Apart2Go: A Mobile Application for Finding Apartments/Boarding House

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1.0 Introduction

BatangasCity is a first class component city and capital of the Province of Batangas, Philippines. It is the largest city in the province in terms of land area, and is currently classified as one of the fastest urbanizing cities of the Philippines. According to the 2015 census, the city has a population of 329,874 people.

Known as the "Industrial Port City of Calabarzon," Batangas City is home to the Batangas International Port, one of the busiest passenger and container terminals in the Philippines, as well as host to one of the largest oil refineries in the country,

three natural gas power plants, and several other major industries. In addition, the city also serves as the commercial, educational, industrial and transportation center of the province.

Among the higher education institutions in the city is the Batangas State University, Lyceum of the Philippines University Batangas, University of BatangasSt. Bridget College, Westmead International School, STI College of Batangas, Golden Gate College and Colegio ng Lungsod ng Batangas.

The Department of Education also maintains a division in Batangas City.For of the academic year of 2013-2014, there are 82

public elementary schools and 18 public high schools. For the academic year of 2016-2017, 50 private schools offering various levels of education from pre-school to college level have legal permit to operate in the city.

There are many industrial companies are here in Batangas city includingBatangasEstates, Review, Manna Tahiti Pearl Company Inc. 24/7Support Services,Power Steel Batangas Branch,Orange PC Exchange and etc. According to our survey many workers are finding their apartment/boarding house to make them easily arrive to their work.

According to our survey out of 50 respondents 70% of the students find difficulty finding an apartment / boarding house, because some of them think it was a waste of time and many of them was only recommend by their friends even though they haven't seen the place or house they will live in.

This Apart2Go app is about helping a user to find boarding house near the school or work and within the his/her budget. This app will show the user all the information of the boarding houses, and how much it will cost the place of it and the contact of the owner.

This app shows only the front view of the boarding houses because some owners said that it is prohibited due to the privacy of the boarders and when it comes to the process of updating their post in terms of rooms available of the apartment/boarding houses, every owner has a contact information of usand they will contact us for the conditions of their apartment. During the authors are conducting the survey, the authors discussed about the terms of payment and they told us that the online payment is not an option for them because they prefer paying personal. The boarding houses are only available in Batangas City.

1.1 Objectives of the study

The study is intended to attain the following objectives:

- 1. To develop a mobile application for finding apartment/boarding house within Batangas City.
- 2. To allow the owners to advertise their apartment / boarding house.
- 3. To provide a means for access to the users to search for a convenient boardinghouse/apartment within Batangas City.

2.0 Literature Review

Mobile Application Development in the Tourism Industry and its Impact on On-Site Travel Behavior

According to Moritz Christian Mobiledevices are more present in our everyday lives than ever before and as suchhave also become an important factor inmodern travel behavior.This paper arguesthat inparticular the on-site travel experience is influenced by smartphones at large. The aimof this study is to identify how users can benefit from an enhanced on thego travel experience and how companies can explore yet widely untappedopportunities by examining current travel patterns international travelers andchallenging industry experts with the findings. As such, results the reveal thattravelers areincreasingly shifting travel-related activities that were usually conducted before or after the trip towards the experience stage, happening duringthe trip. The behavioral change oftravelers being empowered information on the spotdue to toacquire increased connectivity implies huge potential for a greater travel experience and new business models alike.

About AirBnb

According to Tracey Hordern, Soft furnishings that were previously colorful were replaced by shades of safe beige. Personal trinkets were banished, as were many of the more expensive - and attractive decor pieces. Homes and guestrooms were becoming imitations of homogeneous hotel rooms. It was presumed that paying guests were as tasteless as the spaces offered up for rent. Interestingly and more recently, a new trend has emerged on sites such as AirBnb. Homes and rooms that have a point of difference and a sense of character and style have excelled in popularity and the rate they can attract. A friend's gypsy caravan has a waitlist of weeks, while another friend has incorporated her collection of art into a popular bohemian haven for guests. As the accommodation share market became flooded by drab interiors, it appeared good taste and individuality emerged victorious and was rewarded, as it should be, regardless of whether you are sharing your home or not.

