



Parkour - Parking Assistant

Project Supervisor

Engr. Abdul Rahman

Project Team

Mahad Khalid K180187

Abdullah Raheel K180170

Ammar Nasir K181037

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FAST SCHOOL OF COMPUTING
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Project Supervisor	Engr. Abdul Rahman
Project Team	Abdullah Raheel K180170 Mahad Khalid K180187 Ammar Nasir K181037
Submission Date	13 July 2022

Engr. Abdul Rahman

Supervisor

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Memon

Head of Department

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Abstract

In small to large metropolitan cities alike, finding parking is a principal problem. Over population of major cities in Pakistan means high density of vehicles which the city cannot accommodate to begin with. This leads to lack of parking spots which in turn make parkers spend their valuable time to find a spot, increase their fuel consumption and contribute to traffic congestion.

To tackle this problem, we came up with the idea of an app with an inbuilt map that shows parking spots all around the city to help drivers find parking spots quickly, saving time and fuel. The app will also show open parking spots close to drivers where they can easily park and also show the route to these spots. Drivers can also see how much fuel it will take to reach said spot. Since the available parking spots are visible on the map, drivers can even pre-book the spots beforehand.

The project aims to provide parkers an application to find parking spots using their phone in real time and save them the trouble of looking for a parking spot manually. Meanwhile, the app gives the parking provider an opportunity to run a small business by putting their unused parking spot(s) up for sale. Furthermore, the project aims to provide residents who own a car but do not have a suitable parking spot near their home or residents who have trouble finding a parking spot near their workplace, a long-term parking solution by giving them the option to purchase a parking spot nearby.

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Introduction

1.1 Background

Commuting is a daily part of most people's lives and for many people who own a private vehicle finding a suitable and appropriate parking spot is a daily struggle. It becomes even more difficult to find a spot when hundreds of people come out for an event or holiday festivals. The fact that no private vehicle is perpetually in motion; most private vehicles spend most of their time at rest, either during working hours or over the night, means that there should be two places for every car in the city to be parked in. The two places should be at the both ends of every trip. However the number of vehicles keeps increasing, while parking space has remained constant or reduced due to a growing population. This imbalance between parking supply and parking demand has been considered as the main reason for metropolis parking problems.

1.2 Problem

Lack of parking spots truly is a global issue. As global living standards rise and urbanization accelerates, especially in India and China, cities around the world are seeing huge spikes in motor vehicle ownership accompanied by demand for parking. In India, the number of private automobiles grew nearly 400% between 2001 and 2015, going from 55 million to 210 million. In China, as of 2017, there was a shortage of 50 million parking spaces, according to the central government. Cities face immense challenges from climate change and rising heat, increased urbanization and housing affordability.

Besides the lack of parking spots, there is another problem that needs to be addressed. Surprisingly, there are metropolitan cities which incorporate plenty of parking spaces. For example, one study shows that there are 2.2 million total parking spaces in Philadelphia and 1.85 million in New York City. So the problem is not just about the general lack of parking spaces but the lack of real-time data about vacant ones. Due to this, drivers are often left frustrated and spend too much time searching for a spot. In peak hours drivers in large cities have to circle around the desired destination to find a place where they can leave their vehicles. Those who run out of time might park illegally. By bouncing between parking spaces that are full, drivers become restless and may choose to park illegally or leave altogether.

An unregulated tariff structure is another issue which leads to a scarcity of parking spaces. For example, in Indian and Pakistani metros, parking is either free or minimally priced, the fees being unregulated for many years now. Because parking prices stop increasing after a certain period of time, the longer one stays in a parking space, the less one has to pay. This is a problem because parking space is a scarce commodity today and should come with a price. A low parking price encourages more vehicles on the road, contributing to air and noise pollution.

1.3 Proposed System

The project aims to solve all the problems addressed above by attempting to create a self-managing peer to peer parking system where people who have unused parking spots can both earn and contribute by making their spots available for others to park and charge a fare for the spot. The system will embody a map that provides reliable, real-time data that allows drivers to choose from the available spots or even pre-book a parking spot beforehand.

1.4 Pricing

The system will further implement a regulated tariff system. One could say the best way to manage the parking is by charging the right price for it. This can be done by using demand to price parking and optimize occupancy. If the price is too high and spaces remain vacant, operators lose revenue, nearby shops lose customers, employees lose jobs, and governments lose tax revenue. If the price is too low and no spaces are available, it leads to traffic congestion and chaos. Pricing can thus be a very effective tool for the management of travel demand as a whole. Deploying a cost-effective parking management and guidance solution ultimately generates more revenue for a city, as existing parking spaces are properly monetized. Drivers are more motivated to pay for a spot when they know they'll be able to find it quickly, without having to circle around in vain. The awareness by drivers that all spaces are monitored by a modern system further increases the understanding that it is fair to pay for the valuable public space and service.

