**Cross-Platform Development Assessment Item 1 Report**

**Concept**

**Overview**

Have you ever been in a situation where you looked at the current forecast for your current location or the location you plan to travel to? Only for the weather forecast to be completely wrong, resulting in you getting soaked without your coat to save you! Or perhaps it claims that it is raining, only for it to be sunny resulting in you having to lug your coat around?

Weatherly is a community based weather app that harnesses the power of users to report back on the actual conditions of weather based on their current locations. This provides real time feedback on the actual conditions of a location rather than just relying on predictions provided by the forecasting services. With Weatherly, gone are the days of guessing on whether the forecasted weather is true or not. Weatherly also provides a forecast just like regular weather apps that provides fast, timely updates to make sure you have all the information you need from multiple sources.

With Weatherly you’ll never be caught unprepared again!

Barcode:



**Requirements**

The weatherly app can be used in a variety of user scenarios, from travelling to a location such as going on holiday, or embarking on a typical daily commute to work. The target group for the app is users of any age group that travel often, stay over in remote locations for a few days and/or users who prefer to travel with just the essentials.

As a frequent commuter I want to have a more accurate weather report so I can make an informed decision about what to take with me to work. As a frequent commuter I want the ability to save my favourite locations so I can keep track of their weather conditions.

Biff the businessman frequently travels to work and takes public transportation to get there, he prefers to travel lighter as it is more comfortable for his journey. As he only takes a briefcase with his work it doesn’t provide any space for an umbrella or coat for his travels. He often finds that after watching the morning weather forecast on TV before work, he takes his umbrella to work with him only to find that the weather is different than the forecast and as a result he has carried his umbrella around with him for nothing. Biff then searches for a better solution to this problem and stumbles upon Weatherly on the app store. Weatherly helps Biff to make a more informed decision about if he will need to take his umbrella to work all day. Biff uses weatherly one day that reports that his work location will be cloudy but dry, Biff then realises that the community report says others, with over 2000 users reporting that there is rain present. With this new knowledge he can now more easily justify taking the extra luggage with him to work as the community has reported rain is indeed present at his work location, he then is able to keep his suit dry and his hair tidy for his big conference meeting.

~~Omar is a student that commutes from his home to his university campus every weekday, his backpack contains many of the essential items he needs to complete his studies and has little space for much else. Omar checks the weather before his daily commute to see if he will need take any extra items such as a coat or gloves, he often finds that the forecast accuracy fails him. As a result, Omar often finds that when he doesn’t take his coat because it is dry, the weather can be drastically different from what was forecasted and because he lives far away from the university he cannot easily obtain his coat. At the same time, Omar also doesn’t want to take objects that he doesn’t need to bring as his backpack has limited space to store items such as a large coat and gloves. When Omar uses the Weatherly app, he finds that the forecast calls for sunshine for the hour at his university, but over 600+ people in the university location is claiming that it is currently raining. Omar then decides to take his coat along with him to keep him dry when walking between campus buildings, when he gets there he discovers that it is indeed raining and that taking his coat was the correct decision. Weatherly has helped Omar make an informed decision about what to take on his daily commute, which has helped him cut down on unnecessary items on days where a coat is not needed.~~

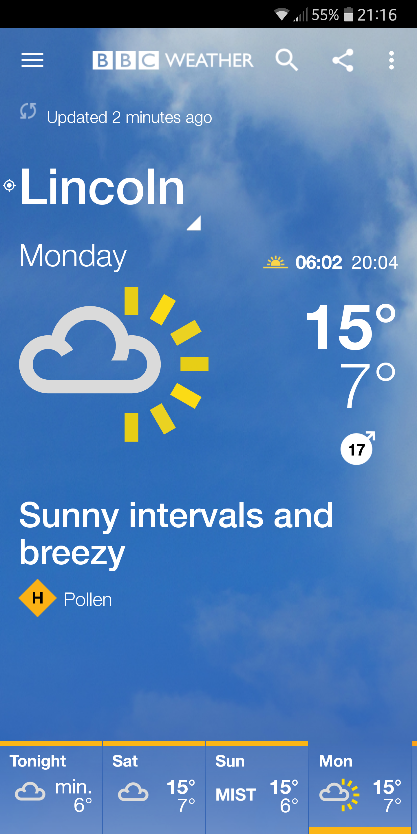
As such, the functional requirements of this app would be the use of a custom API hosted on a custom server which the app uses to provide the community feature of users reporting weather conditions in their location. The app also needs to tap into a weather API to pull information about the location the user is currently situated in, and to provide weather data for remote/added locations. It then needs to store those location locally, so the app can “remember” the locations added for the user, so they don’t need to continually input them. This data then needs to be displayed onto the app’s UI for users to view.