According to JAMES DOBBINS, for people who need extra income, AirBnb offers a self-regulating (via guest and host reviews), free-market solution for collecting short-term market-rate rents. The so-called sharing economy of AirBnb has nothing to do with

actual sharing, as in a traditional house swap in which money is not exchanged. Travelers pay hosts for accommodation, and AirBnb matches supply with demand, collecting fees from both guests and hosts that range from 3 to 12 percent on every booking. Though AirBnb includes insurance for hosts with every stay, the policy has numerous exclusions, and AirBnb requires a host to file a claim within 14 days of a guest's departure, or before a subsequent guest arrives, whichever is sooner. Then there are the risks of running afoul of state or city regulations, which generally prohibit short-term rentals of fewer than 30 days if a host is not living in the apartment or house.AirBnb and Short Stay Sites Positively Affecting Yields on Philippines Property Rentals. Nick Stuart February 28, 2017CEO at Exclusive Hot Properties. Companies like Home Away and AirBnb are starting to have a positive impact on rental yields however just like AIMCO in the USA some Developers and Building Administrations are now trying to block such rentals which begs the question who has the right to rent the property the Developer or the property owner that has actually paid good money for the unit. This is impacting the property market in many Philippines different levels but mainly with investors going back to buying Studios and 1 Bedroom units because these are the type of units that offer the best yields in relation to price being able to be charged against the square meter size. This goes against the trend in recent years in Makati City where that has been much more demand for two and three bedroom Condos.

Matt According Nomadic to Apartment rental sites allow people to rent out an individual room, couch, or entire apartment. The host lists their place online, posts photos, writes a description, and, presto, they make extra money with the unused space. Apartment rentals represent the space between hostels and hotels. If you are traveling on business and want the comforts of home, you probably aren't going to stay in a hostel. But hotels may be too expensive or too impersonal for you. A rented apartment is the perfect compromise. Apartment rental companies do provide a window that allows you to get your money back if you get a place that's not as advertised. Just call their 24-hour hotline and they will set you up somewhere else. They also hold your money in escrow so that if the place isn't as advertised, you'll get your money back. You never hand it over directly to the host.

According to Tobi Knaup, AirBnb is a rapidly growing marketplace and our infrastructure needs are evolving. Like many other websites, we were using MySQL as our main data store, but we recently migrated it to RDS. RDS (Relational Database Service) is a web service by Amazon that lets you run a scalable MySQL setup in the cloud while hiding the administrative overhead that usually comes with it. This blog post is about the challenges we faced with MySQL, how RDS solves them, and how we migrated to RDS from our old setup.

According Daniel to Guttentag, Air Bnb guests tend to be quite satisfied with their stays. AirBnb guests are also quite likely to recommend AirBnb to others and to feel they will use the service again, both of which are very good indicators of loyalty. These high levels of satisfaction and loyalty are of course very positive indicators for AirBnb and its future growth potential, and are noteworthy given that AirBnb has limited control over the quality of guests' experiences. These findings also help explain the prevalence of word-of-mouth and electronic word of mouth communication in driving AirBnb awareness and adoption. While many AirBnb users expect to continue using hotels as well, expected future hotel use

is far below expected future AirBnb use, which helps underscore the threat AirBnb poses to traditional accommodations as more and more people try the service.

According to Daniel Guttentag The strong agreement with the 'convenient location' motivation is perhaps unexpected, given that AirBnb listings are often scattered in residential neighborhoods rather than clustered like hotels in a downtown tourism core. It appears that many AirBnb guests may select the service in part because of the availability of units in geographical locations not well served by traditional hotels, such as a residential area near a friend or in the part of a city with particularly attractive characteristics (e.g., preferable shops and restaurants).

According to The Wall Street Journal, The home-sharing service AirBnb may increase home prices and rental rates, The Wall Street Journal reports from an as-yet unpublished working paper.Between 2012 and 2016, researchers analyzed rents and home prices in the 100 largest metro areas. They found that a 10 percent increase in AirBnb listings leads to a 0.39 percent increase in rents and a 0.64 percent increase in home prices."That may sound minuscule,

but between 2012 and 2016, rents rose by about 2.2 percent annually [on average in the 100 areas], so a 0.39 percent increase in that context isn't very small at all," study author Edward Kung, an assistant professor of economics at the University of California Los Angeles, told The Wall Street Journal. Further, home prices rose by an average of about 4.8 percent annually in the 100 metro areas studied, he says. Researchers believe AirBnb is having an influence on home prices and rental rates because it is "taking supply out of the long-term rental market, which caters to residents looking to rent permanent homes, and reallocates it to the short-term rental market, which caters to tourists or other temporary visitors," Kung says. "This reduces the supply of long-term rental units and increases the price for residents looking for long-term housing. Home prices rise with rents. And above and beyond that simple relationship, AirBnb enables homeowners to generate income from their property, making their homes even more valuable."Researchers also found that in cities where AirBnb is seeing an uptick, there is a decrease in vacant homes for sale or rent. "So again, we saw a reallocation of housing stock," Kung told The Wall Street Journal. Another way Airbnb encourages trust is by getting people to have more meaningful interactions with each other. The challenge was to get guests and hosts to exchange just the right amount of information during their initial contact. Share too little, and people will not gain a sense of trust; share too much, and a red light might go off. To solve this dilemma, the AirBnb team put design thinking to use. Gebbia explained that when sending a request to a potential host, the system actually guides users to share more by using prompts, which ask you to tell the host a bit about yourself. They also used the size of the box to suggest a certain length.

