



What is local landmarks

Introduction

Local landmarks are nearby various places that people visit for different reasons. Landmarks can be presented in many form, back in time people used manual maps to reach their destination and locating their current position. In modern days due to advanced technology people now use mapping tools installed on their mobile devices to navigate to any destination they desire. A mapping tool is a tool that showcases local landmarks using waypoints, and the application automatically generates information on the route distance, elevation, and at times duration. A mapping tool can be a free or a registered version, the registered version provides access to features that are not available to other users. A Mapping tool provides a user with a calculation of the best route that a user can take to travel to their desired destination. (Ordnance Survey Copyright 2021, 2021)

(1) Maps Direction & GPS Navigation

- Application screenshots



App overview

Maps Direction & GPS Navigation is a mobile app that help people with fast map directions and provides best feature that an actual “manual” map direction doesn’t have. The main aim of this app is to help users to go to all unknown places without fear , helps users to plan for their trip long before they depart so that they can know the shortest way to their destination and how long will it take them to reach the place they’re travelling to. (Google , 2020)

App strength

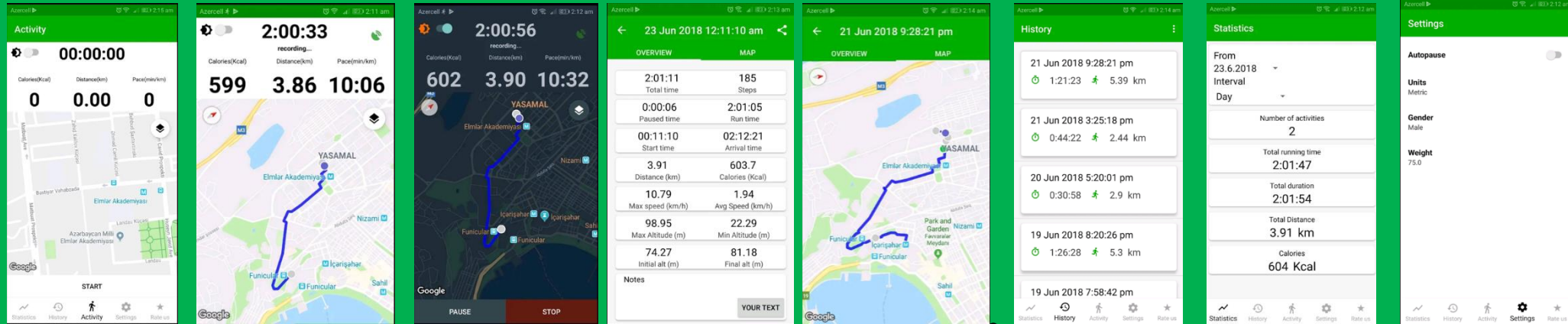
The app is user-friendly, easy to use and understand. The app visually display your current location, a route to your final destination, have a voice navigation that will help the user to focus on the road while driving and the app helps users to find the shortest way to their destination that is free from road traffic as it also display the estimated duration to complete travel journey when using different types of transport e.g.(train, car, bus, flight or walking. (Google , 2020)

App weakness

The application has lot of ads that pop-up every time and disturb the user from tracking their destination of which annoys users a lot. The app got few bugs as it happens to give incorrect information like directions error “not found” and inaccurate time estimated to reach destination. Some of the user’s found it very hard and confusing to use this app because it doesn’t have any tutorial vid to guide users how to use this app. (Google , 2020)

(2)Running Fitness & Calorie Sport tracker

- Application screenshots



App strength

Overview

Running Fitness & Calorie Sport tracker app was developed and designed for people who enjoys running to maintaining a fit and healthy lifestyle, this app can be used by people who wants to loose weight and any other athletes'. The app help the individuals to increase speed and stamina.....it also help one to reach their running goal. (Google, 2021)

The app helps users to track their current location when running and notifies them they've reach their set goal location.....

Speed, time and distance is calculated from the beginning of the run to finish.

