

# JobApp Tracker

Christina Aiello  
cjaiello@wpi.edu

## ABSTRACT

The process of applying for jobs can be time-consuming and stressful: You're filling out applications, attending interviews, and keeping track of what step you are in the application process with each company you apply to. Eventually names, dates, emails, and interviews all blend together. In this paper an application called "JobApp Tracker" is presented. JobApp Tracker is an application that helps individuals track the applying-to-jobs process for various jobs, keeping all potentially-useful information within the application for later retrieval.

## Categories and Subject Descriptors

D.2.1 [Software Engineering]: Requirements/Specifications

## General Terms

Documentation, Design.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

When applying for jobs, some people apply to ten, twenty, or even fifty places, and at a certain point it can become incredibly difficult to keep track of which companies (and job positions) an individual has applied for. According to Forbes, an American business magazine owned by Forbes, Inc., on average there are 118 applications for a given job, and "[t]wenty-percent of those applicants get an interview" [1]. This means that individuals who are job searching may be applying for jobs at a rapid rate, and this process can be very daunting. There is also a bit of information overload in applying for jobs – which companies have you actually heard back from, which have you interviewed with, and who have you gotten offers from? When do you need to respond to those offers by? Within this paper, an application that helps users track job applications is presented. The goal of this application is to allow users to easily track their progress when applying for jobs at companies.

## 2. RELATED WORK

LinkedIn Job Search™ [2] is an application that helps users locate and apply for jobs. This application offers a search feature to locate job postings, recommends jobs based on current experience and your past job searches, lets you apply for jobs using your LinkedIn profile, and keeps track of your application status. While this application does keep a record of jobs one has applied to, which is similar to JobApp tracker, it doesn't have quite the functionality that JobApp Tracker has – it doesn't let you record information related to the various steps of the application process: when/who you talked to or interviewed with, tracking offer responses and deadlines, etc. This is important information that is lost when using LinkedIn Job Search, which is why this functionality is included in JobApp Tracker.

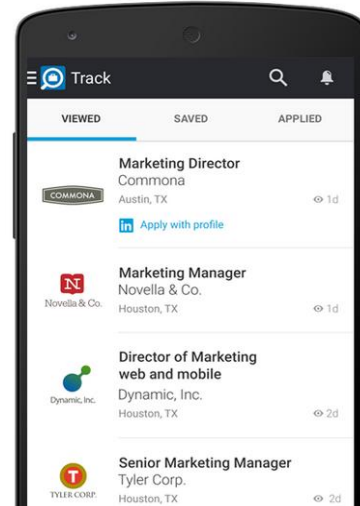


Figure 1: LinkedIn Job Search's application tracker

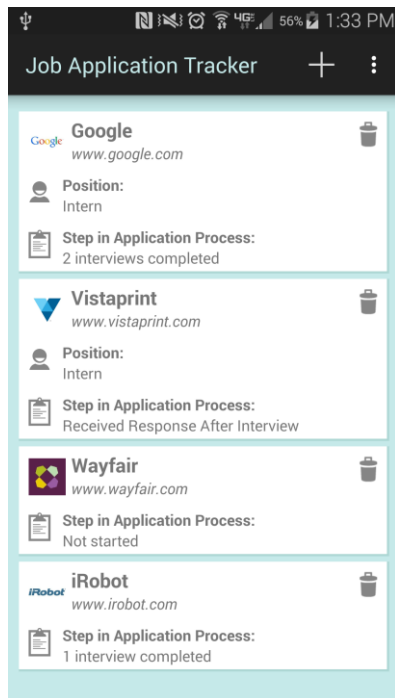
Jobs by CareerBuilder™ [3] is another application that provides job listings, tracks jobs you've applied to or emailed (providing a job application history), and lets the user save jobs to apply for them later. One interesting feature of this application is that it offers a "Job Competition Report," which shows information (such as the majors and years of experience) of other applicants who've applied for the same job. This Jobs by CareerBuilder application is similar to JobApp Tracker because it lets users record not only jobs they've applied to but companies they've emailed. However, this application does not offer the ability to record who you've interviewed with, and it does not let you write notes on how interactions with a company have gone. This is potentially valuable information that is being lost.



Figure 2: Jobs by CareerBuilder's competition report.

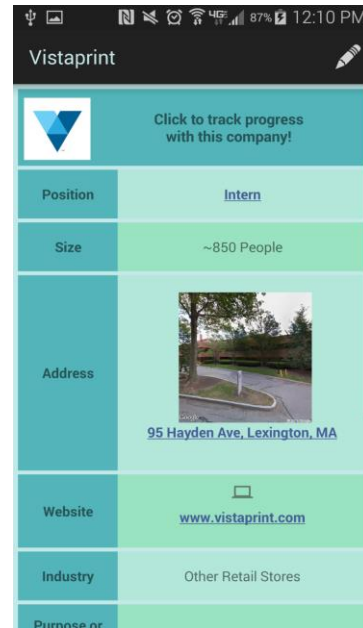
### 3. METHODOLOGY

The plan for this application is to allow users to record information for companies they have applied to, including a company's name, address, website, size, industry, and purpose/mission statement. Users can also keep track of the application process with each company. The main activity displays the list of companies a user has applied to within a company box. Each company box contains the company's name, logo, website, position applied for (if the user entered one), and the step in the application process where the user is with a particular company. If a user has had any number of interviews with a company, the number of interviews the user has had is displayed as well.



