Project Proposal

CS2063

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Team 13

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Overview

SafeRide is a free service offered by UNB to transport students from campus to destinations within a permissible, pre-set radius. This service works by employing other students who possess driver's licenses and are capable of doing the job of transporting other students around. As of now, SafeRide does not have a mobile application. This can make it difficult for students to find necessary information like:

- Where SafeRide drivers' stations are.
- Whether they are available or out on a delivery.
- How long till the next pickup
- And more

So, to introduce a solution to the problem, our team is hoping to build an application that can provide all this information to the user making everything that the user needs to know only a click away and from the comfort of their location.

Motivation for building the application

SafeRide uses a website designed by the UNBSU to give general information and a map of where the stops are on campus and how far the shuttles can travel. Students have no way of telling if the service is active and how long they would have to wait till next pick-up. No application has been designed for this service. This application will target any UNB and STU student, staff, or faculty who intend to use the service, as well as the drivers of the shuttles.

There is no denying that SafeRide is a gracious service UNB provides to make student's lives more convenient and comfortable. Nevertheless, we saw that this service is not getting the right attention in terms of both marketing and development. The lack of attention seems to be towards the interface between students and drivers, not the transportation service. Here are some of the problems we faced when using this service numerous times:

- We had great difficulty finding information regarding when this service will be in effect (Working hours).
- We also struggled to find information about where the pickup stations are located around campus.
- And where SafeRide drivers can take us.

Although this information may be available online, it seems to be hidden well enough to make the SafeRide experience inconvenient.

This is why we decided to shine some light on SafeRide to make it a more appealing and reachable service for all who may want to use it on campus.

Description of mobile related features to be incorporated

We expect to use some of the following features:

- Camera or QR code Scanner: Used to check into the shuttle upon entering. This will provide the driver with the user's information, location and a picture of the user for the driver, for safety precautions
- Live Location: Set to determine the wait time for next pickup
- Wi-Fi Connectivity: This would be used to connect the Android application to the network to provide users with live updates on drivers' status. Things like if a driver is waiting at this station or not.

Additional Information

We think that this interface is best built using a native Android application due to the need of an offline factor that can provide users with common information, like working hours, which is not available through the web (websites). While offline, users with the application installed should be able to start the application and see where the permanent SafeRide pick-up stations are located as well as the working hours for this service. Although we chose to make this an Android application, due to it being all-around easier, development wise, to build and gives us more flexibility in terms of choosing, in detail, what aspects of Android we would like to use to make this application possible. We still think that an IOS version later down the line would be of great value and success due to the number of IOS users on campus.