CS-340 7-2 Project Two Submission: Read Me

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During this project my client Grazio Salvare has requested documentation demonstrating the requested functionality, descriptions of the tools used to achieve functionality, and rationale for use of these tools. In addition, I will include an explanation of all the steps taken to complete the specifications in this project and a report as to the challenges I encountered during the implementation along with how I had overcome those challenges. Please refer to the CS-340 Dashboard Specifications Document provided by the client linked found in the reference material.

To start, I'll speak about the functionality of the project. The client requested their specific branding to be found on the dashboard. I've implemented this by adding the clients provided logo (Grazioso Salvare Logo) in the top left corner of the dashboard along with a header that shows "CS-340 Dashboard" as seen in figure 1 below. The client insisted that I include a credit for myself as the developer in two locations found below the header as "Cade Bray – UID: CadeBray89" and above the charts section of the dashboard seen in figures one and FIXME. The rationale for these locations conforms with industry competition conventions and with the absence of specific directives I've chosen to conform to those conventions. As requested by the client I've also made the image linkable to the https://www.snhu.edu homepage.

Grazioso Salvare required interactive filtering options for the Austin Animal Center

Outcomes data set. The client did not specify how these filtering options should be implemented
but did give examples such as buttons, radio buttons, or a drop-down menu. I've chosen to
implement simple buttons for the filtering ability. The rationale behind this design choice was to
create a sleek and user-friendly design that was minimal in nature compared to a more cluttered
approach such as radio buttons. The data sets the client has requested to be predefined filtering
buttons to include 'Water Rescue', 'Mountain or Wilderness Rescue', 'Disaster Rescue or

Individual Tracking', and a filter 'Reset' button. The specifications for these predefined queries will be explored later in this document. The implemented buttons can be seen as described in figure one.

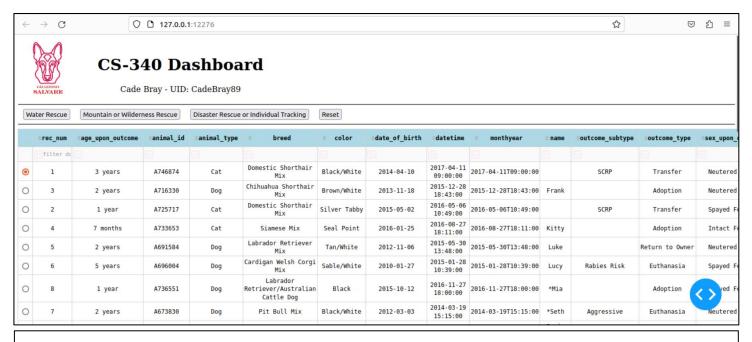


Figure 1, Dashboard untouched by filtering options

The client also required the data table displayed to dynamically respond to filtering options. To implement this requirement two trains of thought were formed. The dashboard needed to respond to filter requests without reloading the page and could take in user designed filter criteria. To update the dashboard without reloading the page I've used a site framework that meets that requirement from the company plotly. This framework is called dash, and its documentation guide is linked in this document's references (Plotly, n.d.). Secondly, the user can provide their own unique queries by using the 'filter data' row located at the top of dashboard data set.

Grazioso Salvare has requested a geolocation and a second chart visualization of my choice to be added below the data set. For the convenience of the user, I've enabled pagination,

so the user doesn't need to scroll through the entire data set to view the geolocation and secondary chart. I've set the page limit to 20 entries so the user could see considerable data with limited scrolling. The second chart for visualization was implemented as a pie chart. The rationale behind choosing a pie chart was that the purpose for this visualization was to see the percentage of available breeds in the database that met the query requirements. These charts can be seen in figures seven through eleven below.

To fulfill the requirement of interactive filtering options described above that were implemented as buttons I've created a mongo database middleware built on top of the PyMongo driver. This middleware simplifies the complex driver to this project's core functional requirements of providing an inclusive list of entries based on a query. For future additions and to conform with best practices the create, update, and delete methods of the CRUD API structure were created in this middleware as well. The requirements for the specific predefined queries that are associated with the buttons can be seen in figure two below.