Online Reservation

According to AMY ZIPKIN, Guests may be more accustomed to non-refundable fees than they used to be because AirBnb charges them. It currently charges a guest service fee of 6 to 12 percent of the total booking. The website says the fee covers the cost of running the company. AirBnb may be trying to change that perception, at least among business travelers. In mid-November it initiated a separate hosting category designated the Business Travel Ready Badge.

According to Doug Kennedy
.Understanding What Caller's Do before
Calling. Walk them through the process of
researching hotel options prior to calling.

Conduct FAM Tours of Your Hotel and Neighbourhood. From what I see as a hotel industry reservations trainer, all too often those that are selling the rooms and hotel outlets are not familiar with the details that today's caller's desire. Train Agents To Use An Investigative Sales Process To Uncover "The Story" Behind The Call. Too many reservations trainers only focus on obsessing over using "open" vs. "closed" questions. Train Agents to "Narrate the Pictures." Earlier in my career in the era when guests had only a hotel brochure or a directory listing with thumbnail pictures and a few bullets, we trained agents to "paint the picture. Prepare Agents For Rate Objections. Due to the advances in revenue and distribution management, today's agents end up having to explain and defend the most complex set of rate policies in the history of lodging. Empower Agents To Verify And Match Rates Seen Online. It always amazes me how often I hear my workshop participants to express that they are not able to match rates that callers see online at OTA's Incentivize Your Reservations Team.Too many managers still take a stand against paying reservations agents any incentives.

According to Rachel Oakley One advantage of booking a hotel, flight or car rental online is the convenience. Being able

to make all your travel plans on the Internet means you can do it any time of the day or night at home, or while you're on your lunch break at the office. Customers on the go can even make reservations on their smartphones or tablets. There's no need for lengthy phone calls or visits to a travel agency -- with just a few minutes and a click of the mouse, you'll have all your plans finalized. You can shop when making a reservation over the phone or at a travel agency doesn't allow you to check out what past customers have thought of hotel chains or certain airlines. Another benefit of making online reservations is being able to these customer reviews. Skytrax (airlinequality.com) features over 4 million reviews of airlines on everything from seat comfort to airport lounges. Trip Advisor (tripadvisor.com) is another place to read customer reviews, with hotels, flights, attractions and even restaurants among the places reviewed op around when making online reservations and choose the best price. Many hotel and airline websites boast of having the lowest prices and even offer Internet-only offers for travelers, which are deeply discounted. You might be caught paying an extra fee to speak with customer service representatives if you make travel arrangements over the phone, so another

advantage of booking online is saving money on all those extra hidden fees.

According Jazira Anuar, Mushaireen Musa, Khazainah Khalid Internet acts as one of the reservation avenue for customers to reserve a room. Potential customers can access all sorts of hotel-related information searches through internet. Recently, hoteliers have started turning to Mobile Hotel Reservation in order to stay competitive and increase hotel's revenues with the rapid growth of wireless Internet, global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and global positioning system (GPS) as well as great demand of mobile phones/devices (Wang et al, 2010). Mobile Hotel Reservation system can be defined as a location based online distribution information system that enables customers worldwide to reserve hotel rooms anytime, anywhere through the use of wireless Internet, global navigation satellite system (GNSS), geographic information system (GIS), global positioning system (GPS) and mobile phones/devices such as iPhone, Blackberry and etc. (Wang et al,2010). A report from Travel Distribution Report, 2007 stated that the differences between Mobile Hotel Reservation and Online Hotel Reservation are the specific applications in relation to mobility and accessibility as well as competence of anticipating customers' demands. With this new technology, customers of 27 hotels that adopted MHR can install the hotel reservation application through their mobile phones/devices.

According to Glenda A. Delizo, Mischelle A. Esguerra Online Hotel Reservation Software (OHRS) is an easy to use arrangement that enables agents and guests to reserve rooms directly via the internet once they have confirmed availability of rooms in accordance with the itinerary. OHRS is efficient and brilliant software, yet it is easy and uncomplicated to use. OHRS grants complete authority and power on hotel or motel room booking over the internet. This entails that one can accumulate all guest payments; enter own room descriptions, facilities, rates and allocations into the Reservation System. allows confirm OHRS also to accommodation in real-time at hotel's web site and close the sale without more ado.

