Automation Framework for E-commerce Solution Based on Competitor Analysis

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The dissertation was submitted to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of M.sc in Computer Science.

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

E-commerce solutions have taken businesses to the next level by making them reach customers across the globe. The User Interface (UI) is the basis for the success of the e-commerce site as it is vital in making the site to be user-friendly, make it easy for customer interactions, be unique, provide the first impression, attract the customers and represent the business. The UI design is involved with different UI design decisions such as menu types, number of products on the home page, background colour, etc. Each of these decisions gets the involvement of UI standards. However, in some instances, the UI standards give contradicting design decisions. In such situations, the designers would have to strike a balance to achieve useful web analytics. However, the problem is "how". The competitor analysis is used for this purpose. In this research, the products sold by the businesses are considered as keywords, and the sales percentage is considered as the weighted average for the keyword. The business's one-month data are used to train the system. The system traces the database according to the collected keywords along with their sales percentage. Then the keywords are searched on the internet, and competitors' UI design decisions are extracted. The dominant decision among the competitors' UI is considered as the final decision. Then that UI design decision is applied to the e-commerce solution by the automated Magento system. Then the system gets evaluated using existing e-commerce solutions available on the internet, and the categories are considered as keywords, and the number of products under each category are considered as sales percentage. The expected decision would be identified by analysing the decision taken by the solution provider of the e-commerce solution and the actual design decision taken by the system. The research outcome would be proof of concern for an automated tool which would get trained through the database and generate e-commerce solutions.

Keywords -

e-commerce, User Interface, Automation Tool, Magento, catalog, XML, xpath, XAMPP

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HTML Hyper Text Mark-up Language

URL Uniform Resource Locator

CSS Cascading Style Sheets

UI User Interface

API Application Programming Interface

DB Database

XML Extensible Mark-up Language

SEO Search Engine Optimization

PHP Hypertext Preprocessor

MVC Model View Controller

IP Internet Protocol

DOM Document Object Model