Rescue Type	Preferred Breeds	Preferred Sex	Training Age*
Water	Labrador Retriever Mix,	Intact Female	26 weeks to 156
	Chesapeake Bay Retriever,		weeks
	Newfoundland		
Mountain or	German Shepherd, Alaskan	Intact Male	26 weeks to 156
Wilderness	Malamute, Old English		weeks
	Sheepdog, Siberian Husky,		
	Rottweiler		
Disaster or	Doberman Pinscher, German	Intact Male	20 weeks to 300
Individual	Shepherd, Golden Retriever,		weeks
Tracking	Bloodhound, Rottweiler		

Figure 2, Query requirements table provided by client in specification document

These queries were built and implemented as custom MongoDB queries that update the data set object upon the buttons click as seen in figures three through six.

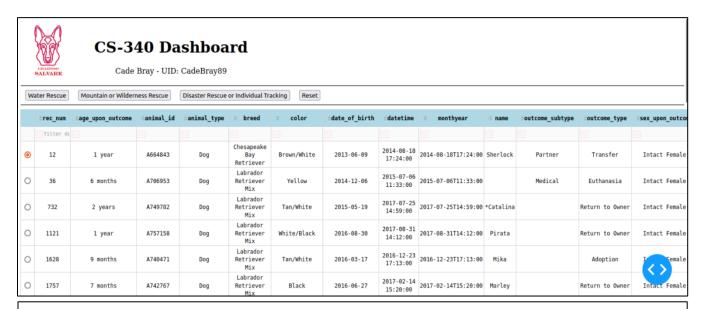


Figure 3, Dashboard filtered by Water Rescue

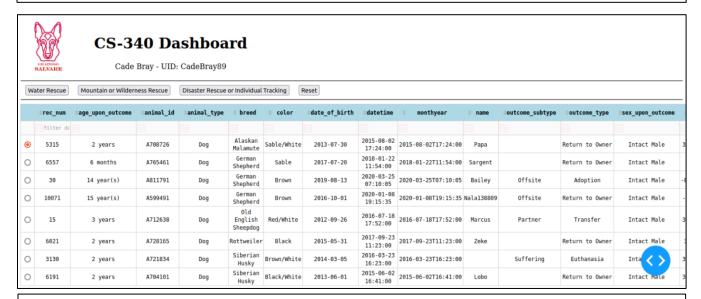


Figure 4, Dashboard filtered by Mountain or Wilderness Rescue

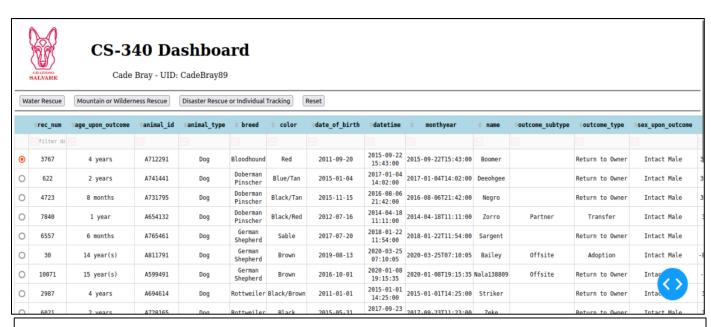


Figure 6, Dashboard filtered by Disaster Rescue or Individual Tracking

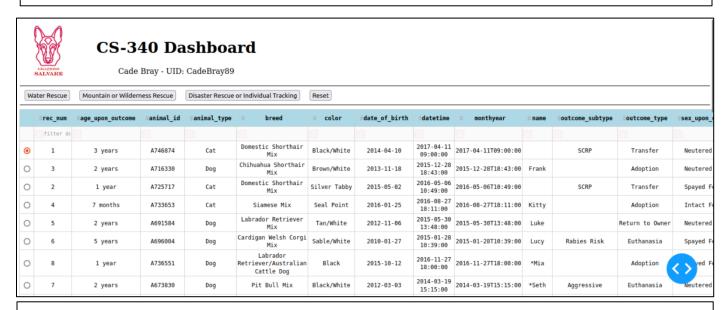


Figure 5, Dashboard after clicking the Reset button to revert to an unfiltered state

