

User Experience Diary 2025-10-14

Morning Phone Alarm went off

Mood before & after:

Restful, wary → Contemplative, calm

Interaction:

Immediately turned off the alarm before I realized I did it, muscle memory entirely took over. Felt as natural as yawning. I swiped to turn it off.

Improvements:

I never have wanted to use the snooze button. The interaction could have zero room for failure for me without it. I also wish scheduling alarms could be done for multiple specific dates with one alarm.

Logged into phone with touchscreen

Mood before & after:

Null → Buzzing

Interaction:

Logged into phone with finger. In case a finger is dirty, I set up 4 fingers for identification. No password was required today.

Improvements:

Wider area for scanning.

Notification Blast

Mood before & after:

Waking up → Shocked

Interaction:

Turned off do not disturb and turned on wifi. Interaction was done with 4 finger taps, and a flood of notifications came in from every app, making checking emails from the pop up screen impossible.

Improvements:

No notification noises when my phone is open or one notification noise representing a clump of notification. Clumped together notifications for apps or even types of apps.

Morning Twitter scroll

Mood before & after:

Antsy → Wanting more stimulus

Interaction:

Opened Twitter on my main feed, however it had automatically scrolled to the top of my timeline, requiring me to scroll back down to read in my preferred order, which was frustrating. Left me wanting more stimuli throughout the day, with a few check ins.

Improvements:

Better system for keeping track of where I left off from yesterday, better algorithms for gauging my interests.

Turning on Light

Mood before & after:

Drowsy → Annoyed

Interaction:

The lightswitch to my room is outside of the room, requiring me to get up and unlock my door to turn on the light. Harder to deal with on mornings where it is dark out.

Improvements:

Having a lightswitch as close to where I wake up as comfortable.

Air Fryer

Mood before & after:

Active → Unsatisfied

Interaction:

Plugged in air fryer and put in hashbrowns. To use the digital menu, the tray has to be pushed in all the way, which does feel natural and compelling, but there is no start button for frying. The only way to start the machine is to set a temperature or a time, after which it will automatically start, which feels unsatisfying and intangible.

Improvements:

Dedicated clicky start button.

Shower

Mood before & after:

Drowsy → Scared, jittery

Interaction:

I open the shower curtain and close it around me, making sure to have the curtain fold into the shower as there is no door or tub to guarantee water will not flow out of the shower. I turn on the shower and it takes surprising longer to get warm than usual. I make sure to pull the shower head out of the holder so I don't get sprayed with cold water, but some droplets still bounce back onto me.

Improvements:

A door to the shower could help, although better design changes are difficult in a confined space. A shower system that withholds water until the desired temperature would be ideal.

Dishwasher light

Mood before & after:

Active, searching → Irritated

Interaction:

I open the dishwasher to pick out a few items I want to use for breakfast, but I don't want the "clean" light to switch off as I don't want to empty it out right now. As I can't rely on my roommates to tell if it's clean or not, I am forced to empty it out quickly.

Improvements:

An option to keep the clean light on after opening.

Door lock

Mood before & after:

Active → Frustrated

Interaction:

I lock my front door to leave, but the front door is the only lock in the house that turns the opposite way to lock and open. There is also never a click for when it is locked or opened. When there's low light outside it is impossible to see the door without turning on the porch light, which is only accessible from the inside, meaning I will not turn it on most of the time so that it will not be left on for hours.

Improvements:

Properly setting up the lock, having a lightswitch on the outside as well.

Tap to pay interactions**Mood before & after:**

Active → Confused

Interaction:

I had 3 tap to pay purchases today and they all had different information on similar looking devices and different locations for tapping.

Improvements:

Maintaining an industry standard machine for tap to pay.

Interrupted watching YouTube**Mood before & after:**

Entertained → Annoyed

Interaction:

I am watching a video on my computer when the rest of my computer starts booting up and covers my entire screen with discord.

Improvements:

Have launching applications on lower levels of screen.

Playing Wordle on Discord**Mood before & after:**

Puzzled → Peeved

Interaction:

I play my daily Wordle game on discord, but have to submit my guesses on multiple discord channels to keep the streak going with different friend groups. To do so I have to load wordle in that channel, then use the share command in the chat.

Improvements:

Having a score share feature built into the app to send to channels directly.

Pips on the New York Times app

Mood before & after:

Entertained → Entertained, a little unsatisfied

Interaction:

Playing Pips on the NYT app and I find the movement and rotation of the dominos to be a little stiff, not always snapping to my intended action.

Improvements:

Snapping the pieces to the board.