
DRAFT
HOPPER
VIRGINIA

Draft Hopper helps beer lovers find great craft breweries and tasting rooms around them, wherever they go. Specializing in breweries home grown in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Our Approach

Discover

We realized while talking about breweries in Richmond, it was getting harder to keep track of all the new breweries constantly popping up. We wanted a way to be able to show what breweries were in a users current location and return information on that brewery.

Results

Using a variety of technologies we've learned in class so far, we were able to create a MVP version of Draft Hopper. This includes using a users current location to return brewery results, a beer style library and up-to-date articles on Virginia Craft beer.

Meet the Team

Kristin Iacone

+ UI, UX & Logo Design
+ Front End Development
+ RSS2json API

Liz Lark

+ Google Maps JavaScript API
+ Google Places Details
+ Page Updates

Scott Peterson

+ Geolocation API
+ Google Places API
+ Maps Animation

Topher Sympson

+ Firebase Initialization
+ Upload Form
+ Dynamic Beer Styles

DEMO

KRISTIN

Individual Responsibilities

+ UI, UX & Visual Design

Created a consistent brand and feel for our product and researched what features and information to bring in the site for a good user experience.

+ Front End Development

Using the Materialize framework created a rapid prototype of Draft Hopper.

+ RSS2json API

Used an RSS feed to pull in the most up to date articles on Virginia Craft Beer.

LIZ

Individual Responsibilities

+ Google Maps JavaScript API

Used Google Maps Places JS library to initialize the map that is presented upon the initial loading of the page. The map brings back the users location based on the coordinates passed from the Geolocation API.

+ Google Places Details

In order to retrieve the detailed information for each of the locations that are returned based on the query results I created an ajax call that pulled in the additional details based on the place ID.

+ Page Updates

Used jQuery selector to pass results from API results to the CSS Card on the page containing the brewery details (ex. name, address, phone number, website).

Individual Responsibilities

+ Geolocation API

This API captures the user's latitude and longitude. The user's latitude and longitude can be used as a reference point for searching for nearby things.

+ Google Places API

Using the user's location as a reference point, a query requested is made to the Google Places API to return the 20 closest breweries.

+ Maps Animation

The animate feature is purely aesthetic. It drops the user location down on the map, then the 20 closest breweries rather than having them simply appear.

Individual Responsibilities

+ Firebase Initialization

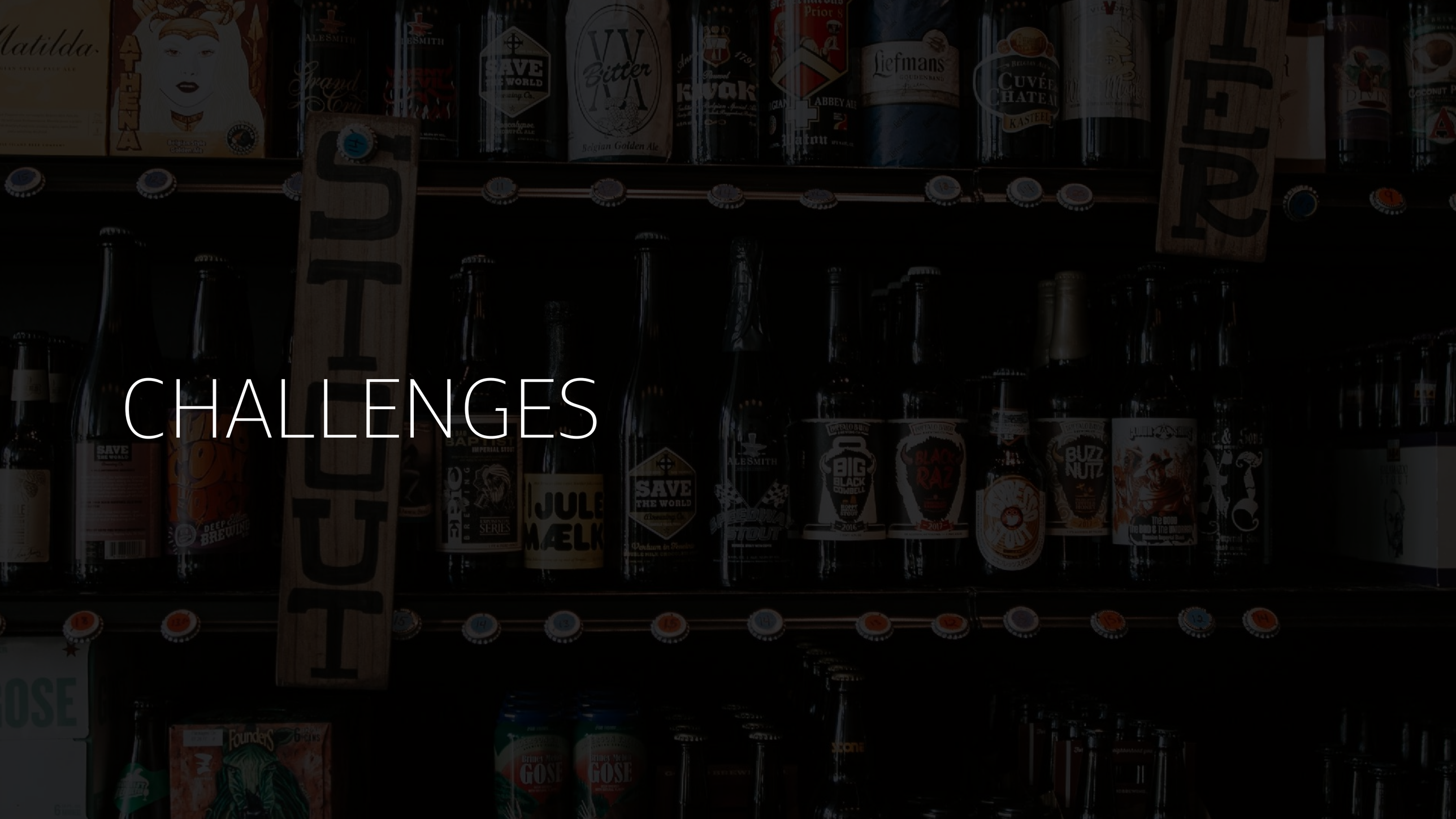
Initialized the Firebase database to store the beer data entered from the admin page. Researched different beer styles and collected data and images to use within the feature.

