

UNWDMI  
Team Schnitzel

Project report

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# Title page

**UNWDMI – Team Schnitzel***Project report*

This document encompasses the information used for the production of, the design choices about and the instructions for the use of the *Team Schnitzel Weather Service.*

This document is part of project for Theme 2.2 of the HBO-ICT education of the Hanzehogeschool Groningen.

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# Abstract

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# Introduction

Team Schnitzel (TS) is a part of the United Nations Weather Data Management Institute (UNWDMI). The team produces applications for clients of the UNWDMI. In the beginning of January 2017, the team was contacted by a client from Serbia, the University of Belgrade. The University was interested in the opportunities the UNWDMI could offer them. At a meeting in mid-January, it was decided that TS would produce an application to help the University with their research.

During the following two months, TS worked out their application. It is called the ‘*Team Schnitzel Weather Service*’ (TSWS). The TSWS receives localized weather data from weather stations from all over the world. The data is received via a collection server. Currently, this server is set up to receive up to a maximum of 800 weather stations at the same time. For the further use of this data, a distribution server is used. This server provides the clients with the requested data for their research.

Both servers are lacking resource overhead with the use of these applications. The resource allocation provided quite a few difficult design choices. But the provided TSWS still provided the data as requested by the client.

This report provides the background information of the whole production process of the TSWS. In the first chapter, the general information about the UNWDMI will be discussed. What is the UNWDMI, what is the data that is available to clients? The second chapter will provide information about the case of the University of Belgrade. What are the wishes of the clients and how do they want to access this data? Following in the third chapter, there will be an explanation about how the data that is available to the UNWDMI will be received from the first moment it enters the systems, to the moment that it is stored for the use in further applications. The actual processing of this data for the case of the client, begins in chapter four. This is where the calculations for the for their use cases are enlightened and where all other data modifications otherwise invisible to the client are discussed. In the fifth chapter, the part of the application with witch the client interacts will be explained. This also gives explanation about the use of the final product and how it connects to their provided points of research. Finally, in chapter six, the conclusion of the TSWS will follow.

# About the United Nations Weather Data Management Institute

The United Nations Weather Data Management Institute (UNWDMI) is an organization that provides global weather information for the use of local governments, regional weather forecasting bureaus and other organizations that have an interest in the provided data. It has its headquarters in Groningen, the Netherlands. It is a small organization of 90 people that receives weather data from all local weather institutes from countries connected to the United Nations.

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| C:\Users\Joost\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCacheContent.Word\UNWDMI_Global.png  Figure 1 – A rendering of the connected UNWDMI weather stations, across the globe. |

These local institutes provide weather data from their own countries to the UNWDMI in a standardized manner. In all, there are 8000 stations, all over the world. Figure 1 shows a representation of the locations over the globe.

The bulk of these stations lays within Europe, Northern America and Asia. All data stations provide an update every second. The UNWDMI collects this data in a centralized system. After the collection, the data will be used for applications built to the specific needs of its customers.

The UNWDMI currently has two systems to its disposal for these two tasks. Both systems are chosen to make optimal use of the available hardware, regarding the amount of data that needs to be processed. This means that every bit of processing power available in the system will be used to the fullest. The system will always produce the most accurate result possible.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | ***Team member*** | ***Department*** | | *Matthijs S. Bonnema* | Management | | *Joost P. de Vreede* | Service Management | | *Bart Bakker* | ICT Services | | *Jouke Y. Rienstra* | Application Development | | *Eran B. Machiels* | General Management | | *Danny D. Jager* | Data Acquisition |   Table 1 – The members of Team Schnitzel and their departments within the UNWDMI. |

Team Schnitzel (TS) is one of several production teams within the UNWDMI. The production team is a team of people from several people from departments within the UNDWMI. The current consistency of TS is displayed in table 1. Since all teams within the UNWDMI consist of several departments, expertise from all their working fields will contribute to a more streamlined product.

# Customer Requirements

Team Schnitzel (TS) was contacted by a delegation from the University of Belgrade. The University expressed the need for weather data for the from the regions in which they perform their primary research. In the start of January, the delegation visited the headquarters of the UNWDMI for a meeting with TS, to work out the fine details of their expected uses.