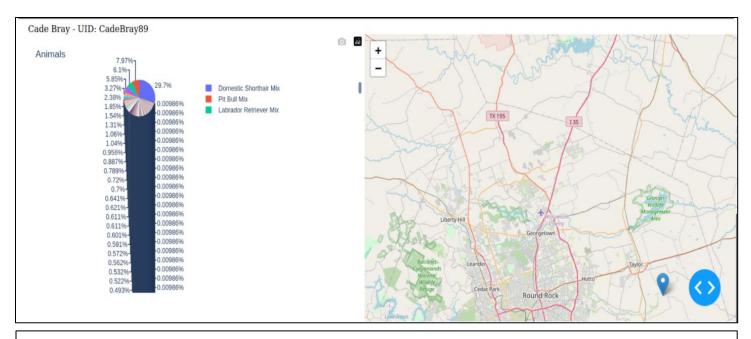


Figure 7, Untouched geolocation and pie chart

The pie chart has many values associated with it and as such is scaled but becomes more user friendly and operable as queries are defined.

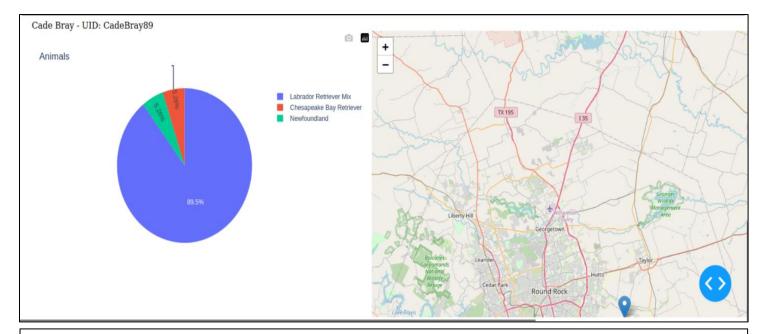


Figure 8, Geolocation and pie chart filtered by water rescue query

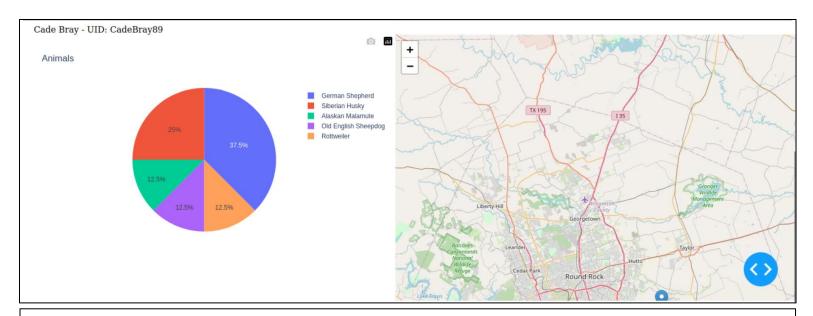


Figure 9, Geolocation and pie chart filtered by Mountain or Wilderness Rescue query