1.5 Conclusion

Due to the growing population, the growth of private vehicles is not going to halt and in turn the demand for parking. And increasing the parking supply by creating more and more parking spaces is not a feasible solution. Because land resources are limited, it isn't possible to conveniently plan parking spaces according to demand. Instead of increasing available parking spaces, an effective technology-based solution must be employed to optimize the use of available spaces and to provide drivers with a real-time map of available spaces and allow drivers to reserve spots based on their convenience. Not only does this save drivers time spent searching for a spot, but it also reduces environmental degradation resulting from congestion caused by parking. Finally, the parking system plays a key role in the metropolitan traffic system, and lacking it shows closed relations with traffic congestion, traffic accidents, and environmental pollution. And even with all of these factors, the parking problem is an often-overlooked aspect of urban planning and transportation. Therefore an efficient parking system can improve urban transportation and city environment besides raising the quality of life for citizens.

Related Work

To provide parking spots it is absolutely necessary to rely on either people or sensors. If the application is dependent on people it must either implement a peer to peer system like **Parkour** or use a smart phone to provide the parking spots. If the application is dependent on sensors, it must be able to provide the parking spots without the need of people.

The other method of determined the parking spots is to use a combination of sensors and people. This is called **Sensor-based Parking** [1] This type of methodology uses both the sensor and data from people to accurately predict of the spots are empty.

Parking Spots can also be determined using data from the general public. This is called **Crowd-Sourced Parking** [2] This type of methodology uses people to verify if the parking spots are indeed empty.

One unique method of determining if parking spots were empty or occupied was through the use of ultrasonic sensors [3]. This method was found to be the most accurate and efficient method of determining if parking spots were empty or occupied without entailing the heavy cost of image recognition based parking.



The most effective method of determining the parking without relying on people is by using some sort of image recognition. This is called **Image-Detection-based Parking** [4] This is not only very expensive to implement but also comes with it's challenges of accurate image detection.

Parkour uses peer to peer communication to determine the parking spots. This is a peer to peer system that is implemented using a smart phone. This is a system that is designed to be used by people to communicate with each other.

Requirements

Parkour - Parking Assistant is an Android / Web based application that requires an active internet connection. The application also requires a GPS to be able to track the user's location. The location must be enabled on the device for the application to work properly.

Services required on the phone:

-  The application requires an active internet connection, To connect to google maps and google services. The application requires an active internet connection to download the map data. without an active internet connection, the application will not be able to talk to the server.
-  Gps / Location services must be enabled on the device to detect the current location of the user and show them parking spots near them in a certain radius.

Design

A significant amount of time was spent on the design of the system. A careful consideration was given to working of the frontend and the backend. The system was designed to be as modular as possible. The system was designed to be able to be used in multiple ways. Special attention to the design of the frontend was given including contrast ratios, colors and rhythm was given. User experience was also given a high priority.

4.1 Design Patterns

- State

The useState hook in react exposes a way to change the state of the component, this allows us to re-render the ui whenever change the state of the component. The functional component might behave differently depending on the state of the component. This is how a the state pattern is used here.

```
const [socket, setSocket] = useState<Socket>(null);  
const [receiver, setReceiver] = useState(null);  
const [messages, setMessages] = useState([]);
```

Figure 4.1: State Pattern

- Memento

The useMemo hook allows us to memoize the output of the component. This is how the memento pattern is used here. Here we are memoizing the slotList. This is done to avoid re-calculating and re-sorting the slotList when the component re-renders.

```
// Sorting the slotList
const sortedSpotList = useMemo(() => {
  const list = [...slotList];

  if (list.length === 0) {
    return [];
  }

  // Sort by Date
  list.sort((availability1, availability2) =>
    availability1.slotDate > availability2.slotDate ? 1 : -1
  );

  // Sort time slots of each Date
  list.forEach((availability) => {
    availability.slots.sort((ts1, ts2) => {
      // First compare by start time
      if (ts1.startTime > ts2.startTime) {
        return 1;
      } else if (ts1.startTime < ts2.startTime) {
        return -1;
      }

      // Else compare by endTime
      if (ts1.endTime < ts2.endTime) {
        return -1;
      } else if (ts1.endTime > ts2.endTime) {
        return 1;
      } else {
        // nothing to split them
        return 0;
      }
    });
  });
});
```

Figure 4.2: Memento Pattern

4.2 Frontend

4.2.1 Wireframe

Before the development of the UI the design of the wireframe was considered. A wireframe of the UI was created that gave the general understanding of how the UI will be broken into components.