According to Yu-San Ting, Yu-Lun Hsu, Online hotel reservations are becoming a very popular method for booking hotel rooms. Travelers can book rooms from home by using online security to protect their privacy and financial information and by using several online travel agents to compare prices and facilities at different hotels. People

can book directly on an individual hotel's website. An increasing number of hotels are building their own websites to allow them to market their hotels directly to consumers. Non-franchise chain hotels require a "booking engine" application to be attached to their website to permit people to book rooms in real time. One advantage of booking with the hotel directly is the use of the hotel's full cancellation policy as well as not needing a deposit in most situations.

According to Katie Benner, Airbnb is an American home rental platform based in San Francisco that lets people list, find, and rent short-term lodging in 65,000 cities and more than 191 countries across the globe. Founded in 2008 by Brian Chesky, Joe Gebbia, and Nathan Blecharczyk, it has done more than any other company to change the way people find places to stay away from home. In recent years, Airbnb has evolved its peer-to-peer model to give hosts the tech tools they need to run a seamless, sophisticated operation. More than 40% of Airbnb listings are now available via Instant Book, allowing guests to make reservations much as they would a hotel booking, and a new check-in tool automatically feeds arrival instructions to them via the app. The company has also expanded into Business Travel Ready listings, which offer travelers a

designated work space, guaranteed Wi-Fi, and more. Now valued at \$31 billion, the company is also helping travelers explore the world outside their rentals. In 2016, Airbnb launched Trips, a service that lures travelers out of their rentals for local tours and adventures in 20 countries and 30 cities around the globe. And in an effort to address humanitarian issues, Airbnb launched an Open Homes program in 2017 that allows hosts to offer housing to refugees, displaced travelers, and those seeking shelter after disasters. Many people nowadays face a difficult decision when they buy their own home. The question is whether they should buy a house or an apartment. There would seem to be clear benefits and drawbacks to both options. Perhaps the major advantage of living in a house is the issue of privacy. Typically, there is more opportunity for peace and quiet, if you live in a house. This is particularly the case if it is a detached house. Other significant advantages are that houses are generally more spacious and on the whole have gardens. This is especially important if there is a family so that the children can have a safe environment to play in. If, however, you live in a tower block, then the children may have to play outside on the pavement. There are, of course, negative aspects to living in houses. The greatest of

these is that they tend to be more expensive to purchase and to maintain. Indeed, a large majority of people choose to live in apartments because they cannot afford the mortgage to buy a house. Another possible problem is that there are fewer houses in cities than the countryside. So if you like urban life, it may be preferable to live in an apartment. A second reason to avoid living in a house is that there is a greater sense of community to life in an apartment.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODS

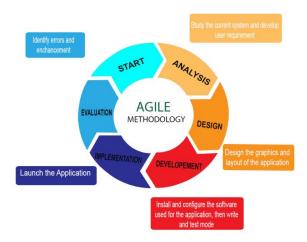
The study used the Agile Method as the software development methodology. Agile Method have iterations, which are momentary in period of time. Literally, this method development enables to create application rapidly, easily and flexibly. This

seeks to develop the system incrementally by constructing series of prototype where each increment provides more usage to the users.

Figure 1. Agile Methodology

Agile Methodology Model

The Method starts with analysis, where the researchers study the current system used and develop the user



requirement. In this phase includes an elaborated study of the concern necessities of the end-users. Next is design, which focused on the graphics and the layout of the application. This stage is the overall structure of the application. Then development, which transform the design into information system. This step consist of information on how the application will run are produced.

Next is the implementation of the system into a production environment. And the evaluation which ensure if the application works properly according to necessities of the end-users and resolution of problems.

Requirement Analysis

In requirement analysis, data were gathered to study the current system and develop the user requirements. The research used first hand data which comes from the chosen respondents who have been surveyed

prior to the research. The researchers also gather information by interviewing the landlords about the basic information which includes the location, facilities, regulations, etc.

3.1 Research Methods

Current Technical Situation

University Students manage apartment guide by finding available Apartments or Boarding House through newspaper and signage. After finding the advertisement, they inquire about the apartment through phone call. Then they personally visit different apartment locations to see how it looks. After that they decide the best suited apartment for them, then visit again their chosen apartment and negotiate with the owner to reserve the apartment.

Planning

The research begins with initial planning. The researchers and their adviser will have discussion, brainstorming, and meeting about their capstone proposal. The researchers will talk about the different problem that occurs around the environment, relating to the residence of the students. Each of the researchers will contribute their ideas.

thoughts, opinions and suggestions to develop their capstone proposal. After gathering their ideas resulting to the capstone proposal, the proposal should be consulted by the adviser, Mr. Jose Dolot and also be approved by the College Dean, Mrs. Roselie Alday.

