



Team 23 - Project Backlog

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Problem Statement:

The team's project, *easyA*, will allow Purdue students to learn about what other students think about classes they consider taking. It will help a student decide between electives or even get insight into their future major courses. It will stand out from similar websites because of the inherited credibility in the website since only active Purdue students can sign up. It is going to be a website that would allow students to search for professor names or classes to read their reviews. Everyone can read the reviews, but only logged-in students can write reviews. Reviews could be upvoted, downvoted or reported depending on the quality of the review. *easyA*, is not a replacement for advisors, but honest reviews for classes from the students' perspective.

Background Information:

Audience

Choosing a course wisely is one of the skills college students should acquire. That is why it's recommended to research more information about a course before taking it. Information about courses are typically obtained from the academic advisor, course webpage, or friends. *easyA* aims to create a platform for Purdue students to share their experiences in their courses.

Similar Platforms

There exists two other similar platforms to *easyA*, namely Rate My Professors and the Purdue subreddit in Reddit. Rate My Professors is a college professor reviewing and rating website based on student feedback. The Purdue subreddit is a public internet forum that is accessed by any Reddit user. All content there is related to Purdue which includes course information posted by users.

Limitations

The limitation of Rate My Professors is that it is only a professor rating platform. easyA, on the other hand, is a course rating platform additional to professor rating. Also, easyA would contain filters and tags. These would allow the users to easily find course reviews by other Purdue students filtered by professors, semesters and tags. Another limitation of Rate My Professor is that it is an open platform and anyone can review professors. easyA is an application for only Purdue Students. This feature makes sure that there are no users that are not Purdue students. The Purdue subreddit contains some posts that are not related to Purdue courses, for example, pictures, videos, and informal discussions. This makes the website crowded and harder to search for course reviews and ratings.

Functional Requirements:

1. As a user, I would like to sign up for an easyA account.
2. As a user, I would like to log in to my account.
3. As a user, I would like to log out from my account.
4. As a user, I would like to know that I am signed in.
5. As a user, I would like to manage my easyA account.
6. As a user I would like to remove my post.
7. As a user, I would like to reset my password if I forget it.
8. As a user, I would like to have an easy navigitable user interface throughout the website.
9. As a user, I would like to know that my information will be secure.
10. As a user, I would like to easily access easyA on my phone or tablet.
11. As a user, I would like to report inappropriate reviews.
12. As a user, I would like to search for courses by name, tags, or rating.
13. As a user, I would like to search for professors by name, tags, or rating.
14. As a user, I would like to have suggestions while typing in the search bar.
15. As a user, I would like to upvote/downvote reviews.
16. As a user, I would like to reach the reviewer to ask him or her follow-up questions.
17. As a student, I would like to access reviews for a course or a professor without having to sign up.
18. As a student, I would like to see a course description in the course review page.
19. As a student, I would like to see a course rating in the course review page.
20. As a student, I would like to share course or professor reviews through social media.
21. As a student, I would like to know that all reviews are from Purdue students.
22. As a student, I would like to sort reviews chronologically.
23. As a student, I would like to sort reviews based on their upvotes/downvotes.
24. As a student, I would like to filter a specific course reviews by professor.
25. As a student, I would like to filter a specific course reviews by tags.

26. As a student, I would like to filter a specific professor reviews by course.
27. As a student with a disability, I would like to use the text-to-speech feature.
28. As a student, I would like to translate non-English reviews to English.
29. As a student, I would like to know which professor taught the course.
30. As a student, I would like to know what grade the reviewer got.
31. As a reviewer, I would like my identity to be protected from the readers.
32. As a reviewer, I would like to easily review a course or a professor.
33. As a reviewer, I would like to tag my reviews.
34. As a reviewer, I would like professor name suggestions while typing in the “Course Professor Name” field.
35. As an administrator, I would like to ban certain users from using the website services.
36. As an administrator, I would only Purdue students with @purdue.edu emails to be able to sign up.
37. As an administrator, I would like newly signed up users to verify their ownership of their Purdue emails.
38. As an administrator, I would like to delete course or professor reviews.
39. As an administrator, I would like to view and take action on reported reviews.
40. As an administrator, I would like to manage the website by extending control over course descriptions, professor and course listings.

Non-functional Requirements:

Architecture and Performance

We aim for a high performance web application by incorporating Firebase to manage both the database information and authentication. Using the same framework ensures a single streamlined interface that provides quick and efficient queries to the database. We aim to keep the response time to be less than 2 seconds for any service in the web application by hosting the website in a high speed hosting service. In addition, we will incorporate good coding standards appropriate for each framework used for building the web application this will ensure a solid foundation for the performance and ease of maintenance.

Usability

To provide ease of usability to the user, we aim to design a user-friendly user interface with various additional features like reporting, sharing and liking of reviews. The interface will follow a minimalistic theme where each page shows as few details as needed. The simplicity of the theme will give the user the ability to navigate the website directly to the requested page without any unreasonable hassle or confusion.

Security

Our goal for the web application is to maintain a confidential review system for courses and professors. Such feature cannot be fulfilled without protecting the user information. We plan to build a strong foundation for the user base and the website using Firebase database and authentication. We will maintain an encrypted system where none of users or administrators have any access that will breach the user's privacy.

Scalability

The web application will be able to accommodate a campuswide user base. The services provided like user authentication or course reviews will also be able expanded as the website hits increase. The services will be as modular as possible where if a feature is to be added it will not disrupt the flow of activities within the website.

Deployment

We anticipate to host the web application publicly. A domain and a hosting service will be determined as the development of the website will be in a local server. The hosting service will support every functional and non-functional feature that will be implemented. We will assume that the local version of the web application will be the delivered version to the public server. Thus, we will maintain relative paths and make it standalone from the local server.