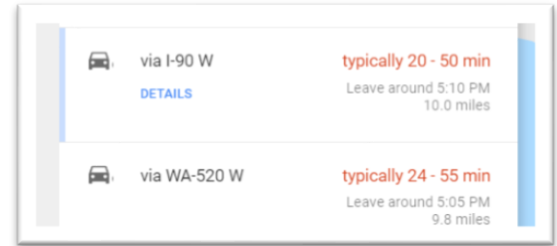


“When to Leave Home”

Forecasting Exercise

Given two addresses compute the “**when to leave home**” time in order to arrive by a desired **target time**.



Q1 – What is the general algorithm you might use to compute this time?

Spend 10 minutes discussing the problem and how you will compute the “leave home” time. Then decide on one person to present that algorithm using step-by-step sticky notes to the room in 2 minutes or less. Tip: start by discussing how you personally decide when to leave home when travelling to a fixed time event.

Extra credit: Define “success” for your solution.

After hearing and discussing all of the group’s ideas, spend 5 minutes and decide what method you think solves this problem the best.

Q2 – What data would you require to implement that algorithm?

Spend 5-10 minutes creating a sticky-notes for each input data or information required for your algorithm. Decide if its critical to have (can’t do without) or if it is an optimization (improves the forecast) and then decide on one person to present those stick-notes to the room in 2 minutes or less.

Extra Credit: For the critical data, describe what you will do if you can’t get or don’t yet have that data.

Q3 – What factors could cause forecasting error (arriving late)?

Spend 5-10 minutes discussing what external factors could cause forecasting error. Create a sticky-note for each factor and describe how you might “deal” with that factor in your forecasts. Decide on one person to present those sticky-notes to the room in 2 minutes or less.

Q4 – How might you measure success of this feature in production?

Spend 5 minutes discussing how to measure success in production, and how production data could improve the results over time. Decide on one person to present your findings to the room in 2 minutes or less.

Q5 – How might this same algorithm be used in forecasting when you need to start software features to deliver by a given date?

Spend 15 minutes as a group discussing how this technique might be used for forecasting software projects or features in multiple team environments. For example; What would need to be changed? What data you need for the feature/project and the system delivering those features/projects?

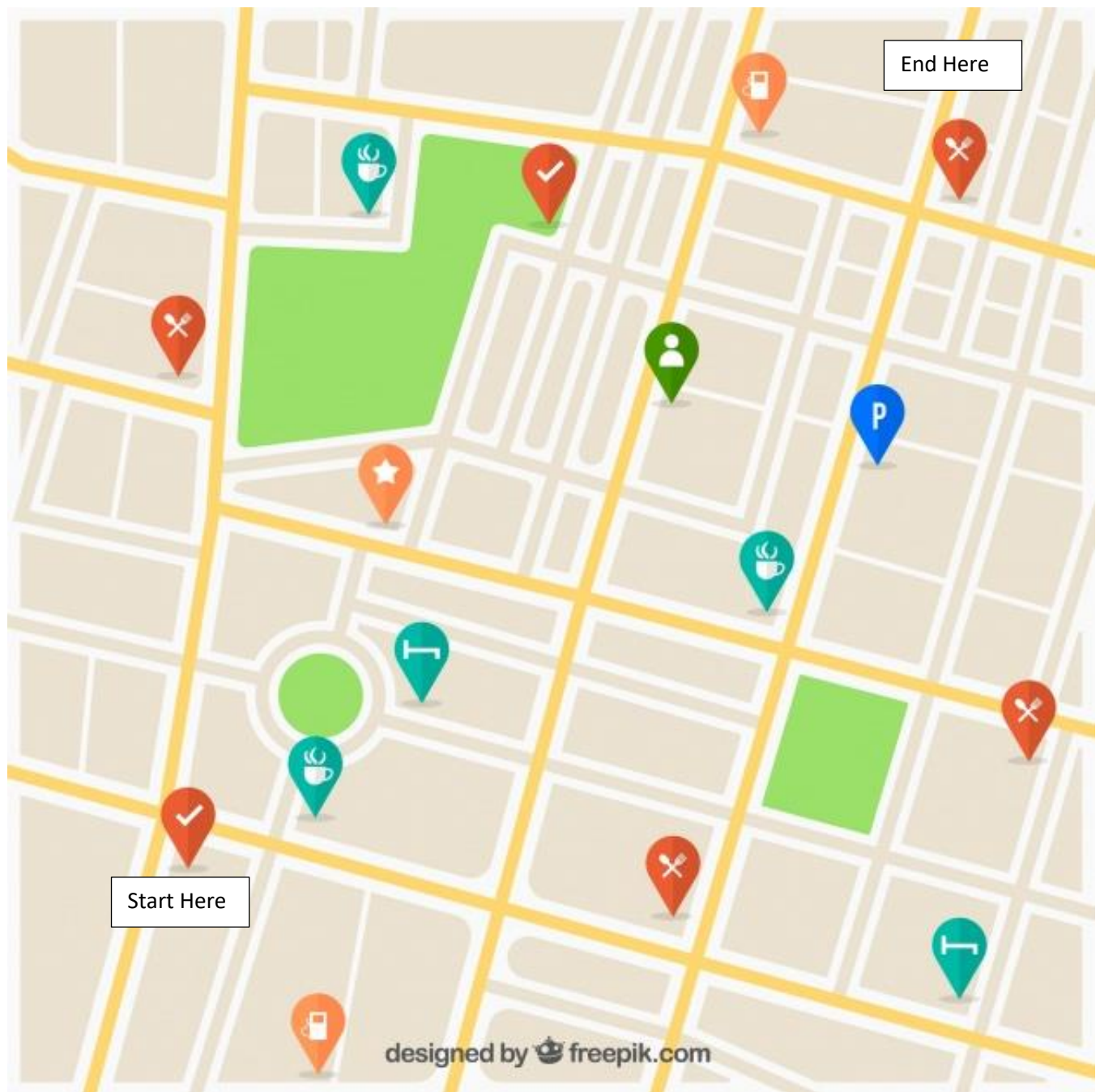


Figure 1 - Example road network diagram to use for discussing your algorithm.

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