Designing

The design is focused on the overall structure of the application. In this phase, the researcher made use of friendly-user interface to easily used by the end - user. The researcher also used HDR images, For editing and creating designs the researcher used Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to design the application.

Development

In this stage, the researchers transform design into an application. The researcher will use software that will enable to build the mobile application. To develop the mobile application, the researcher will gather data that corresponds to the needs of the end-users, then study what will be the work flow of mobile app. After that, the researcher will apply the created design to develop the mobile app.

Testing

Lastly is the testing procedure that will identify if the application and its features

are working properly without errors and complications. Testing will also distinguish or differentiate whether the mobile application is working according to the specified functional requirements.

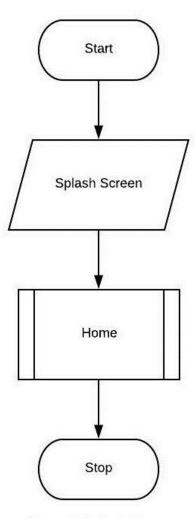


Figure 2. Splash Screen

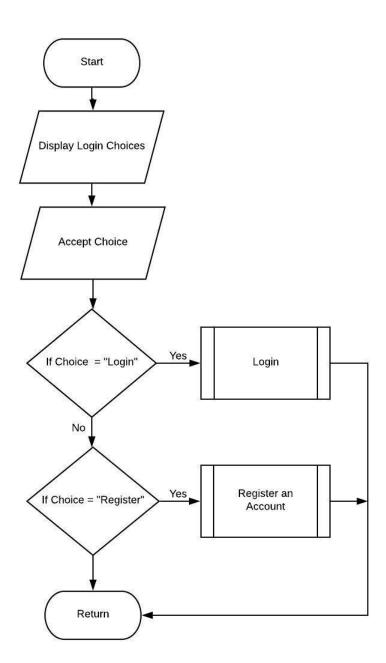


Figure 3.Home Page

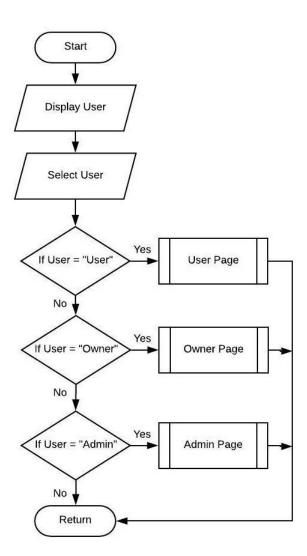


Figure 4.Login Page
(User, Owner, and Admin)

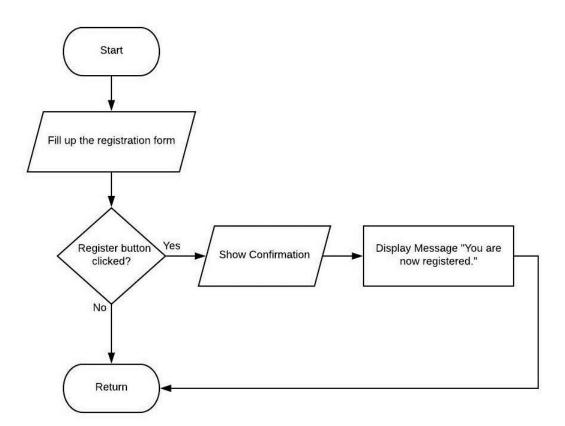


Figure 5.Registration

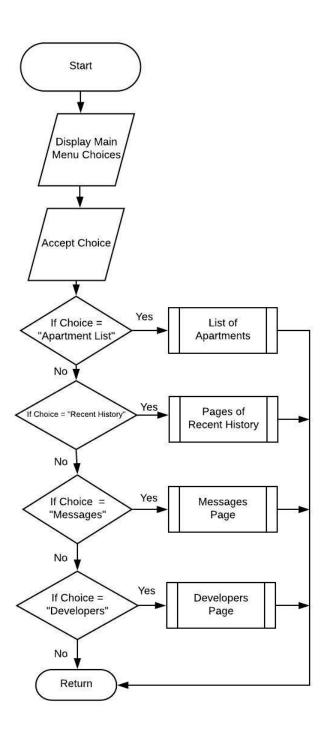


Figure 6. Main Menu (User)