**Figure 3: The main activity, listing out all companies that a user has applied to**

Within a company's detail page, in addition to basic company information, company ratings (courtesy of Glassdoor.com™) are shown to the user to help get a feel of the company based on past employees' experiences. Users are provided with a street view image of the company based on its address, and this address can be clicked to open a navigation application that will bring the user from his or her current address to this location. Users can also record a link to a job posting, which is a clickable link. A company's website is also transformed into a clickable link within the application.



**Figure 4: A company's detail page**

A user can also track the three stages of job applications: initial contact (via email, in-person, a website, etc.), interviews (scheduling and attending them), and responses (either receiving an offer or not). Within the initial contact stage, a user can record the date of contact, the contact's name, email address, and phone number (if applicable), contact method, and miscellaneous notes. This section also offers the ability to click a recruiter's phone number and immediately call them, in addition to displaying the number of phone calls one has exchanged with this particular individual. Users can also click a recruiter's email address to immediately email that recruiter. All of these features have been designed to help a user track the application process specifically with details about names, contact information, and dates.



**Figure 5: The initial contact fragment**

In the interview scheduling and attending stage, a user can add as many interviews as he or she would like. Within each interview recorded, a user can enter the date and time of the interview, the names of interviewers, contact email addresses, pre-interview notes, and post-interview notes.

Scheduled Interview	
Date	3.2.2015
Time	3:00
Name(s) of Interviewers	Joe Shmoe
Contact Email Address	cjaiello@wpi.edu
Pre-Interview Notes	
Nervous! Heard their interviews are hard.	
Post-Interview Notes	
Went very well!	

**Figure 6: The interview-scheduling fragment**

Once a user has received a response from a company in regards to one's job application, the user can provide the date of the response, whether or not an offer was extended, the offer amount, the offer deadline, how one chose to respond to the offer, and miscellaneous notes.

Received Response	
Date of Response	3.31.2015
Offer?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Received Offer <input type="checkbox"/> No Offer
Offer Amount	\$30/hr
Offer Deadline	4.30.2015
Response	Yes
Miscellaneous Notes	
misc notes	

**Figure 7: The received-response fragment**

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION

The main screen shown when the application is first started lists each company that a user has entered (either alphabetically by name or sorted by step in the application process, based on a user's choice in the settings). This information is stored in an SQLite database on the device. Each company's logo, name, website, position the user applied for, and step in the application process is shown. Companies' logos are retrieved via the Glassdoor Web API.

When a user clicks on a company's name in this list, the user is brought to a screen that contains information about the company. The Glassdoor Web API provides access to a company's logo, industry, website, and ratings. At the top of this screen is a button that reads "Click to track progress with this company!" This button brings the user to the "Track Your Progress" screen, which offers the aforementioned functionality. Another API that is used is the Google Street-View API, which will provide the user with a street-view image of a company based on its address.

The initial contact fragment within the "Track Your Progress" activity accesses the device's call logs to count how many times calls have been exchanged with a particular phone number. The scheduled interview fragment uses an intent to bring up the user's email client with an email already addressed to the recipient (based on the "Contact Email Address" provided). All of these features exist to help users track their application process, in addition to granting users quick-and-easy access to recruiters' and interviewers' contact information.

## 5. EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION

Three Worcester Polytechnic Institute students user tested this application. The students noted that they liked the application's organization, its simplicity and colors, and the ability to sort companies you've applied to by varying criteria. One student said, "I am very disorganized. My IQP advisor would have been a lot happier if I didn't schedule interviews at the same time as the IQP meetings and I believe this app would help that." This positive feedback is helpful because it confirms that this application would accomplish its goal of helping individuals stay organized.

Students disliked the lack of calendar notifications when interviews or other events are supposed to happen, which is already planned on as future work. One student suggested a side-by-side view to compare companies, which is also something planned on for future work. This feedback shows that individuals are interested in all of the data available within the app and want to leverage that data in even more ways, ways that will be integrated in the future. This emphasis on data related to applying for jobs affirms the idea behind this app: the storage and retrieval of all information related to applying for a job is valuable to the user.

Overall two out of the three students said that they would use this application, and with future improvements all three students would make use of this application.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Based on user testing feedback, this application accomplishes its goal of helping users organize and retrieve information related to applying to jobs. Individuals care about the data being recorded in

this application, affirming the application's usefulness. Once future work (such as the ability to side-by-side compare companies and the ability to add actual calendar events in the phone's calendar application) is completed, this application will be even more useful for its users.

## **7. FUTURE WORK**

Future work for this application includes:

1. Ability to search for job postings
2. A section to attach photographs to various steps in the interview process (to potentially photograph business cards, offices, etc.)
3. Adding events to the device's actual calendar when adding events within the application
4. Side-by-side view to compare companies

## **8. REFERENCES**

- [1] Smith, Jaqueline. "7 Things You Probably Didn't Know About Your Job Search," *Forbes*, Retrieved April 28, 2015: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/04/17/7-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-your-job-search/>
- [2] LinkedIn Job Search. *Google Play Store*. Retrieved April 28, 2015: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.linkedin.android.jobs.jobseeker&hl=en>
- [3] Jobs by CareerBuilder. *Google Play Store*. Retrieved April 28, 2015: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.careerbuilder.SugarDrone&hl=e>