

Student Housing Finder

Simplify the student housing search!

Project description

Finding student housing in Provo can be a pain. One of the best resources currently available is Facebook groups, but Facebook doesn't have a great system to deal with the specific details of the Provo/Orem student housing market. I have seen groups try to curate student interest via text, but it is still difficult to use and often I still received suggestions that weren't at all what I was looking for.

This project will create a searchable housing database with details specifically tailored to the student housing market in Provo like shared/private room, distance to BYU/UVU, grocery store access to those who don't have cars, number of roommates, and other housing details! Our website will allow people to post their contracts and others to search for the specific criteria that they are looking for. The hope is that as we gain users to also approach management companies and large complexes to list on our site.

Team

I'm looking for one or two others to join the implementation team. I have experience with back end programming and have worked a lot with SQL, but I would love team members more familiar with NoSQL and frontend development.

Implementation

Initial implementation will use a relational SQL database. Later we will migrate to a NoSQL database. I am leaning towards building a website with solid mobile device access because shopping for contracts tends to be something people do only once or twice a year and people are less likely to download an app specifically for this. A browser based application is also more convenient and is available to both android and iOS users.

SQL

Right now I am leaning towards PostgreSQL, but I am open to suggestions.

NoSQL

Most likely a key value database, but I am less familiar with NoSQL so there may be better tools.

BOLTS

Business

Initially, we would probably be ad supported, but eventually the goal would be to have rental companies or larger complexes paying to post on our site. The other option would be pay if sold where once we have a certain number of posts, we charge those who post \$10 for example if their contract sells on our site.

Operation

The founders will operate the application until it becomes more successful, at which time we will hire a staff. The founders would move to board advisor roles unless otherwise desired and we would seek to hire a CEO that could grow the business.

Legal

The goal is for this to grow into a real business. If we reach that point we would register as an Utah LLC.

Technical

Our priorities will be:

1. Decide on user access. Is an account needed to post?
2. Decide on the most important search criteria and build the housing information database schema
3. Choose back and front end programming languages and tools to be used with in the project
4. Implement the application

Social

Right now the principal posting location is Facebook, once developed we would want to get permission to post on Facebook groups relating to Provo/Orem student housing. We would also reach out to rental agencies and other housing entities in the Provo/Orem area.