Shooting Stars

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Milestone 1

3/28/2019

**Executive Summary:**

Welcome means Hello, a greeting to introduce someone to a new place, which can be translated to many different cultures. Going to a new place can be challenging and scary sometime, especially when your close friends and family are not around. Shooting stars is a web application where young adults can reach out to other families in other parts of the world when they come as an exchange student. This will allow these young adults to experience a new culture, a new place other their hometown, and a new lifestyle while having an education. At the same time, families can choose who can live with them and compare their culture with someone else. Since the globe is round, the main purpose of this web application is to have young adults communicate with families and connect as one. I hope that when students use this platform they can feel loved, safe and secure. It is because “DNA doesn’t make a family, *love* does”.

This application will have both features where users can communicate with other families and or families choose whom to live with them; but also have young adults see where they will live and the lifestyle they will have while having an education. It will be all in a single package, which allows both families and students, not forget anything that is prepared for them. While any students can checkout information’s about the platform and limited details about the family/ place; students must be registered in order to access pictures, details about the package and pictures. On the other hand, families can also check out the platform and student’s name and education, but families must be a registered user in order to communicate with the students. Both students and families can also do a quick questionnaire to have a match to filter their searches. It can be frustrating sometime researching other website, which is why Shooting Star is an all in one service platform for all students and families to go to.

**Personas**

2.1 Groups

- High school and college students (age 15 – 24)

- Adults (Parents/ family)

2.2 Motivation for user to use application

- Currently planning to study abroad/ be an exchange student for the upcoming academic school year, therefore needs to research and plan where to live with the current lifestyle.

- Families scanning through the students to see the right match in who will live with them for the school year and what they need prepare upon their visit.

- Students looking for an easy way to have all the resources provided for them in one application

2.3a High School Student

Major responsibilities: Student

Demographics: 14 – 18 years of age

Goal and tasks: Finishing high school, explore the world with new possibilities, and meet new people

Environment: Other high school students and or friends from current hometown

Reason to use application: Planning to stay at another family house while studying at a new country. There student can finish his studies while being part of another culture. Able to absorb customs, visit places and experience the current residents lifestyles.

2.3b College student

Major responsibilities: Student, Work

Demographics: 18 – 26 years of age roughly

Goals and tasks: Get a Degree/ Finishing his studies while earning credits, Experience living abroad, experience what is like to live at a new home

Environment: Current hometown

Reason to use application: Planning to stay at another family house while studying at a new country. There student can finish his studies while being part of another culture. Able to absorb customs, visit places and experience the current residents lifestyles.

2.3c Families

Major responsibilities: Sponsor youth exchange, take care student

Demographics: 30 – 50 years of age roughly

Goals and tasks: Sponsor a student for the academic school year by providing a room, transportation, and food for them. Treat them as family by having students be part of their family events.

Environment: Current hometown

Reason to use application: Scan through the list and see who is the right applicant to fit into their household.

**Use Cases**

3.1 Registered User – Dor

Dor is a college sophomore. He is going to be a junior next academic school year and wants to study abroad. He found Shooting Star in his study abroad page and he logs on to the website. He navigate through the website and selects the country and package he wants. When finish, Dor gets a match to the right family and all the expenses in what he needs to prepare, travel date, and arrival date are set up for him and is ready to checkout.

A detailed reviewed page Dor can visit to check off if he completed his task and if his items are ready for him prior to his arrival and stay.

3.2 Registered User – Rei

Rei is a parent and wants to host a student because she have an empty room in her house. She logs onto Shooting Star and display what she can offer: a room, she have a dog, and her family consist her, her husband, and two daughters. She wants to host a student and have the student experience the culture of a new country. She finds the right applicant and prepares the room and accessories for student. She picks up student at arrival date and welcomes the student home.

Rei can communicate with student when picked out applicant and prior to arrival. A detailed calendar will be posted in what needs to be prepare and details about the school/ student information provided to parent to know who to contact and student emergency contact information

3.3 Unregistered User: Mi

Mi is a student and just wants to check out Shooting Star. She checkout what kinds of places she can stay and what kind of plans it offers if she stays at the place. She is able to see pictures of the hometown and see if she wants to live there. Mi does not get full access such as communication with family information.

**Data Definitions:**

Parent: Can choose who can stay with them and post what the living information and environment.

Guest Student: Unregistered student can visit the website and browse what locations and few pictures of the environment. However cannot communicate with families or see detailed description of the packages.

Student: Can visit the website and check detailed description of what its like to live and have a detailed plan on when to move and need to bring.

Location: Have a map and pictures of the locations offered

Travel: Transportation provided and airline offered

Registration Page: The page that prompts a Guest Student to enter his information, which is used for login name and password, as well as general information in where to travel. When all fields are completed with valid entries the Guest Student can complete the registration and or take a quick questionnaire in which the information is saved in the system and it matches it to a parent.