+ Upload Form

Created a form for admins to upload information about styles of beer into a firebase database.

+ Dynamic Beer Styles

The stored information from Firebase is pulled into the home page and displayed using jQuery and template literals.


Matilda
ATHENA
Grand Cru
SAVE THE WORLD
VV
Bitter
Belgian Golden Ale
Kwak
Prior 8
Liefmans
CUVÉE CHATEAU
KASTEEL
STOUT
DEEP BREWING
IMPERIAL STOUT
SERIES
JULE MÆLK
SAVE THE WORLD
ALESMITH
BIG BLACK DUMBELL
2016
2017
BUZZ NUTZ
GOSE
GOSE
Founders

CHALLENGES

What We Learned

1

Finding a Public API

We originally planned to use one of the multiple beer APIs like Untapped or BeerDB. Unfortunately, neither are currently accepting requests for public use. We instead looked to multiple Google APIs as good substitutes.

2

GitHub/GitKraken

Git Kraken, though an essential tool in this project and projects of the future, has a steep learning curve. Version control and merging changes took patience and communication.

3

Google APIs

Creating the click function to return breweries near the user location required lots of research and testing. Google APIs, while being robust, can be overwhelming to find what exactly you are looking for.

4

Caching

This was an added level of complexity that we were not expecting. Within certain browsers, the results from the map geolocation can be delayed due to caching issues.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

How We Would Improve Our Product

Caching

Fixing the caching issues would be one of the first improvements for our product since that would impact user experience.

Adding a Zip Code or Brewery Name Search

Additional search options would create a more robust experience for the user. Giving them the option to search by zip or brewery name would allow them to research breweries that may not be in their immediate location.

Enhancing the Beer Results

Ultimately, if we had access to the proper APIs, we would add information like beers on tap, organic and gluten free options, events, brewery descriptions and unique brewery imagery.

Beer Routes

With more time we could have added a feature that maps routes for users to hop around walkable clusters of breweries. This would require hooking up the Google Maps Directions API to the application.

Integrating into the Local Beer Community

Would love to reach out to local beer enthusiast groups like Fans of Virginia Craft Breweries who have both a huge Facebook presence and following to see if they could eventually integrate our product on their site.

User Research

It would have been great to put this in front of users to see how they react to our product. Getting user feedback would help to inform future improvements and know what is valuable to our users.

THANK YOU

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