Collaborative Word Processors

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INTRODUCTION

Collaborative editing is a highly helpful feature that one can receive from word processor. Due to this reason, Google Docs and other applications such as Google cloud connect and CodoxWord have come into existence. These are much similar in the case of functions but there are several differences between them. Based upon the interface and other functionalities that allow the software to perform collaborative editing, this report classifies them. Also, the report clearly cites the advantages and disadvantages that lie in the above mentioned software and also the comparison of Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord with Google Docs and Facebook Docs. A thorough usability testing along with the heuristic evaluation is carried out and the results are mentioned in this report.

Pros and Cons of Codoxword

Codoxword appears to be very interactive and is developed from the layman's perspective. So, it is quite easy for fresher to operate it. The new version of codoxword makes wonders out of the MS-Word. It seems to be too attractive with several enhanced features. It allows you to do several operations on your document and you can have a copy of your document in your system. It contains high performance tele pointers and this informs about the location and the content that the other collaborators point out to. Hence, coordination is high which in turn improves the performance and fidelity of the users. The collaborative editing experience seems to contain no constraints and is so lively.

Moving to its disadvantages, these allow you to have a copy of the document but you do not know anything about its storage. That is, it asks your name to have coordination with the site but you are not informed about the destination location. The next thing that I noted was the recent attempts to have the collaboration with the cloud. This might deter security and develop new threats. The next major disadvantage present in this software is the crashes. While working on the document, the window abruptly closes which is a tedious problem.

Pros and Cons of Google cloud connect

The word Google can impress you immediately. That stands a reason for most of the people to use it. Since it uses the cloud technology to keep track of the documents, the storage becomes easier for you. For every document that you save, you can simply share the link to the other users. Hence, it provides greater ease but hacking is possible. Cloud computing always faces the problem of security threats and so, your documents may become less secure at anytime. When you notice the look and feel of this application, there are lesser options here. The user interaction seems to be low when compared to Codoxword and you can only edit them. Despite its popularity, its requirement deters few people. The need for internet access is high in Google Cloud Connect.

Comparative study

The study is done based upon the pros and cons of CodoxWord and Google Cloud Connect. Collaborative editing is meant to reduce the user's burden. In that case, Google cloud connect is preferable than CodoxWord as you can do more and learn more in the former. The other reason is you can always have a copy of the document and share it at the same time to other users in Google Cloud Connect application. It also allows several users to edit the same document several times. More the features and ease, the more fan following for it.

Usability testing

Usability testing mainly aims at the design perspective of an application. So, the main things to be checked in an application are performance, efficiency, accuracy, supportability according to PEAS description in software engineering. These rather evaluate the design features and the efficiency of the software as well.

Performance measure

Codoxword is comparatively good in its features. But, when it comes to performance, it remains buggy. Tables get corrupted when you edit them with Codoxword and also the rate of crash is high. Sometimes, you can even lose sight of the other users. When considering this issue in Google Cloud Connect, the installation and setup time is just a few minutes. This provides ease by the integration with the cloud as well as the Microsoft office. CodoxWord is not applicable for small businesses whereas the google cloud Connect is applicable.

Design features

CodoxWord seems to be having many features which is significant through the icons present below the toolbar to perform various operations. They appear to be understandable to all the users. On the other hand, Google Cloud Connect is simple in its design and does not involve much of the features. Although the icons are limited, Google Cloud Connect allows the user to perform all the require operations involved in the collaborative editing. However, you can perform the collaborative editing online! As the document is synchronized, it gives you a link which can be used to perform any kind of modifications. Accuracy: When it comes to accuracy, Google Cloud Connect is quite better than Codoxword. The reason behind this is that the former provides better synchronization options where the document remains safe. In case of Codoxword, the accuracy is low due to the crashing problem. When you consider the latter for small business, it does not show proper results due to freezing up of the software while syncing.

Efficiency

This is the major factor to be considered in the usability testing. The rate of efficiency is better in Google Cloud Connect than codoxword. The technological advancement is not that miraculous in the latter application. Ease of use: If you are a fresher in using collaborative editing software, Codoxword assists you in a better way than any other software does. Once you start the session, the pop ups provide better information. You also have several features that enable you to perform better collaborative editing (ignoring the problem of crashing). On the other hand, Google Cloud Connect is good to use but not easier for fresher. Supportability: The level of supportability is equal in Google Cloud Connect as well as Codoxword. Both of them work efficiently in Windows operating system. They combine all the features of collaborative word processors which enable them to work on all Microsoft products. Heuristic evaluation: Heuristic evaluation is found to be one of the best methods to inspect the level of usability. It mainly concentrates over the interface. The following are done as a part of Nielsen's heuristic evaluation:

1. **Visibility of system status** – Both the applications shows the visibility clearly but Google Cloud Connect seems to be better in case of limited operations. Google Cloud Connect displays a warning to alert the users.

