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Tele-Story

Reading together while apart

M1:
The Idea

HCI
Capstone

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Elevator Pitch

Tele-Story helps distanced loved ones connect to young children across miles. Users select an e-book, record their voice reading the book, along with all the personal commentary that makes reading together a close experience; then, send the book to a child.

Users

Tele-Story is an easy-to-use application for recording e-books to create personalized audiobooks for children. The universal design allows anyone of reading age to record stories.

Children, ages 0-7, are the target audience for listening to the audiobooks.

Initial setup may require the support of a caregiver.

Note: I have access to 6 or more users from each user group: Reader, Child, and Caregiver.

System Idea

Problem

- Separation from family and friends, either because of military/job assignments or living far away, presents a challenge for distanced relatives to form meaningful relationships with small children.
- For elderly family members, isolation is often a part of aging that research has determined can reduce the quality of a person's life. Elders often feel the need to devote more time to established close connections than to making new friends. This tendency is reported to stem from the perception that the time they have left on the planet should be devoted primarily to close relationships.

Strategy

Develop a software-as-a-service (SaaS) solution to store a library of children's books in the cloud for a family and close circle of friends to share. Ease-of-use will be key in the areas of book selection, personalization, voice recording, posting, and notification. Simplicity will be key for initial set up and configuration.

Goal

Tele-Story creates rich, shared experiences based on the age-old tradition of reading a storybook to a young child. These shared experiences can lessen the heartache of separation and isolation and increase the quality of life for persons living in those conditions. For the young child, *Tele-Story* connects them to distanced loved ones forever.

My Project and Me

Tele-Story is a project from the heart. As a young mother, I was a Navy wife, so I know the challenges of remote parenting. As a new grandmother whose grandchild is 10 hours driving distance away, I am looking for creative ways to connect to my grandkids.