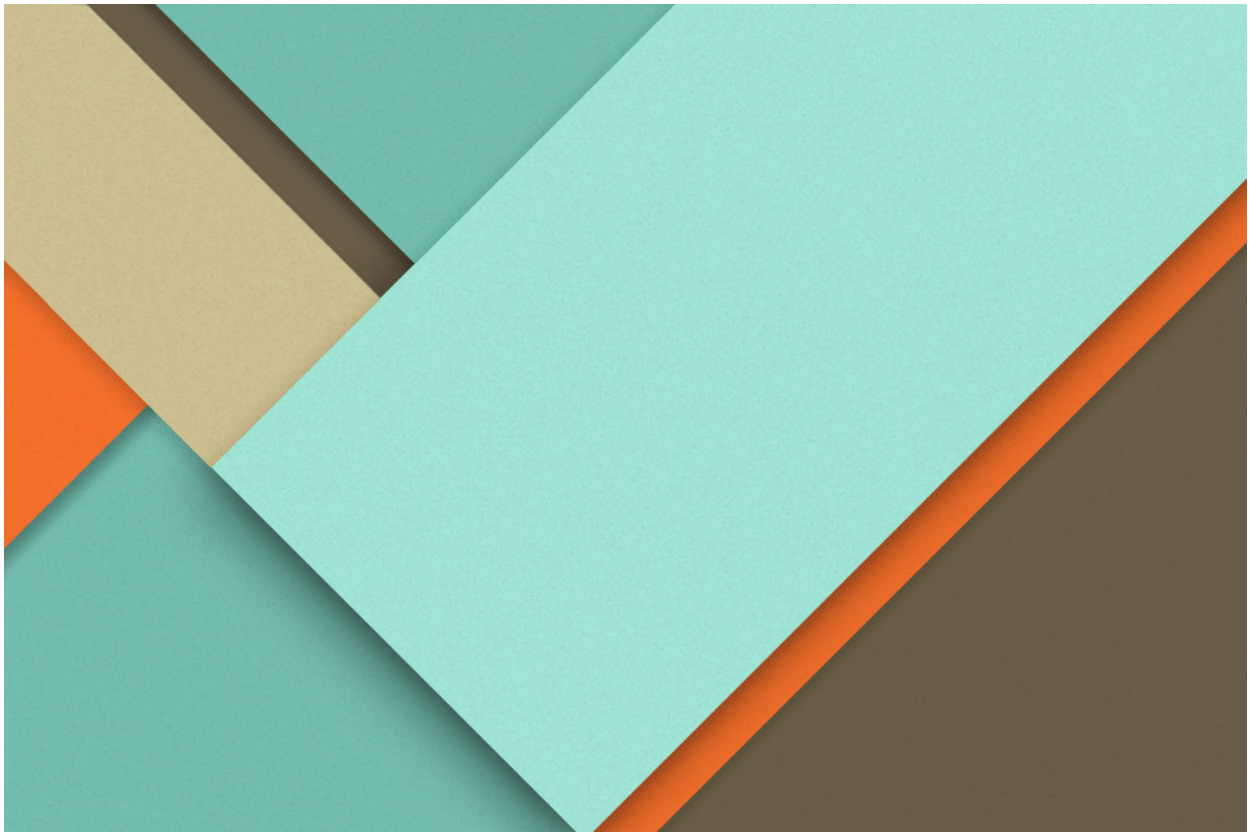


Venture Capital Search

05.03.2017

—

Salar Hajimirsadeghi

Corbin Bethurem

Somto Uzoegwu

Introduction

It's difficult to find an organized platform to search and get an in depth understanding of different venture capital firms. To find what each VC has invested in, what industries they've invested in, and other useful information, we have to go through their individual website to find the needed information. We wanted to build a platform where we can search for a VC, similar to a google search, and all the necessary data will be populated on the results page. These information could include all the VCs investments and the information that belongs to the companies.