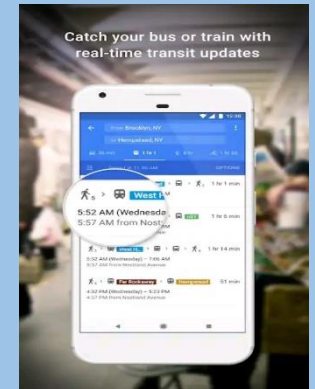
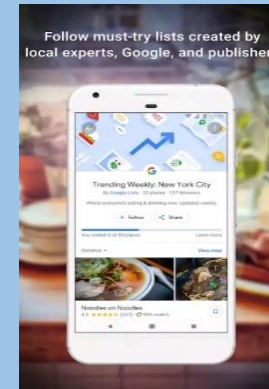
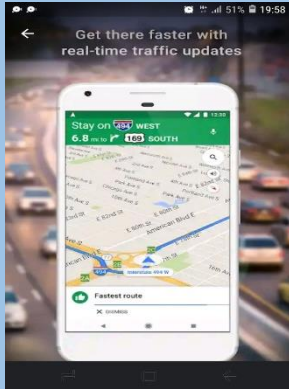
All the data/record accumulated during the run get saved. The app can be used anytime as it has a light and dark mode Google maps theme to help user see their direction during the day or night, these themes also helps when it comes to save battery. (Google, 2021)

App weakness

The app got few errors as it sometime stop recording the run distance that is covered by a user or gives inaccurate distance/km covered. Sometimes the app crushes and the record that is saved gets lost..... Without internet data the app doesn't work because it loses GPS signal. (Google, 2021)

(3)Google Maps

- Application Screenshots



App overview

Google Maps online mapping tool is a mapping tool that provides detailed information about geographical regions and sites around the world, the google maps mapping tool offers aerial and satellite views of many places, the mapping tool uses Real-time GPS navigation to show suggestions events, activities, and food. (Google Corporation, 2021)

App strength

The Google Maps mapping tool allows you to create and share custom maps. The Google Maps mapping tool is easy to use, it allows you to add points, draw shapes anywhere, find places, and save them to your map. The Google Maps mapping tool allows you to find all your maps in the 'Your Places' menu section on google maps. (Storm, 2021)

App weakness

The Google Maps mapping tool has a few noticeable flaws, the mapping tool occasionally flaws location data such as roads damaged by weather, blocked by street fairs, or altered by recent construction work. Some remote locations may not be in google maps. (Papiewski, 2021)


Application feature comparison



Applications

- (1) Maps Direction & GPS Navigation
- (2) Running Fitness & Calorie Sport tracker
- (3) Google Maps

Similarities features

1. All Applications have the ability to track and display the current location of the user. 
2. All Applications are able to calculate the distance from current location to the final destination.
3. All Applications allow users to save data and maps to user devices for offline use and all the applications need internet connection to display data, maps and information concerning mapping tools. (Storm, 2021)



Difference features

1. Maps Direction & GPS Navigation app has a voice navigation that helps users to focus on the road while Running Fitness & Calorie Sport tracker App shows only route directions.
2. Maps Direction & GPS Navigation app allows users to record their journey via video, helps users to pick up the shortest way, gives live traffic alert and able to estimate duration to destination when using different transport.
3. Running Fitness & Calorie Sport tracker App have the ability to calculate users running speed and calculate each step they took till finish line.
4. The google maps mapping tool offers aerial and satellite views of many places.
5. The google maps mapping tool allows your friends to see and edit your maps or publish them to the whole world. (Papiewski, 2021)



How I think these apps were created

Since these applications are developed for Android mobile phones, I think they used Android studio to design the app GUI's, there are two programming languages that i know that are commonly used to code/develop Android apps of which is Java and Kotlin. For these apps to get accurate map directions and traffic alerts developers have connected their apps with Google maps API to get all necessary information about directions. After the app has been developed, tested and ready to use it is then published to Google play store where users can access those app, download them and use them. Different Components of android studio like the application icon, text labels and containers to hold and display different components of the application were used as part of the creation of these mapping tools. The applications were made using different text fonts and colors to look appealing to the user .



Conclusion

Mobile phone map apps have become more useful, accurate and reliable to use when planning for a trip , travelling to unknown places and help finding location of friends and family. There are many kinds of mapping tools available for the android operating system, some of these tools require users to register before they can have access to some of the best features the applications provide and many mapping tools only function when the user has internet connectivity. Some mapping tools allow the user to download maps into their devices to view the maps offline. No mapping tool is perfect, every mapping tool has its own vulnerabilities and shortcomings.

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