webpage, the group decided that there should be written instructions to accompany the pictures that would act as a safety net if the users got stuck. The written instructions referenced the pictures and said where the blocks were placed. With this, we hoped that the users would never be lost while constructing the S.S. Save Wheezy.

From the usability testing, we found that two big issues constantly came out. The first was that users did not notice the yellow boxes or did not know how to use them. To fix this, the group decided to insert a picture explaining that the boxes exist and that they should be used for clarification. The second problem was the construction of the base of the boat. First, we thought that adding some yellow boxes to the pictures would help but after the second round of testing we decided that that we should retake all the photos and provide the user with clearer images with better angles to dispel any confusion.

After we completed the final revisions, we consulted with Rachel Shapiro at the Syracuse University writing center for additional advice.

All decisions in the group were discussed among group members and agreed upon. All parties involved were allowed to voice their opinions in a respectful and safe environment.

We hope you enjoy reading our findings, a link to our team's instructions can be found below.

Website: http://www.instructables.com/id/SS-Save-Wheezy/

Sincerely,

Alex [redacted] Dave [redacted] and Mike [redacted]

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bilityReport.doc

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