Software Design

I. BackEnd / Database

The backend of this project accessed the API from crunchbase to gather the necessary data. The API had lots of information that were useless so we ran a python script to filter out what wasn't needed. From the API we gathered the following data and dumped them into three separate tables in MySQL, one of which brought the other two tables together.

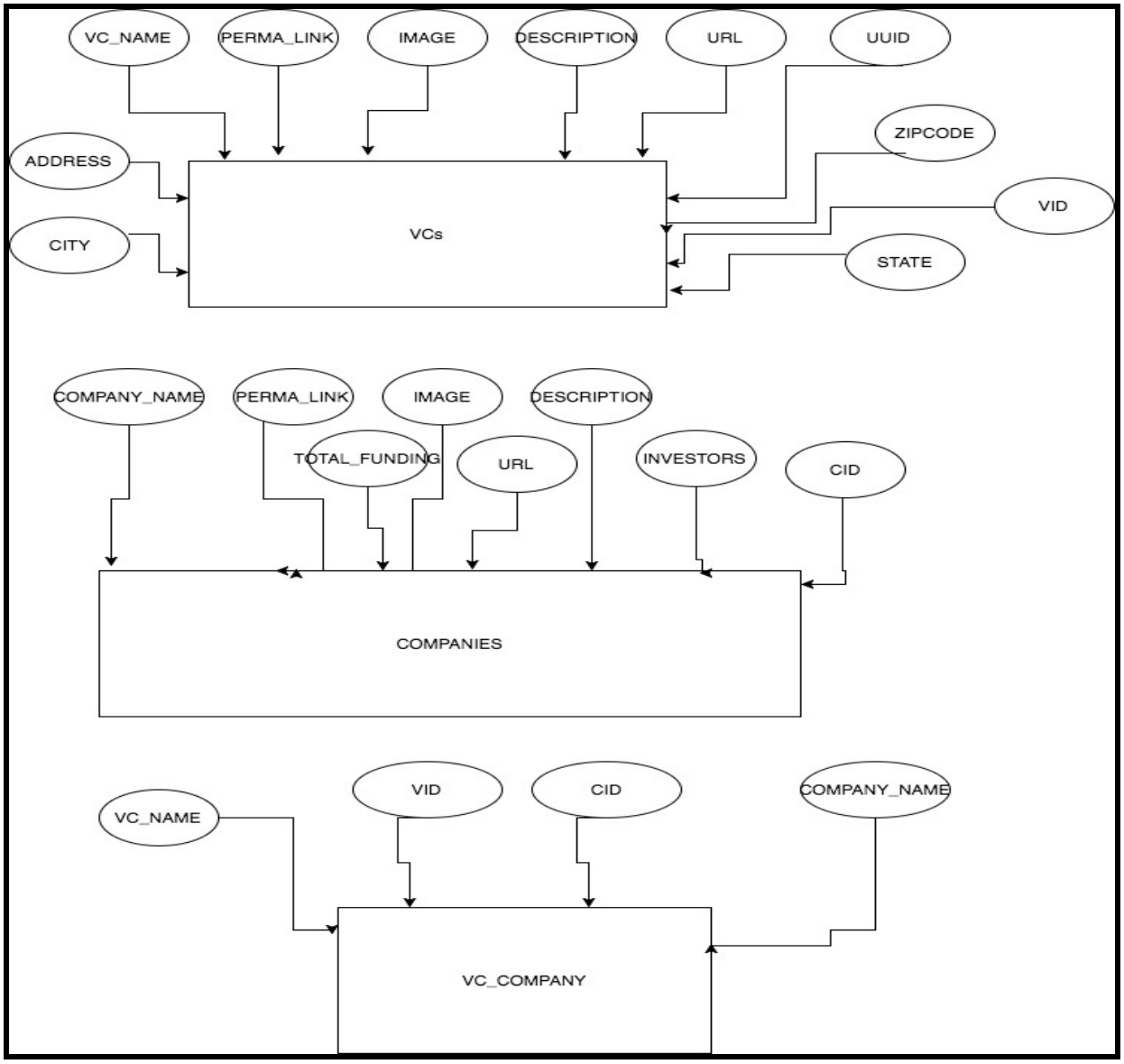
After getting the data needed, we connected the python file to the MySQL database with a mysql.connector library. We had to make sure that our code and libraries were set up to operate correctly with Python 3.0+. After doing so, we were able to dump the following data, directly from the API onto our database. Refer below for list of items in our table along with an image of the database architecture.