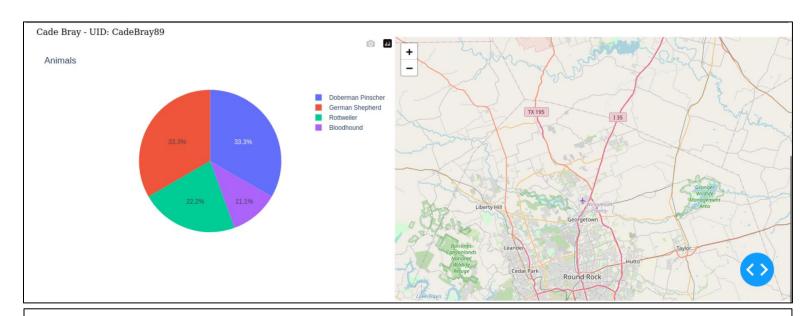


Figure 10, Geolocation and pie chart filtered by Disaster or Individual Tracking query

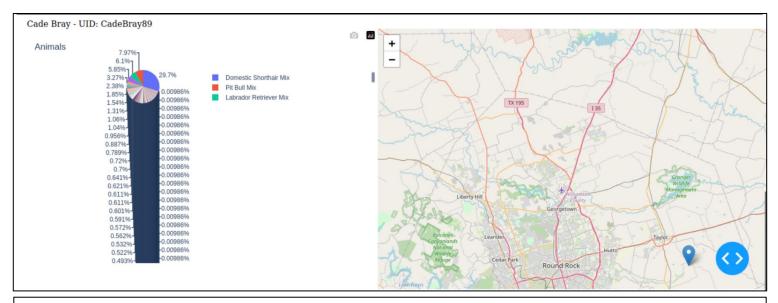


Figure 11, Geolocation and pie chart filtered by Reset query

The steps taken to complete this project can be summarized as follows. First, I studied the PyMongo driver documentation before implementing CRUD API middleware. This middleware was documented and tested using industry standard best practices. This document and Jupyter notebook can be found in my previous updates to the client as 'test_book.ipynb' and the associated read me file. Secondly, I studied the dash framework provided plotly before creating a Jupyter notebook that contains the dashboard implementation. This implementation contains industry best practices including ample documentation for other developers to understand the rationale behind its work.

Challenges that I faced during the dashboard implementation included two large hurdles. The first challenge was the site styling which involved studying the dash documentation to understand how html styling was performed through their dash framework. Doing so allowed me to adjust the size of branding elements and move elements in column and inline positions.

Additionally, I was able to create a modern design with buttons that involved creating padding to

become user friendly. The second challenge I faced was in handling the button functionality. I started by using the 'filter-type' input for the app callback and assigned that parameter id to each button with an associated value that would be returned. Little did I know that the dash framework does not support multiple elements with the same object ID. This posed an issue when debugging because it did not produce a dash site error nor an IDE linter error. I experimented with implementations until I found that assigning each button its own ID allowed the buttons to call the app call backs function.

In addition to this challenge, I was unable to pass a value associated with the buttons and the only value I was receiving was 'n_clicks' which was a simple integer of how many times the user hand clicked the button. I explored the documentation once again to find that I could instead pass 'n_clicks_timestamp'. This allowed me to compare timestamps to find the most recently clicked button. I proceeded to implement this logic into the dashboard but faced another issue. If the button had never been clicked before it would return a call back error because a None type couldn't be evaluated against the other timestamps. To avoid this issue the dictionary object that was initialized on the app call back asserted a default zero integer to compare against the other timestamps.

To release this project into production the client needs only open the provided Jupyter notebook, change final line 'app.run_server(debug=True)' to contain 'debug=False' and run the notebook. In the output of the Jupyter notebook the client should see the middleware initialized by pinging the database and returning a successful statement and the local IP address that the site is hosted on. When a button is clicked on the site by a user the notebook output will contain an updating dashboard statement to assist in debugging if needed.

References

Plotly. (n.d.). *Dash Python User Guide*. Retrieved from Plotly: https://dash.plotly.com/ Southern New Hampshire University. (n.d.). *CS-340 Dashboard Specifications Document*.

Retrieved from Southern New Hampshire University:

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1/course_documents/CS%20340%20Dashboard%20Specifications%20Document.pdf?_

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9OTGv4T9RbCyYwie6&ou=1332057&ou=1831818