Heuristic Evaluation of StudentSearch

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I did not discuss the assignment with anybody.

Usability problems are listed by decreasing rank of severity.

1.   Sending an email task: If you click "send" without entering any content, there is no feedback. However, there is a static message consistently displayed to "make sure to enter a subject and a message". (Feedback)
Suggested solution: show the message on the lower right after a user attempts to send an email without a subject or message.

2.   The text boxes do not have any auto-complete functionality. Thus, having the text display in a second box is unnecessary. (Simplicity)
Suggested Solution: add auto-complete functionality or remove the bottom display of text.

3.   The light gray color is a little difficult to read. Maybe adding a bit more contrast will make it easier to view the page content. (Aesthetic)

4.   The text in the mini profile boxes has little line spacing making it difficult to read. (Aesthetic)
        Suggested solution: increase the line spacing to use more of the profile box area (this will also help in decreasing the gap from the text and the controls).

5.   The student profile has the text squished on the upper right hand side of the pop-up. The controls are directly below the picture. (Aesthetic)
         Solution: Use more of the space in the pop up by increasing line spacing and moving the controls to the bottom of the pop-up.
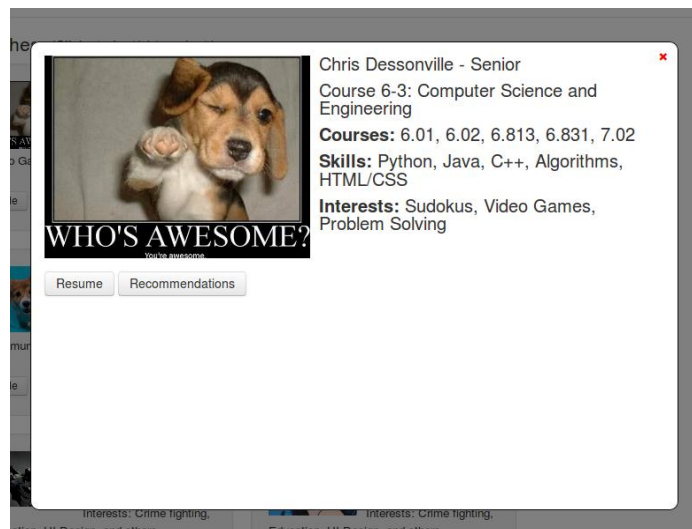
6.   If you click "x" on one of the search requirements, it gets removed; however, there is no way to undo this remove. (Safety)
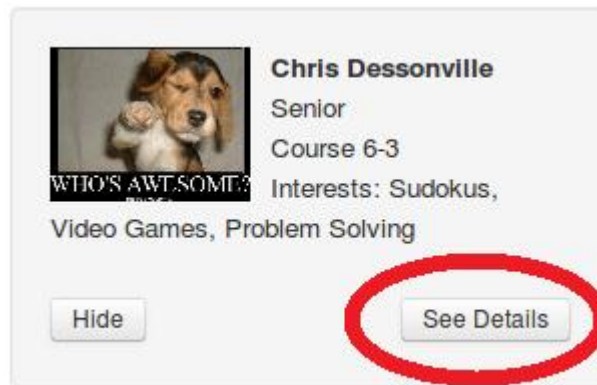

7.   *Unusual ordering of student matches makes it hard to search for a specific student. (Efficiency and Standards)*
*Suggested solution: order students by alphabetical order or by number of courses completed.*

8.   Inconsistency in task and web content: task 3 is to examine one student's full profile, however, website uses "details" to indicate a student's profile. (Consistency)
Suggested solution: Change "See Details" to "See Profile"

9.   The X is a little confusing since it's so close to the "restore all" button. It's not very apparent that it will remove the restore all button or close the page. (Safety)
Suggested solution: add more space between the X and restore all, and make the X larger to be more proportional with the page.
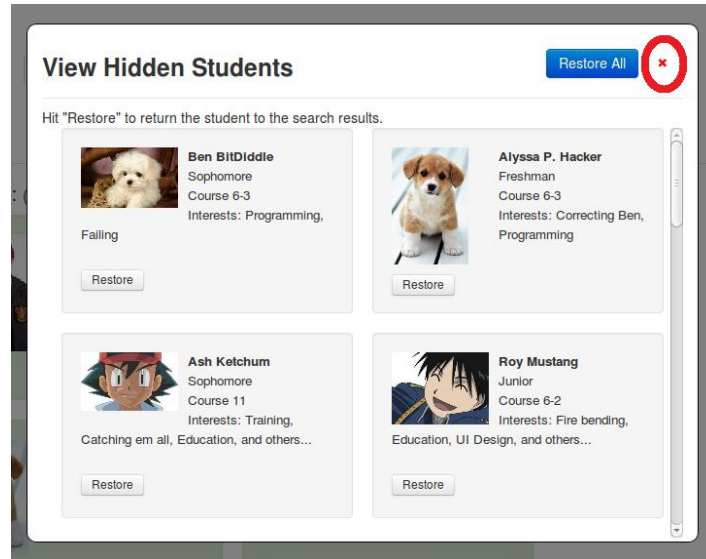
10.   If you enter in a search query that yields no results, you have to manually remove it. (Efficiency)
Suggested Solution: Have an option to do 6.813 OR 6.831 or "remove last search query".

11.   The "you've chosen to hide a student" message does not leave after any period of time. (Aesthetic)
        Suggested Solution: remove the message after a timeout or after the user clicks any of the other input fields.
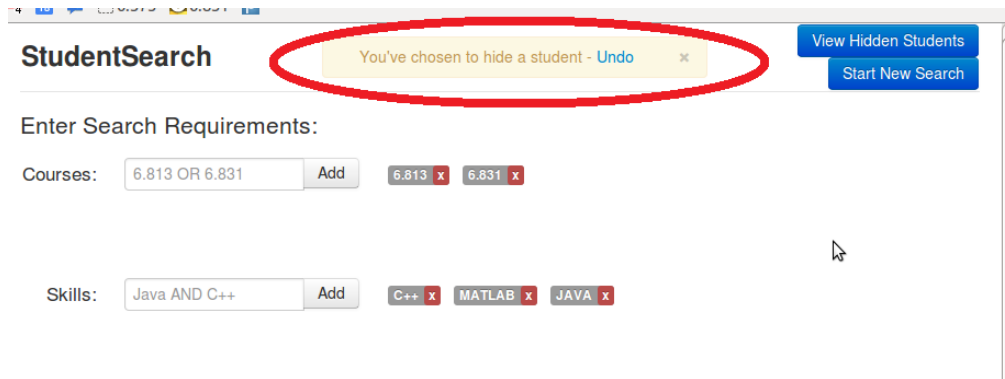
        Additional Suggestions: Instead of listing users interests on the short bio, list their skills instead. This is probably more important to the professors.

12.   Good: The change in color of the student bio after selecting a student is quick and noticeable feedback. (Feedback)

13.   Good: The default text in the search requirement boxes are good because they show the user how to use the AND and OR search queries. (Learnability)

14.   Good: You can exit out of the student profile by using the "ESC" key. This is consistent with other websites, is efficient, and good for universal access. (Consistency & Efficiency)

15.   Good: Minimalist design layout. Very clear and easy to navigate. Excellent use of white space. (Simplicity)

Additional Comments: Instead of listing users interests on the short bio, list their skills instead. This is probably more important to the professors.