


Opportunity Hack: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Connor Segneri
Michael Ryan
Joshua Lee
Tommy Fowler

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The Project Team

Connor Segneri



Connor Segneri is from Scottsdale, AZ and is currently a Senior at Grand Canyon University perusing a degree in Computer Science with an emphasis on Big Data Analytics. Connor is involved in many organizations at Grand Canyon University including the Honors college, the Innovative Computing Club, and several other organizations. Connor and his team recently participated in the 2017 PayPal Opportunity Hack where he and his team were able to build a custom Shiny web-based application in R. This application provides a UI that will allow the non-profit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to filter, query, examine, and download information from their database.

“It was an amazing opportunity and it feels good to be able to apply my skills to a very real problem.”

– Connor Segneri

Joshua Lee



Joshua (Josh) Lee has lived in Surprise, Arizona since June of 2009 and is currently an Honor's student studying Computer Science with an emphasis in Big Data Analytics at Grand Canyon University (GCU). Josh is currently the Marketing Officer of GCU's Innovative Computing Club (iC) and is involved in several other projects and organizations such as: The Project Management Fellowship, the Smart Urban Fabric (SMURF) and working on a mixed reality app for the Microsoft HoloLens. Josh recently participated in the 2017 PayPal Opportunity Hack where he and his team were able to build a custom Shiny web-based application in R. This application provides a UI that will allow the non-profit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to filter, query, examine, and download information from their database.

"It was a fun and challenging experience. I had never worked with R or Rstudio before this and it was a great opportunity to learn it while I was able to apply it to a real world problem ." – Joshua (Josh) Lee

Thomas Fowler



Thomas (Tommy) Fowler is from Santa Rosa, CA and is currently an Honor's student studying Computer Science with an emphasis in Big Data Analytics at Grand Canyon University (GCU). Tommy's expected graduation date is April 2019.

Tommy is currently the Vice President of GCU's Innovative Computing Club (iC). Tommy recently participated in the 2017 PayPal Opportunity Hack where he and his team were able to build a custom Shiny web-based application in R. This application provides a UI that will allow the non-profit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to filter, query, examine, and download information from their database.

"It was a very fun and intuitive experience, and we were able to provide our non-profit representatives with a working solution that met all of their needs."

— Thomas (Tommy) Fowler

Michael Ryan



Michael Ryan is from Colorado Springs, CO and is currently perusing his degree in Information Technology with an emphasis in Cyber Security at Grand Canyon University (GCU). Michael is an active member of the Innovative Computing Club (iC) and enjoys spending his free time volunteering at his church and other organizations. Michael recently participated in the 2017 PayPal Opportunity Hack where he and his team were able to build a custom Shiny web-based application in R. This application provides a UI that will allow the non-profit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to filter, query, examine, and download information from their database.

“This was an amazing opportunity to give back to the community. My team and I have never collaborated on a project before this and I am extremely impressed with our results!” – Michael Ryan

The Challenge

- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is the only non-profit agency to track abductions nationwide.
- They were looking for a way to quickly analyze their two datasets: missing children and confirmed attempted abductions.



Initial Designs

Hand-drawn wireframe of a search interface for child abduction cases.

Search (ENTER ALL THAT APPLY)

LOCATIONS (Scroll Bar)

Address
City
State
County
ZIP

IDENTIFICATION

Case ID
Child ID

FILTERS (BY DEFAULT, NO FILTERS ARE APPLIED. FOR 1 DAY, MATCH STARTER END DATE)

Date: [Start Date] [End Date]
☐ Single Date ☐ Range of Dates

Child Race: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ Hispanic

Child Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unknown

Child Age: ☐ 0-2 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 6-8 ☐ 9-11 ☐ 12-14 ☐ 15-17

[SAME AS ABOVE, BUT FOR OFFENDER]

Vehicle Style: [Dropdown]
Vehicle Color: [Dropdown]
Escape Method: [Dropdown]
Offender Method: [Dropdown]

HEATMAP

SELECTING A STATE (Arizona)

Child Race: [Pie Chart]
Child Gender: [Pie Chart]
Offender Race: [Pie Chart]
Offender Gender: [Pie Chart]
Frequency: [Line Graph]

WHEN POINT IS SELECTED

Location: Miami, FL
Date: November 12, 2013
Child Race: White
Child Gender: Female
Child Age: 11
Offender Race: White
Offender Age: 44
Offender Gender: Male

Vehicle Style: Van
Vehicle Color: White
Child Escape Method: Vehicle & Street
Offender Method: Car

Digitized version of the search interface.