When registration is complete the Guest student can log in through Login page with his credentials and become a User ~ Student.

Login Page: The page that prompts a Student or Parent to enter previously registered username and password. Once student / parent enters valid credentials and clicks login button, the student / parent will be recognized by the system to be granted appropriate privileges.

Admin Page: A type of user who assigns the correct travel, school package, family to student. A type of user who assigns the arrival dates, school packages, student to family chosen from questionnaire.

**Initial List of functional Requirements:**

Priority 1 (P1): Critical, do not launch without

Priority 2 (P2): Important, it would be really good to have. Don’t delay ship date if not available

Priority 3 (P3): Opportunistic, nice to have. Candidate for next release

System:

(P1) System shall have a homepage

(P1) System shall have an about page

(P1) System shall have a login page

(P1) System shall have a list of categories

(P1) System shall have a search bar

Guest:

(P1) Guest shall be able to research what places are offered for studying

(P2) Guest shall be able to search using search bar

Student:

(P1) User shall be able to do all the functions of the guest

(P1) User shall be able to create an account

(P1) User should be able to communicate with parent

(P1) User should be able to research all the information from education to environment and lifestyle with pictures

(P1) User should keep track of his/her schedule plan when confirm package

(P2) User should be able to see university support education and package

Parents:

(P1) User shall be able to do all the functions of the guest

(P1) User shall be able to create an account

(P1) User should be able to communicate with students

(P1) User should be able to choose who fits their plan

(P1) User should keep track of students schedule to be updated: arrival dates

(P2) User should be able to see university as a guardian

Admin:

(P1) Admin shall be able to do all functions of the user

(P1) Admin shall be able to approve students only

(P1) Admin shall be able manage places by adding supporting universities and places

(P1) Admin shall be able to manage users and user data

**List of Non-Functional Requirements:**

1. Application shall be developed, tested, and deployed using tools and servers approved by and agreed in M0
2. Application shall be optimized for standard desktop/laptop browsers e.g. must render correctly on the two latest versions of all major browsers: Safari, Chrome, Mozilla.
3. Data shall be stored in the chosen database technology on the deployment server
4. No more than 50 concurrent users shall be accessing the application at any time
5. Privacy of users shall be protected and all privacy policies will be appropriately communicated to the users
6. The language used shall be English
7. Application shall be very easy to use and intuitive
8. Application shall render well on mobile devices (UI shall be responsive)
9. Google analytics shall be added
10. No email clients shall be allowed
11. Pay functionality, if any (e.g. paying for goods and services) shall not be implemented nor simulated
12. Site security: basic best practices shall be applied
13. Modern SE processes and practices shall be used, including collaborative and continuous SW development
14. The website shall prominently display the following exact text on all pages “Shooting Stars to Students of the World” at the top of the WWW page.

**Competitive Analysis:**

I compared it with 2 different website application: Asia Exchange and Hopper.

**Asia Exchange:** This is a website application that focus on students studying abroad in all parts of Asia. It has different programs for all students. Students can study abroad with their concentration, while volunteering and or have a scholarship. The website is a complete package plan and have all the resources available in one application.

My application will be different from Asia Exchange by focus on places around the world. In addition, it will have a different portal for students and family. They will have a checkout for students to focus on what they need to prepare and what they completed. Students can use the application while being a student to book rides.

Has a navigation bar for study destinations and programs and application form

Have a messaging tab

Have a FAQ place

Just focused on students

Specifically focused in Asia with different plans and internships

Have newsletter for everyone

Have a webinar

Have different languages

**Hopper:** Hopper is a travel application that focuses on clients to book vacation package all in one platform. It compares prices from all airlines and gives the user a relaxing place to research and book their flights. The downside to this application is that it only works when you download the app on your phone. The website application just gives details about what the company provides. The navigation bar is entire separate place for employees and position for people.

My application will be different because it allows user to see the bigger picture on any desktop browser. Instead of making the user download the app to their phone in order to use the product; user can have a initial try to research about the program then login to be a user to use the program and message families. It will not be a mobile application for now.

Have to download app in order to have inside scoops on flights

All in one package

Have a page specifically focused toward careers and company page vs. customer focused page

Have notifications but when download app and is user

Shows screenshot

Have different languages

**High-level System Architecture:**

**Server Host:** Heroku 1xCPU 512 MB RAM

**Operating System:** Ubuntu 16.04 Server

**Database:** PostgresSQL 10

**Web Server:** Heroku

**Server Side Language:** Node.js version 8.11.3 (JavaScript runtime built on Chrome’s V8 JavaScript engine)

**Web Framework:** React Native version 2.0.1 (Build native mobile apps using JavaScript and React)

**IDE:** Netbeans 8.2

**Web Analytics:** Google Analytics