2. **Match between system and the real world** - If the user wants to use a different language to perform collaborative editing, he/she is free to use it by just clicking over the required language. In a similar way, Google Cloud Connect also works to match the real world with nearly 30 languages

3. **User control and freedom** – In Google Cloud Connect, the users are allowed to undo the sync process by clicking the cancel button. 4. Consistency and standards – Both Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord provide good consistency. It makes users clear about the icon's usage by showing appropriate notifications. CodoxWord records a history of actions done by the users with respect to the document created.

5. **Error prevention** – In case of Google Cloud Connect, you can notice the warning option where it makes you alert of the errors and you can take necessary actions. Similarly, in case of CodoxWord, the message history displays a list of actions and also mentions errors if any.

6. **Recognition rather than recall** – In Google Cloud Connect, memory requirements are lesser since it gives a separate link to the users to edit the file at anytime. While in CodoxWord, the memory requirement is comparatively high as it stores a copy of the file in your system.

7. **Flexibility and efficiency of use** – With minimal features, Google Cloud Connect gives a clear picture to the users about simple collaborative editing whereas people who are expert in collaborative editing will prefer CodoxWord since it is even efficient in making users clear by means of a good interface. 8. Aesthetic and minimalist design – The interface of CodoxWord is quite better than Google Cloud Connect in terms of number of features. 9. Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors and documentation – In CodoxWord, the messages that are displayed are in simple and understandable form.

Comparison of Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord with Google Docs

Google Docs is one such prominent collaborative word processor that most of them prefer due to various reasons. Google Docs as well as Google Cloud Connect uses the concept of cloud computing to perform collaborative editing and hence, privacy is an issue in both which does not happen in CodoxWord.

The major advantage that lies in CodoxWord which is not available in the other two is the need for internet access. Only if internet is available in the user's system, the user is permitted to use Google Cloud Connect or Google Docs since the data storage or retrieval is completely performed in the cloud. Unlike them, CodoxWord allows the user to save a copy of the file in the user's system itself. However, it is to be noticed that the ease of use in Google Docs is much easier than the others. Unlike Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord, Google Docs allows you to work on HTML/CSS. This particular option is most appropriate for web developers and programming professionals and is considered as one such software that most of the software professionals support. This feature is also a rare one that is not available in all the collaborative word processors.

One such eminent advantage that lies in Google Cloud Connect is the avoidance of crashing. In CodoxWord, crashing takes place quite often and in Google Docs, breakage of MS Office files takes place. Although Google Docs has certain disadvantages, the advantages outnumber them which ultimately become the reason for the large number of customers.

Comparison of Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord with Facebook Docs

Facebook Docs has a very attractive user interface and page layout than the Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord. It simply rocks with its amazing features in it. However, Google Docs seems to be outstanding than Facebook Docs or any other collaborative word processors. But few issues made it to stand behind Google Docs. The issues are cited below:

• A collaborative editing processor has to support editing of multiple users at the same time. This feature is not much supported in Facebook Docs whereas Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord do.

• Yet another disadvantage is in the case of importing back a document. It is easier to import and export a document. But, there are certain situations where you will need to import back a particular document. In those situations, the older version of that particular document needs to be deleted in Facebook Docs. This process seems to be a tedious and time consuming one too. In case of Google Cloud Connect and CodoxWord, there is no similar kind of issues as in Facebook Docs.

A prominent feature of Facebook Docs in comparison with all the other processors is the formatting and service tools. All the other processors do not allow you to copy and paste the text from online documents but Facebook Docs support this feature.

Also, Google Docs provides a better option to work on text and excel documents whereas the presentation part does not work well whereas CodoxWord does not pose such a problem.

CONCLUSION

Hence, if you wanted a collaborative word processor for small business, choose Google Cloud Connect and if you are more particular about the interactions, opt for CodoxWord. Do not choose any application that is web based since an analysis of your requirements has to be done in prior. Generally, you can go in for Google Docs too for better ease of use but if the job is more of

formatting, select Facebook Docs. Also, if you are a web designer, then select Google Docs for better features and functionalities. So, estimate the requirements and prefer the appropriate tool that satisfies all your needs with respect to the above information.

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