

Introduction

During the course of this project, our goal is to construct the concept of Float as an Android application. With this application, users will be able to view, contribute to and start charity campaigns. As a consequence of how these charity campaigns are structured, the app itself is to rely heavily on the location of each user. To help support this, each user is to have an individual account, allowing the preservation of information and past movements.

All design decisions for the system were made carefully following team discussion. Choices made were heavily influenced by difficulty of implementation, cost and suitability, as we aimed to find an agreeable balance. The purpose of this design document is to explain the architectural and design choices that were made using the 4+1 architectural model.

Architecture and Rationale

Android

Android is a mobile operating system developed by Google, and is designed primarily for touchscreen mobile devices. We decided to choose the Android platform over the also prominent iOS platform because the majority of us are familiar with Java, which would allow for easier completion of the project within the time constraint of two months.

Facebook Log-in

Facebook supplies a login API, which serves to provide a secure means to log a user into an application. We chose to use a login API as opposed to implementing our own login system in order to ensure that security standards are met while authenticating users. Using Facebook to aid in user login will also improve ease of use, as many people in today's society already own Facebook accounts and will not have to spend additional time to create a new account for the application.

MySQL

For the database, we were debating between two main options: NonSQL and MySQL. We decided to implement our database in MySQL for the following reasons.

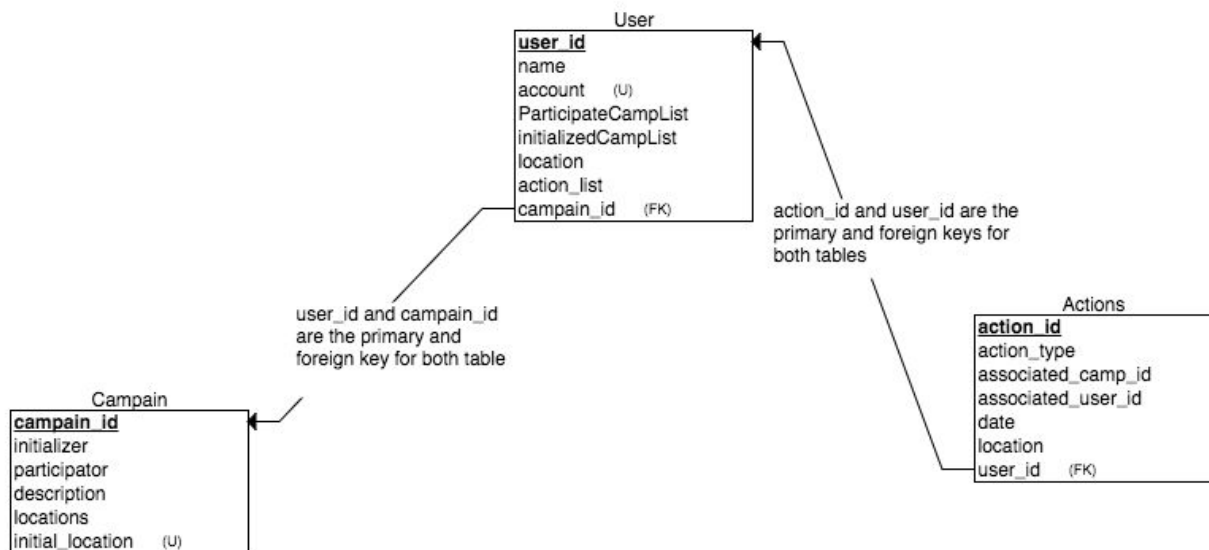
1. The main advantage of NonSQL compared to MySQL is that NonSQL provides a larger degree of flexibility to alter the structure of databases in the future. This can result in reckless decision-making on the database structure design. Given that our project has a relatively simple data structure (three entities), volatility of the data structure is low. That being said, choosing MySQL over NonSQL will force us to put in more thought and consideration into the initial design
2. It is relatively simpler to find existing tools for MySQL, and the queries in MySQL are optimized to provide good performance.
3. If there ever comes a time where we desire to switch from one database to another, it would be easier to shift from MySQL to NonSQL.

Data

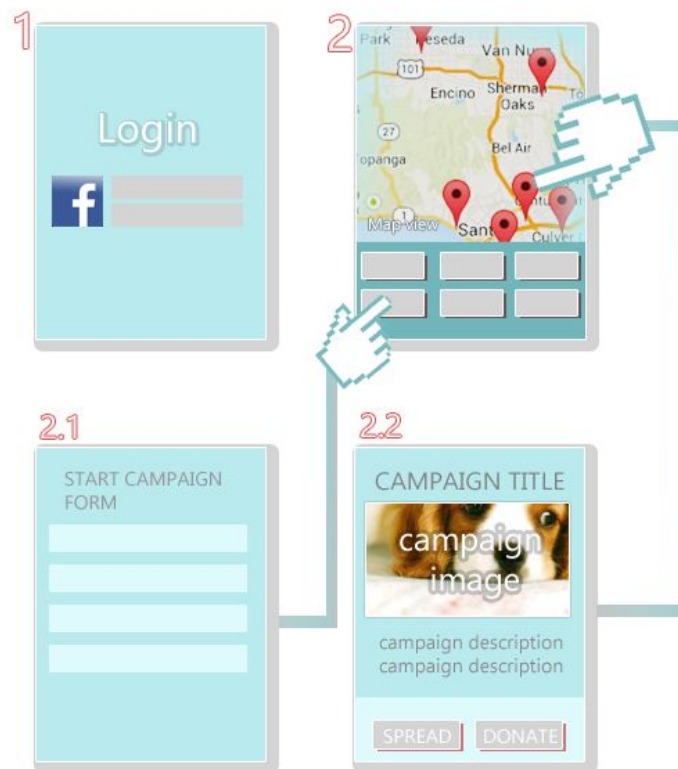
The data that will be stored in the database can be partitioned into three categories: users, campaigns, and actions. Since the users are the center of our application, the user database stores the most important information. The user database links to the campaign and the action databases, and IDs in different databases are the keys for communications between databases. The user database stores all the key information for a user including one's ID, name, account, lists of campaigns and actions and location.

The user's list of campaign links a user to the lists of campaign of either the user initialized or participated. In the campaign database, the important information is detailed here. For each campaign, the key people are initializers and participators. It also store the description and locations of the campaign since they are also the critical components.

In the action database, we decide it is necessary to record each action that a user makes, so we can keep track of the history. For each action, we need IDs for the user and the campaign that the user interacts with. For the recording purpose, date and location are important as well.



GUI



(1) Facebook login. (2) Main page which displays a map-view of all the current campaigns in the region (2.1) Pressing the “Start a Campaign” button will lead to a new page with a form to create a new campaign (2.2) Pressing a campaign pin on the map will bring users to the specific campaign page.

Server

Etc.

Validation

Detailed Design

Class Diagram