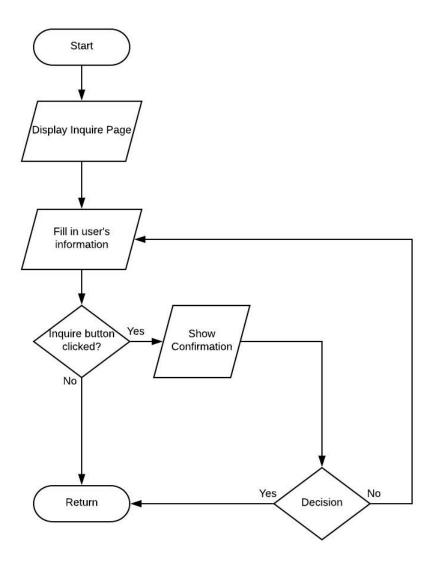


Figure 7. Inquire Page (User)

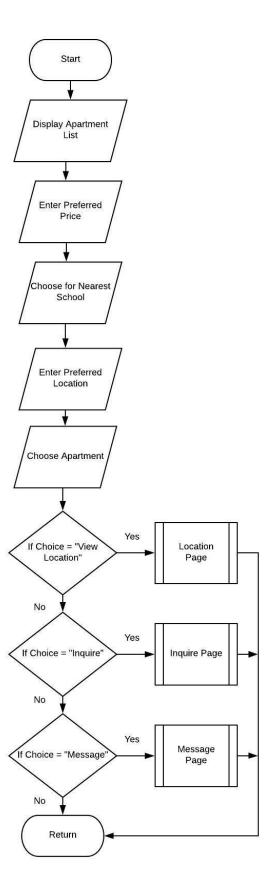


Figure 8. Apartment List (User)

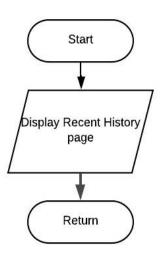


Figure 9.Recent History (User)

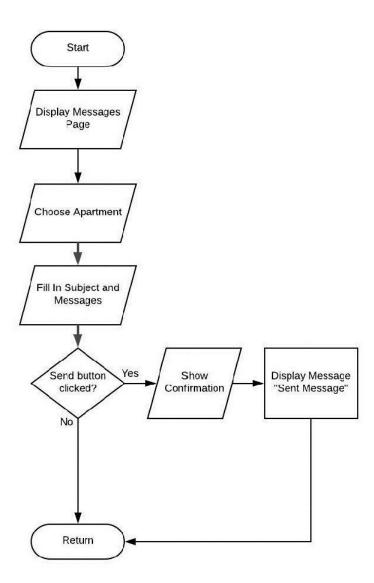


Figure 10. Message (User)

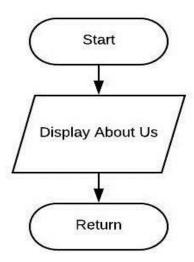


Figure 11. About Us (User)

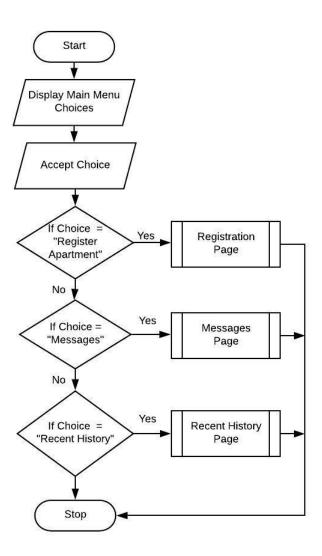


Figure 12. Main Menu (Owner)

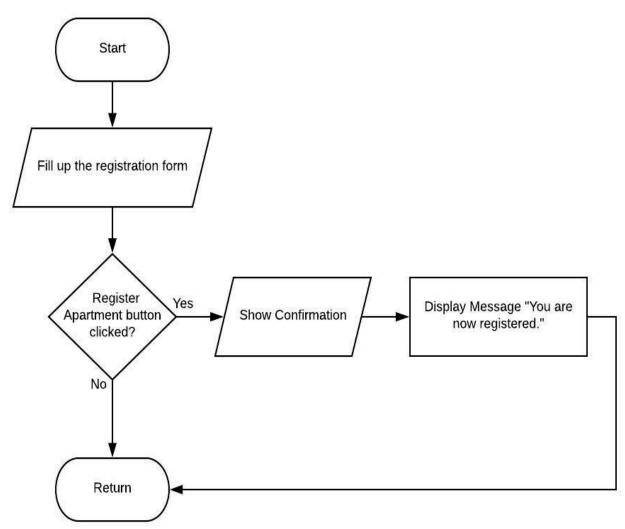


Figure 13. Registration (Owner)