The main points of their research encompass climate changes in short to medium timeframes. It is the goal to be able to monitor trends within all the different datasets the UNWDMI has to offer. The University also asked for the calculation of two specific datasets:

* A calculation of the humidity values for all the weather stations within Serbia. The data should be available at intervals of 10 seconds per station. The data should be represented in a graph for the past 60 minutes. It would be valuable if it is possible to zoom in within the graph, so that even subtle changes are easy to recognize. The primary goal for these values is to help academics in the research for fungi and other trails involving humidity dependent variables.
* A representation of the 5 weather stations, within the Balkan area, that have the highest visibility distance. The visibility ranking should be calculated per day, from midnight onwards. A permanent history of these values should be available at all times. If the data for the current day is requested, the values should be calculated at once for all the measurements until that point of the day.

An interface needs to be created for all of the users within the University to interact with the data. A website would suffice, but there are certain precautions to take into account for the design. Most of the researchers in the field will use their mobile devices to access the data. This could be tablets, as well as ‘smartphones’. The website should look the same on all devices, regardless of the physical size or screen resolution. Also, in some areas where the academics operate, mobile coverage is poor or non-existent. It should be possible to access the most recent data beforehand. Most of the devices that will be used, are able to work with spreadsheets.

The whole system should be protected against unauthorized access. The University expressed concern that their data should not be available to users that have not been granted permission from them. It was decided to protect the interface with a login system. TS will manage the user accounts and passwords. All updates within the users will be submitted to TS by the university on a regular basis.

All returned results in the website, together with the saved data in the underlying systems should be stored in the local time formatting of Europe/Belgrade.

## Defenition of the Balkan

During the development of the application, it became apparent that there are several possibilities to define the area that is colloquially called ‘the Balkan’. The three most logical uses were conveyed to the University. These versions were as follows:

1. The Balkan peninsula, containing parts of (but not limited to) Croatia, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia and the whole of Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro. This set contains 138 weather stations.
2. The states which have their geographical borders beyond the Balkan peninsula. These states are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. This set contains 317 weather stations.
3. The same countries as in set 2, except Greece and Turkey. This set contains 196 weather stations.

The reply from the University was to use the first set of weather stations for the visibility calculations. Figure 2, 3 and 4 represent the coverage of these possibilities.

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| Figure 2 – A rendering of the all weather stations within the Balkan peninsula. |

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| Figure 4 – A rendering of all weather stations within the Balkan area, according to state borders, excluding Turkey and Greece. |

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| Figure 3 – A rendering of all weather stations within the Balkan area, according to state borders. |

# Analysis of data

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| Figure 5 – A selection of an incoming data stream. |

The data of all weather stations is provided to the UNWDMI in a standardized manner. It is transmitted in a byte stream, containing an XML structure. A single set of data contains information about 10 stations at the same time. This data needs to be translated to a format that can be used by all the other systems of Team Schnitzel Weather Service.

The original data string is always compiled in the same manner. Figure 5 shows an example of the received data. It is set up in an XML format. This is a way of dividing large amounts of data into logical segments. It is a structure that can use multiple *layers* of data. All layers and segments start and end with a corresponding *tag*. A tag is a string that is encompassed by the < and > signs. Furthermore, the last of the two tags always has a forward slash ( / ) in front of it. This is called the *closing tag*.

All data streams start and end with the *WEATHERDATA* tag, as shown on line 1 and 19 in figure 5. In between these tags are the data sets from the 10 stations. Figure 5 only shows the data from one station, between the *MEASUREMENT* tags on lines 2 and 17. These lines are repeated another 9 times, each time for a different station. The data provided by the stations are as follows (the number represents the line in figure 5):

1. The station number. All weather stations have a corresponding number that identifies the location and other information that is specific to the location.
2. The date on which the data was sent.
3. The time on which the data was sent.
4. The temperature in °C.
5. The dew point in °C.
6. The air pressure at the height of the weather station, in millibar.
7. The air pressure at sea level, in millibar.
8. The visibility in kilometers.
9. The wind speed in kilometers per hour.
10. The precipitation in centimeters.
11. The amount of fallen snow, in centimeters.
12. A string that represents events that happened since the last data stream. It represents the following six possible events: freezing, downfall as rain, snow and hail, lightning, tornado’s and whirlwinds.
13. The cloud coverage as a percentage.
14. The wind direction in degrees.

# Data processing

# Data representation

# Conclusion

# References

Picture of globe on cover: clipartfest.com

All chart renders use part of the OpenStreetMap and are rendered in QGIS, as seen on pages 3 and 6, © OpenStreetMap