

Experience Report

Technologies

1) AWS

We initially tried to host our website on an Amazon Web Services EC2 Ubuntu instance. We had a lot of trouble and put a lot of time into getting it working, but AWS is a very complicated technology for a first time user and not much came out of it. We had purchased a domain name from registrar, set a static ip for our instance, got our ubuntu instance running, setup security groups, and more and still we could not get our server running on AWS so we stopped trying to use it and simply opened ports on Kegan's computer to host the web app from there.

2) Express/axios

We are using an express server to host our backend API that connects to our MySQL database. In our experience, express was very easy to learn and allows us to quickly make new queries to our database and retrieve the data we need. We are using axios to make HTTP requests to our express app and it has also been very easy to learn. You can make GET and POST requests very easily and axios handles the requests for you. Axios makes HTTP requests from our Vue web application to our Express app and handles the responses.

3) XAMPP

XAMPP provides us with a mariaDB instance as well as an Apache server. This database is where we are storing and retrieving all of our data from. We chose to use a SQL database because we are very familiar with it because of our experience gained in school and also because many of our tables are related to each other and we benefit greatly by having a relational database to work with. This is a deviation from the industry standard tech stack as MongoDB is usually used as a database in combination with our other technologies, but we found no problems integrating MySQL into the stack instead of MongoDB.

Customer Acquisition/Data gathering

1) Insurance Companies:

Our original goal was to secure data from at least 2 insurance companies so that we had a bare minimum to compare prices. However, insurance companies are not very forthcoming with information about their pricing and we were only able to find online quotes. Because of this problem, we decided to implement a new approach of gathering data from the users themselves. They are able to post blog posts about their own experiences as well as give real prices of their packages. We can then use this data to provide multiple price estimates both from the online quotes we found as well as what the users provide.

We implemented this solution because we thought it helped build a community of practice for people to go to for help with choosing insurance as well as solving our lack of data problem.

2)

Progress Tools/Techniques

1) User Story Mapping

2)

User story mapping was an ok start, but we realized that it wasn't enough and didn't quite suit the needs of our project. We then created a kanban board to supplement our story map as well as personas and low-fi/high-fi mockups.