

Step 15: Sample Detailed Design Specificationⁱ

Personal Travel Agent Application – Detailed UI Design Specification

1. Follow the Microsoft Windows standard, users launch the application from the desktop or operating system level. Users can store the application itself, as well as the primary products created with it (in this case, Trips), in any way that wish in their folder structure.
2. To launch the application, any standard Windows method may be used, including double-clicking with the mouse on the application icon or on any primary product (Trip) icon on the desktop. This opens the application window, with a primary product (Trip) window within it containing either an empty untitled trip or the saved trip that was double-clicked, respectively.
3. Only the application window contains a menu bar.
4. (Next the specification would describe all pathways through the application, showing the results of all possible picks within the menu bar and all displays, including the complete contents of all menu controls within each display.)
5. The user fills in at least the required (light gray) fields and perhaps the optional (dark gray) ones. The controls for these fields operate in the standard Windows way.
6. When all required fields are filled in, the user can click the OK button. This returns the user to the document (Trip) window, with all specified data from the dialog box sequence now filled in. If the user clicks the OK push button before all required fields are entered, a pop-up message box appears. (Here the specification would show this particular message box in an illustration and describe how to interact with it.)
7. At any time, the user can click the Cancel push button and return to the previous dialog box in the sequence. The menu bar is not active within the dialog box - only the pus buttons are active. They are the only means of navigation out of the dialog box. The dialog box is also “modal,” meaning the user cannot give focus to any other window simply by clicking on it. Again, only the push buttons within the dialog box provide navigation out of it.

ⁱ Mayhew, Deborah J.(1999), The Usability Engineering Lifecycle, p. 333