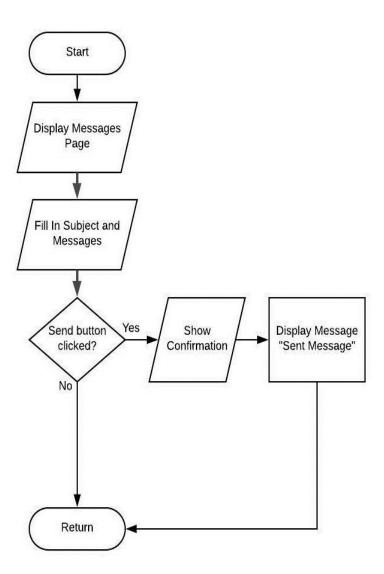


Figure 14. Message (Owner)

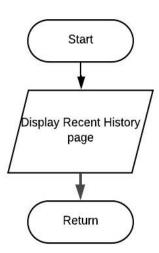


Figure 15.Recent History (Owner)

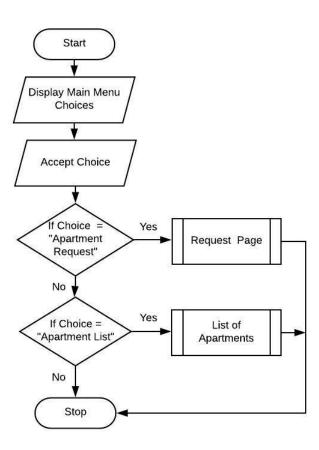


Figure 16. Main Menu (Admin)

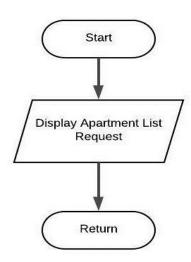


Figure 17. Apartment List
Request (Admin)

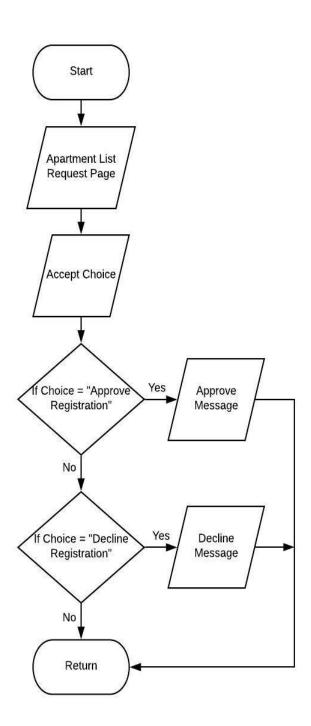


Figure 18. Approve / Decline Apartment
List Request (Admin)

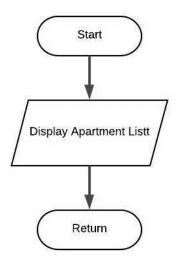


Figure 19.Apartment List (Admin)

4.0 DISCUSSION

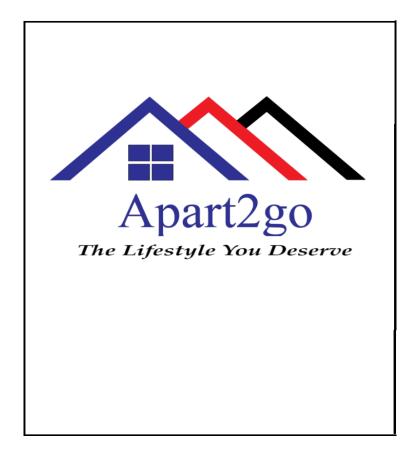


Figure 20. Splash Screen

The user will see this splash screen while the application is launching.



Figure 21. Home Page

In this app, the user will see the buttons Login, Login With Facebook and Register. Once clicked, the interface will go into their particular pages.

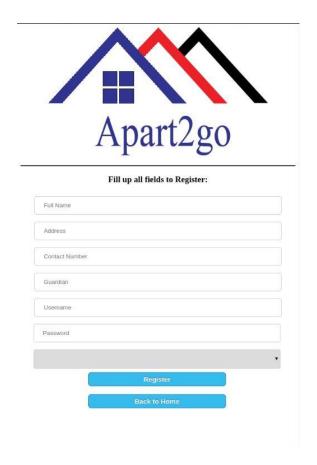


Figure 22.Registration

The User will input some of their information in order to register and use the application.



Figure 23. Main Menu (User)

If you logged in your account as a boarder, it will directly lead you to this interface where you can inquire an apartment, see the list of the apartments that are nearest to the school that you choose and many more.



Figure 24. Apartment List (User)

The Application helps the user by finding your target price and the nearest school.