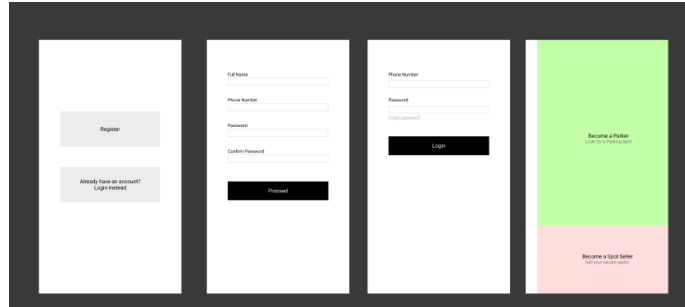


Figure 4.3: Homepage Wireframe

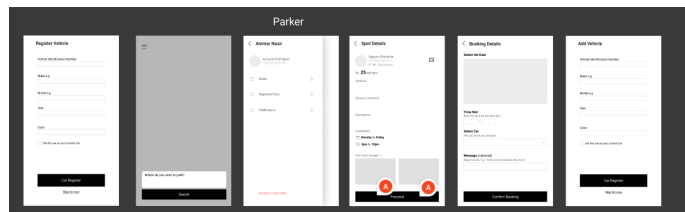


Figure 4.4: Parker Wireframe

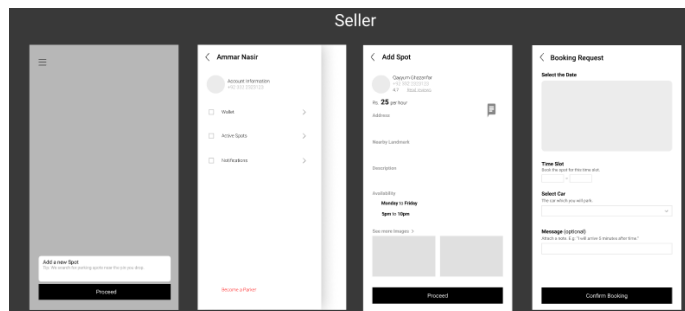


Figure 4.5: Seller Wireframe

4.2.2 UI

At the start of UI design the Font, Colors and Design schemes were solidified to ease the process and keep the consistency throughout the application. The aim was to make the UI look and feel like one cohesive application.

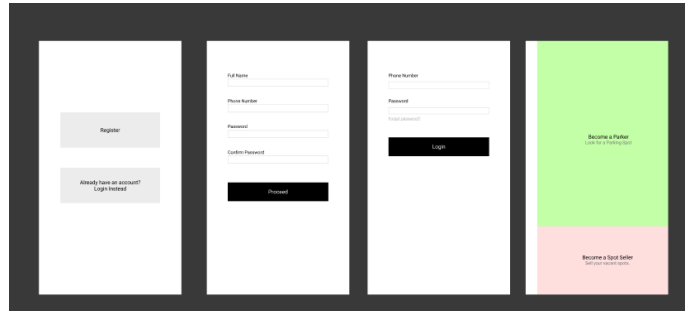


Figure 4.6: Homepage Wireframe

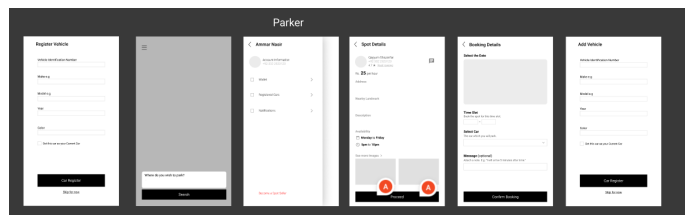


Figure 4.7: Parker Wireframe

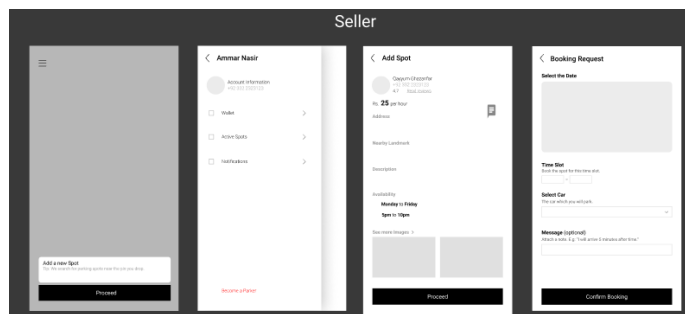


Figure 4.8: Seller Wireframe

Implementation

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Testing and Evaluation

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Conclusion

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