Teddy’s Brochure Description Summary

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Teddy’s Park Brochure aims to provide a consistent, versatile, and reliable brochure for all national parks and/or forests in the United States. Simply enter the national park or forest you wish to visit, and the app will download a package to your phone containing a park specific map, a first person walk-through map, news, rules, information, guides, survival tips, weather forecast, and list of volunteer events.

Teddy’s brochure will be different in the sense that it tries to reduce the reliance of internet based applications. This is important to the application because national parks do not have reliable internet, so downloading the information that cannot be accessed through the internet increases customer satisfaction. This can increase the amount of interest for visiting the parks and forests. Downloading information would also prevent paper waste as many brochures are thrown away and not recycled. The maps will always be the revised edition, as the application makes it easier to update the map for all users.

The application will be a mobile web application. This allows the users to download the application or access the website through the internet. While connected to the internet, the user will have accessibility to all the features for the chosen location. The user will be able to leave reviews for volunteer groups and the park/forest. They will also be able to post pictures for the park’s gallery and receive perpetually updating weather forecasts to plan visits.

If the application was only a website then the user would not be able to access any information without the internet. When visitors are attending the parks and forests they will have little to no cellular connection. The downloadable app lets the user have access to information offline. This information includes maps, walk through map, and survival guides. This can be very beneficial if a visitor happens to get lost and does not have cellular connection. Including a walk-through map helps the user better navigate their way through the environment. In case of an emergency and help is not around, the survival guide would provide tips and procedures for certain situations.

Each park will have their own group of editors to update their information. This information will be updated consistently and regularly to ensure that it is up to date. It will show things like how to prepare for a hike or camp at the respective parks. Both camping and hiking information will include safety tips and what to bring. This will be important for newcomers who may not know how to hike or camp like a professional. Each park will also have volunteering events. The editors will have the ability to add or remove events as requested. They will also create and update existing guides, news, and general park information.

The application will compete with different national park applications. Some national parks have several organizations that manage their resources. Teddy’s brochure will reduce the number of multiple resource management organizations. The app will have user groups such as the system administrators, general public, volunteers and the people employed by the park. Stakeholders would include The National Park Service U.S. Departmental of the Interior, testers, system designers, usability experts, and park employees. The National Park Service would be interested to invest into this application as they focus on caring for the national parks with the help of volunteers and partners. Teddy’s Brochure fully supports the National Park Service’ mission. The application’s goal is to enhance the visitor’s experience by providing them with the essential information to feel more prepared. (layer of readiness). The testers would ensure functionality and efficiency of the application. The testers should test the reliability of new versions of the map.

System designers would ensure that functionality meets the system specification requirements. Usability experts will attempt to download the package and report difficulties with the application. The general public should be able to use the application with little to no experience on both the subject and the technological aspects. The employees would need to be experienced in the subject material of the app, as well as the app’s interface, in case any guests have any questions about the app while they are visiting. For those maintaining the brochure, they would need to be familiar with the park, as well as have a background in databases and data structures.

The app must be compatible with obtaining, parsing, and displaying correct information from the google weather and map apis. When the user is planning a trip, the calendar of available dates can display a 7-day weather forecast. This integration of date and weather makes it easier for the user to plan their trip. Regular 2D maps will also be provided to increase the accessibility of the application. The integration of both google maps and google earth will give customers information of where they are in case they are lost.

It would be beneficial for the brochure to be done 10 weeks after the start date. We would allow 3 more weeks for testing to fix bugs and add functional enhancements. It would be beneficial to have the application ready by Spring, going into Summer, when visitors begin to plan their trips to parks or forests due to the nice weather. The application can be limited in budget by what the National Park Systems has allocated in their annual budget. Of course there may be additional partners and supporters.

Data structures that the app will use include hashamps that will store the developers and editors information. These two users will have a name property that is a string. Editors will have an image property that accepts jpgs. The walk through maps would be of type roadmap. The listing of volunteering opportunities would be stored in an arraylist. Rules and how to prepare would be stored in a pdf. There will be a system that allows developers to efficiently add parks with a pre-formatted design template.

Assumptions include that the weather information is available from google’s api. Other assumptions include having volunteering organizations already established for the app to use. Any api’s that we use, either for volunteering or weather, must be working and updated frequently in order to display accurate information. The user must have a device such as a phone or tablet that they can look at and that can download information when the person has service.