VC Data:

- VC Name
- VC Identification Number
- Permalink, to access the investor's individual data
- Address
- Image
- Description
- URL
- UUID, to identify the organization within the API

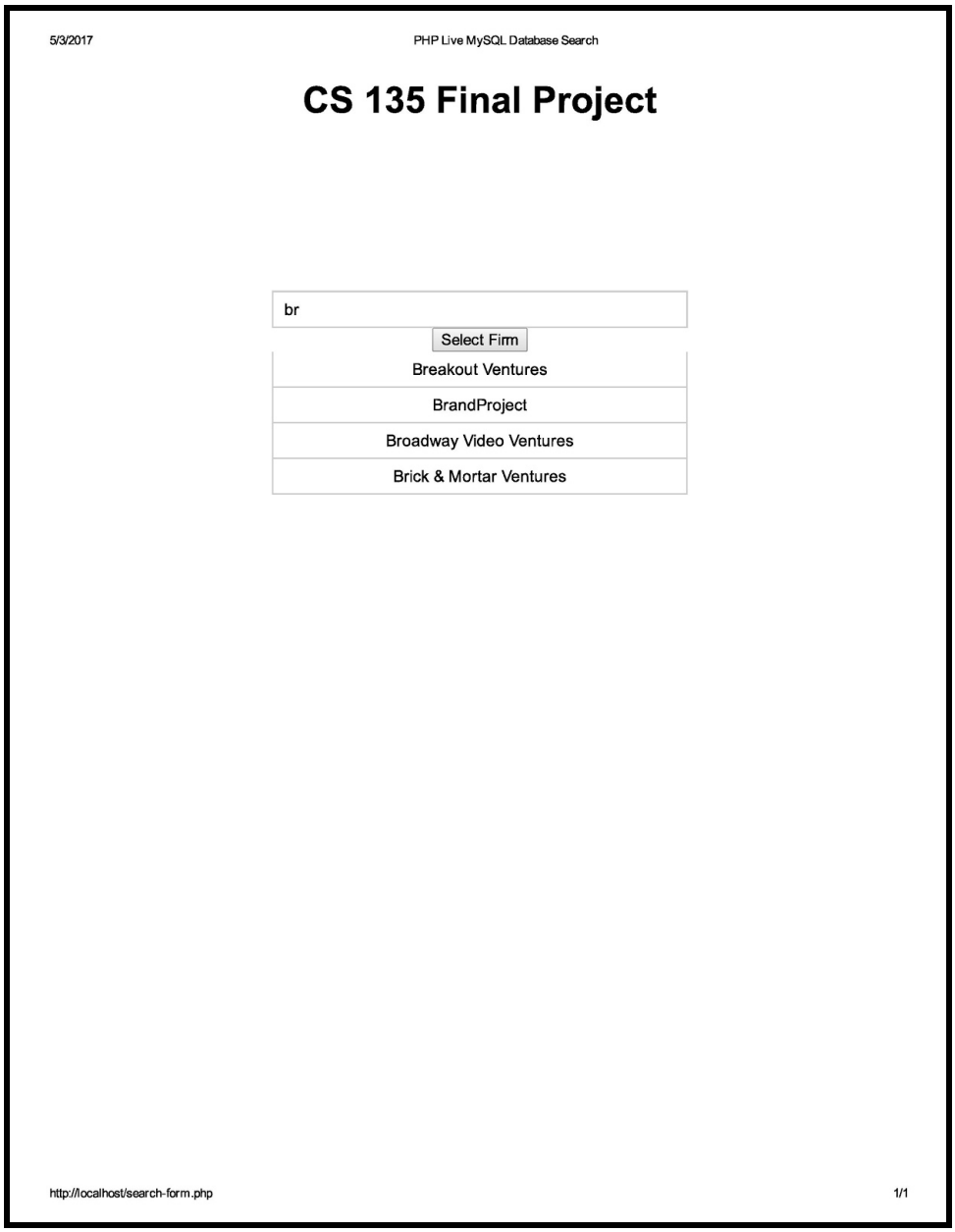
Company Data:

- Company Name
- Company Identification Number
- Permalink, to access a company's' individual data
- Image
- Description
- Total Funding, to know the valuation of a company
- URL
- UUID, to identify the organization within the API



II. Front End

The front end design consists of two pages: the VC firm search and the template page that is populated with data about the specified firm. The VC firm search is an ajax live search, and the result of the search is then received via a get request by the template page. The template page is then populated by data linked to the VC_NAME that was returned by the live search. The girl scout cookies assignment greatly assisted in creating the template page.



Bedford Funding Capital

VC Firm Description:

Bedford Funding is a private equity firm providing long-term capital to businesses in the consolidating and fragmented technology industry with experienced industry focus in the software and IT services sectors. There extensive operating backgrounds have led to a keen understanding of the opportunities inherent in technology enterprises. Bedford Funding makes investments worldwide from its headquarters located in White Plains, New York.

Companies Invested In:

Voalte

MDLIVE

Socialtext

Contribution

Somto Uzoegwu

Somto wrote the venture capitalist page template that parses the information passed in through a GET request from the ajax live search form. The information from the GET request is used to fetch data from the database and populate the fields in the template page such as the name of the venture capitalist, venture capitalist image, the companies invested in, and each individual company image.

Corbin Bethurem

Corbin wrote the ajax live search form that returns venture capital firms from the VC table in the database. Upon completion of this task, Corbin assisted Somto in populating the template page he created. Specifically Corbin managed to populate the template page with the VC image and the respective description. He additionally created mock VC firms and companies to assist in developing the front end design while the database was still in development.

Salar Hajimirsadeghi

Salar worked on the backend of the project to gather the data. He parsed the API data that was given by CrunchBase and narrowed it down to only the helpful information. After gathering all the information on the investors and all the investments they've made, he ran various scripts to upload the needed information onto the three databases discussed above.

Future Work

I. More Data

Our future work on this project consists of three specific areas to expand upon. First, we have more information on the VCs and Companies that we used in our application, so we plan on utilizing the all the possible data gathered to put further functionalities. The functionalities consists of the following:

1. A Google Maps API to show the location of each organization
2. More information on each company such as how much investments they each had. This could lead us to categorize companies depending on the amounting funding they've received.

3. By categorizing companies into various categories, we can look at trends for each VC and recommend potential investments to the venture capital firms.

II. Better UI

A. Image of each company

B. Select Firm button in line with the ajax live search bar

C. More colorful and aesthetically pleasing platform

D. An account for each venture capitalist to log in to see recommended companies for them

III. Charts

We also plan on expanding this platform so that each venture capital has a easy interface of what companies they've invested in, what industries they've invested in, how much in each industry and company, along with useful information.

Reflection

If we could go back and start over, we would have worked primarily on the back end to begin our progress. Given more time to play with the data, we would have liked to create a table of recommended companies for VC firms to invest in based on data from the API. However the task of parsing the data into the database proved more difficult than we originally anticipated, and we decided to work only with simple data from the api, in order to have a fully functional program ready to go by the due date. We believe our project has a lot of potential as a means for researching venture capitalism, and with more time, we could help it realize its potential.

Libraries

For this project, we relied on the CrunchBase API to give us information about the venture capital firms along with their invested companies. This API had all the data we needed to work on this project.

Another library we used to proceed with our project was a mysql.connector library within Python. This allowed us to access our database directly from Python and not have to export the file somewhere else then transfer.

GitHub Link

https://github.com/salarhajimirsadeghi/ftb