Figure 25. Inquire Page (User)

In this interface after the user saw the list of the apartments, they can able to inquire for their chosen apartment.



Recent History

- Cali C Garcia, 10, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-03 at
- · Allen Ksks Badillo, 20, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-08 at
- Jojo D Dodlo, 18, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-04 at
- Cute Ako Forever , 20, Female sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-04 at
- Didi D Dorot, 18, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-06 at
- Ck Barbosa Garcia, 20, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-07 at
- Jhomar Marasigan Casauay, 23, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-10 at
- Ck Garcia Garcia, 20, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-09 at
- Joel A Dolot, 30, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-10 at
- Je R Dede, 18, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-13 at
- Jeuz , 16, Male sent an inquiry request last 2019-01-05 at 02:09 PM
- Jeuz , 17, Male sent an inquiry request last 2019-01-05 at 02:19 PM
- Your apartment request has been approved.

Figure 26.Recent History (User)

This is the interface where the user can be notified if the owner of the apartment sent you a message.



Figure 27. Message (User)

You can message the owner of the apartment.

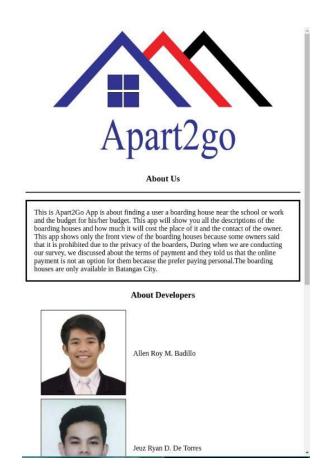


Figure 28. About Us (User)

Informationabout the application and it's developers.



Figure 29. Main Menu (Owner)

Main Interface when the owner of the apartment is logged in.



Figure 30. Registration (Owner)

The Owner can submit their apartments and the admin will approve or declined their post.

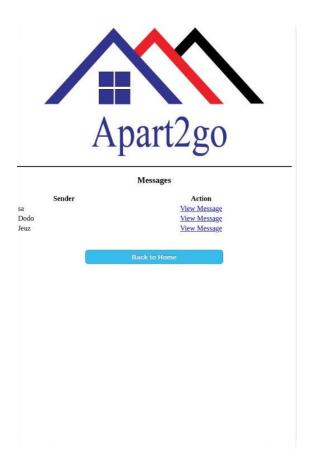


Figure 31. Message (Owner)

The Owner of the apartment can reply to the message of the boarders.



Recent History

- · Cali C Garcia, 10, Male sent an inquiry request last 2018-12-03 at
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- Jeuz , 17, Male sent an inquiry request last 2019-01-05 at 02:19 PM
- · Your apartment request has been approved.

Figure 32. Recent History (Owner)

The Owner of the apartment will be notified if there is a new inquirer or their post has been approved or declined by the admin.



Figure 33. Main Menu (Admin)

Main Interface when the Admin is logged in.



Figure 34. Approve/Decline Registration Apartment

The Admin will decide whether the post of the owner of the apartment will approve or decline it.



Figure 35. Apartment List (Admin)

The Admin can see all the apartments registered in the application.

5.0Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary

This study entitled "Apart2go" was design for students and workers looking for an apartment / boarding house around Batangas City. It would help them in to find easy and convenient apartment. It would also help the owners to advertise their apartments. To secure the system, it requires an account from each user and owner, thus, only authorized users can login to this system. Apart2go provides solution to the following problems:

How can this system help the Student and Workers to find the convenient Apartment/ Boarding House they want? How can this Mobile Application help the Owner in terms of advertising their Apartments? How can this system help an easy way of finding the right Apartment / Boarding House for students and workers? What security measure can this system offer?

Our objectives aim is to have a mobile application that would be helpful for the students and workers finding an Apartment/Boarding House in Batangas City. This would be a great opportunity for the owner to advertise and, also for the students / user who are looking for a right and convenient Apartment / Boarding house in Batangas City.

5.2 Conclusion

Regarding on the information that we congregated, the researchers develop Apart2go where it consists of the registered apartments within Batangas City area. This application will proficient for the users so that they can easily find an apartment that are available. Particularly that nowadays, many teenagers specifically the college students are searching for an available apartment to rent on. This application will also be proficient for the owners of the registered apartments, for they will be able to advertise their apartments here in Batangas City. Researchers made this application very simple and also user friendly so that the users can access it easily and help them to look for a convenient Apartment or Boarding houses.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the discovery and conclusion presented. The following recommendation is suggested:

Student who used the app recommend having an online payment. They also recommend that the owners of the apartments / Boarding House would show their room and facilities. User and owner recommended that the app should has a show password for the registration and login.