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Group 7 Project Proposal

Everyone is spending more time at home right now and many of us are looking to spruce up our living spaces. Plants are a great way to do this, but many of us are new to plant ownership and unsure where to start. It can be confusing to pick a plant that will work best in your space. Also, some plants are more finicky than others to care for and not necessarily the best choice for beginners. We plan to design a program to make these decisions easier and to help new and experienced plant owners alike.

We’ll start out with a small collection of the most popular plants with their care needs, including light, watering, and soil preferences. If the user is looking to purchase a new plant, they can take a quiz to help them pick which plant to buy. The quiz will ask questions about experience and the location the plant will be placed. Then, using the information from the main collection of plants and the responses from the user, the program will suggest a plant to purchase. This will make it easy for someone to pick their first plant, or help them decide on their twentieth.

The program will also allow the user to create their own personal database of plants in their home. They can keep track of their plant collection, give nicknames to the plants they own, and easily manage care information. The user will be able to add plants to their collection, or remove them if the plant is given away (or meets an unfortunate end). Then they can look up plants by attribute or type and get a report of the plants they own that match their search. It can be easy to lose track of time and forget to water your plants. We are hoping to implement a reminder system that will notify users when it’s time to check on their plant and see if it needs watering.

The goal for the GUI component is to have it be easy to navigate while also appealing to the user. The program will open to a home page with the different options listed. The user will navigate around using a combination of buttons and text entry. We are also hoping to implement a virtual plant that allows the user to digitally visualize how well they are doing in their role as plant parent.

The quiz, care guidelines, reminders, and the ability to create a record of your individual plant collection will help make plant ownership less intimidating. Indoor plants have been proven to help boost moods, relieve stress, and improve air quality. From getting help picking a plant to being able to easily look up care information, users can be confident in their ability to keep their plants thriving so that they can continue to enjoy these benefits.

Schedule

Team manager for this project is Bre McNichols, and we have designated Michaela Dent as scribe. We have created a GroupMe that the group can use to communicate informally and ask questions. For more official project documents our group will be using a git server via GitHub to manage source control for the project’s code. All code and code-related documents will be stored on that server.

Regular meetings will be conducted via Zoom once a week on Thursdays at 4:30 pm. This is when we will discuss what everyone has been working on and assign tasks for the upcoming week. If necessary, Saturdays are an optional meeting time, which can be used if problems arise during the week or more time is needed to finish the week’s work. Any communication between meetings will be sent to the group via GroupMe.