Non-functional requirements would pertain to making the community ratings quick and easy for users to participate in. A community based system that allows users to anonymously post updates on the current weather conditions of their current locations and to receive community updates on other locations.

**Competitors**

The two apps that Weatherly would compete with are BBC Weather (BBC, xxxx) and Met Office Weather Forecast (Met Office, xxxx).

The BBC Weather app’s main window consists of a full screen background that reacts based on the current weather conditions of a given location. The app provides weather information in great detail, ranging from reports of air quality to humidity and visibility conditions. As a result of all this detailed information, the main app’s window is densely populated without any logical placement of these elements, this leaves the window looking cluttered and potential confusing on first use (See Figure 1). One aspect of the main window’s UI is the increased emphasis the app puts on critical information, such as the current temperature, weather condition, and location are all larger in size and bold. This assists the critical information in standing out from the rest of the less relevant data in main window, which immediately draws more of the user’s attention (See Figure 1).

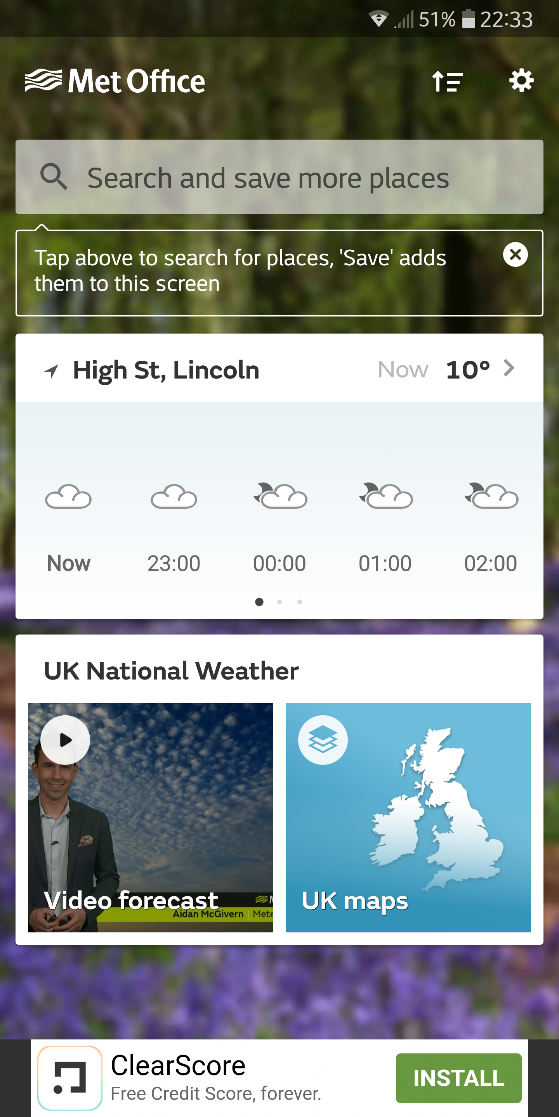


*Figure 1: BBC Weather app’s main window of a location’s weather condition (BBC, xxxx).*

The app’s functionality allows users to search for any location around the world and add it to a personal saved list, which saves the user time and adds to the convenience of the app. One feature that was not apparent was that the UI allows for swiping to the left to reveal an hourly forecast, there is no indication to show to users that this feature exists and is possible. This app could have benefited from a onetime tutorial that introduces the app’s features to its users to get them more accustomed with the UI and functionality of the app. This is also reflected through some of the symbols the app employs that don’t entirely indicate what the data may be showing, for example the symbol that is employed for wind direction and speed is not entirely clear, nor does it tell the user what metric is being used. This is a negative element that Weatherly will try to avoid, by making all weather data easily readable and laid out in a logical fashion.

The 2nd app is MetOffice Weather Forecast (MetOffice, xxxx), its main window is more minimal in design compared to the BBC Weather app (BBC, xxxx), by simply displaying the hourly forecast and an icon that represents the weather conditions in that hour (See Figure 2). From this interface the app prompts the user to use the search bar to find locations they may be interested in, which provides the user with direction, an improvement over the BBC Weather app. One potential issue the app has is with the small space in which the user can tap the location to view more details about the weather conditions (Denoted by the arrow next to the current temperature).

The 2nd main part of the app works in a similar fashion to BBC Weather, it shows detailed information on the current conditions of the weather app but does so in more logical layout with lines and breaks between different information being more clearly shown through separating the data via cards. Weatherly will benefit from employing a clean layout with logical design and good spacing between elements, this will make it much easier for users to see content they wish to see.



*Figure 2: Main window of the MetOffice Weather Forecast app being displayed (MetOffice, xxxx).*

**Prototyping**

The first stage of prototyping involved an early concept that had the majority of the app situated in a large card that took up the majority of the display. The user would then swipe on the card to flip it over displaying more detailed information about the weather, such as a weekly look.