

Project Proposal: fika

Description

Our proposed web application, fika, is a tool for discovering new coffee shops. Currently for many the process of trying new cafes involves prior research on criteria such as the difficulty of finding parking or seating, the quality of the drinks, or the availability of wifi and outlets. This information is scattered between various reviewing platforms, such as Tiktok and Google Reviews. Our project idea is to condense this information into one application specifically made for reviewing and discovering cafes. While there are a few similar applications such as beli or Yelp made for reviewing restaurants, none are dedicated to cafes and therefore they lack the specific details that are of interest to coffee shop goers. The most important features of fika are the logging feature for users to save and review cafes they have visited, the individual cafe page that displays the user provided information on the cafe, and the discover page where users can apply filters to discover cafes near them. The frontend of the web-app will be created using Next.js and the backend will include a database made using PostgreSQL. Additionally we will use the free Open Streets Maps API for geographical data on cafes and Vega charts to visualize trends in coffee shop data. For authentication we will use Firebase and for hosting we will use Vercel and Supabase. If time permits and the free tiers support our use cases we will look into incorporating APIs such as Google Places and Gemini.

Justification

This project gives the team members an opportunity to continue to develop the knowledge learned in our web applications course. It also provides a chance to learn new technology by requiring the team to create a SQL database, work in Next.js, and learn to work with new APIs. The project will be technically difficult as we will be building a full-stack project, but it should be reasonable within a semester timeframe. As a whole, the team possesses the tools required and is excited to learn new technologies to complete this. Kate has experience working with a variety of frontend frameworks and wants to learn more about working with databases and Vega charts. Giselle has worked with frontend frameworks before and wants to get more practice using new APIs and building a user-friendly application. Ahtziri has experience with frontend development and wants to get more experience with implementing APIs as well as working with databases. Jillian is proficient in frontend development and the deployment of APIs and wants to gain experience in databases. This project is interesting to each teammate because we share a common interest of trying new cafes and as students we all would benefit from a tool that makes it easier to find cafes to study from.