Search

Location

Address
City
State
County
ZIP

Identification

Case ID
Child ID
Offender ID

Filters

☐ Single Date ☐ Range of Dates

Map

☒ Confirmed Abductions
☒ Attempted abductions
☐ Toggle Heatmap

Tools We Used



Google Drive

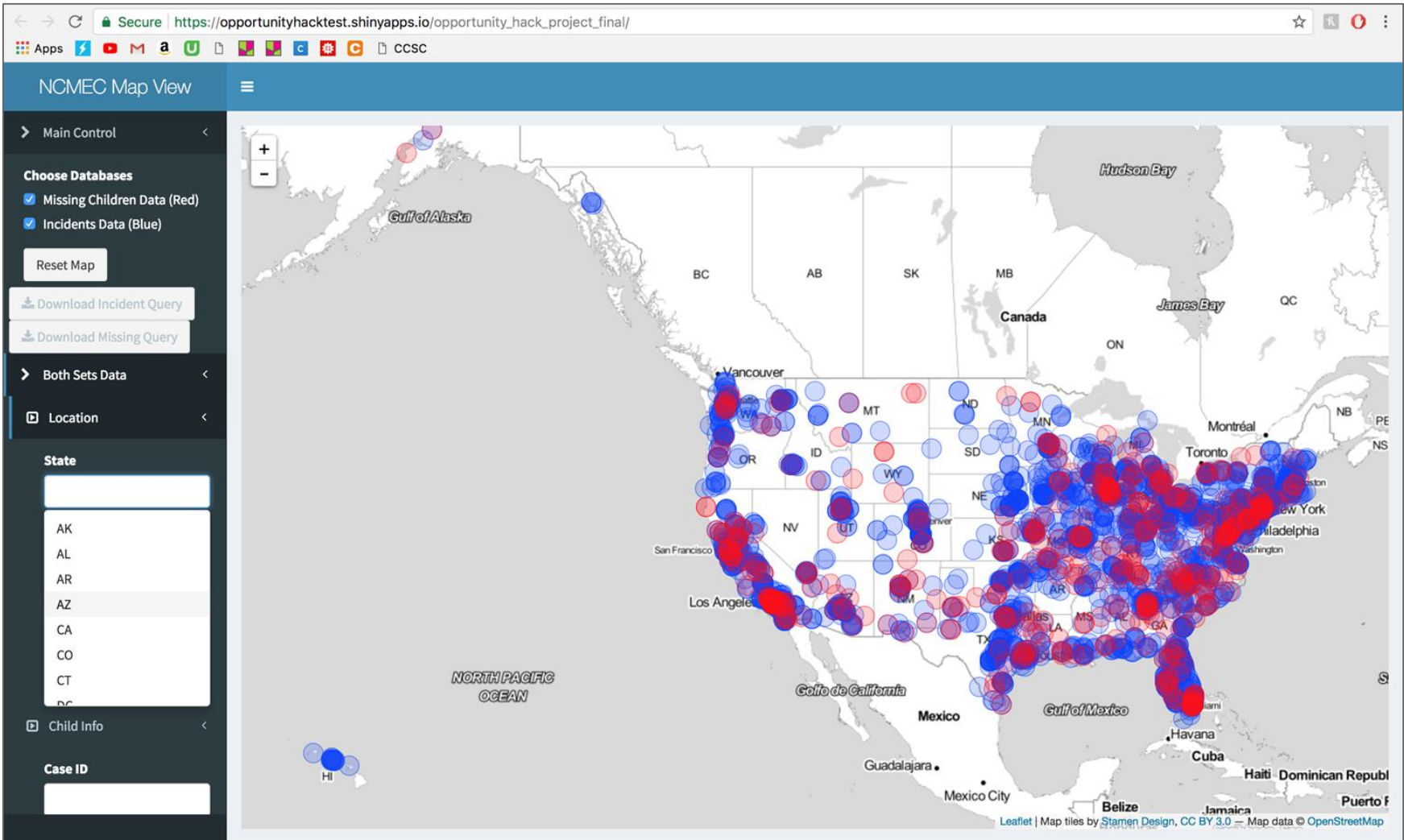


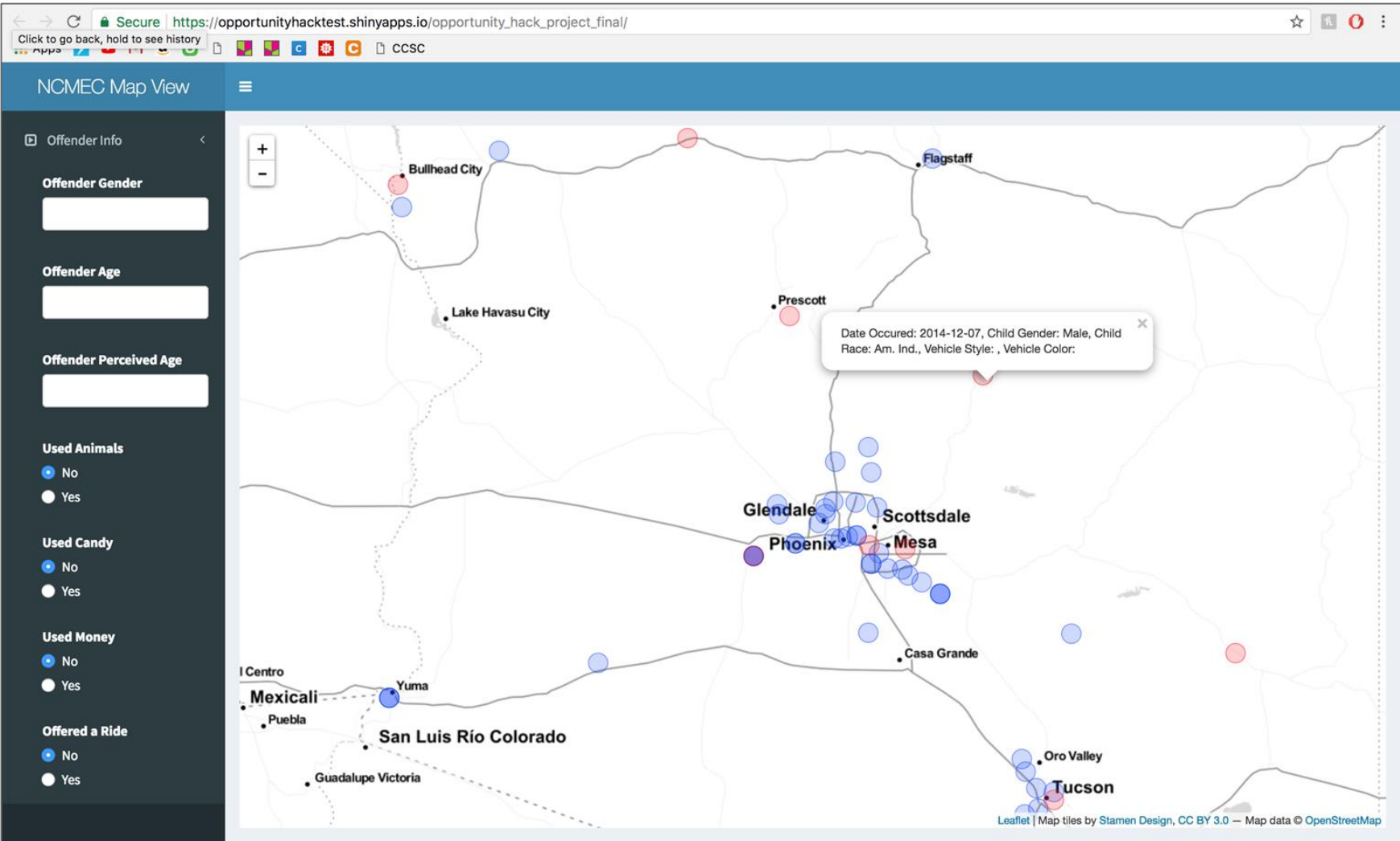
Shiny



Final Product







**Thank you to all the
sponsors and non-
profits involved!**

