

Travel Advisor

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This is a mobile application that provides users with satisfaction when traveling the national parks. This application aims to become a fully functional travel guide application. It includes a schedule of different parks, ratings, weather notifications, history, a photo gallery, and it has a navigation system that helps you to find the direction you are looking for.

Design

The overall design should be considered concise and obvious, and using clear and simple icons to prompt user behavior, such as an arrow, three dots icon, three line menu icon etc. The user needs to be able to glance at the interface and immediately know what to do without second guessing. Travel Advisor is an outdoor assistance application, since many of its features are based on user location, the system requires accurate location and good communication with the server.

Since a user interface is the bridge connecting human command to backend programs, it is also the point of human-computer interaction and communication on a device, webpage, or app. Travel Advisor is an application that does not care too much about device computer power or high resolution. Text needs to be conservative and large enough with the ability to adjust font size and background color schemes.

Open Issues

Travel Advisor is an application dependent on the internet. Therefore, one of the biggest issues Travel Advisor may face is data security. Also, another issue would be competing against other similar applications.

New Problems

Travel Advisor would affect the way a rescue team works, it requires them to pay close attention to the product as well as make inspection tours around the park regularly. Also, users who lack knowledge on using a smartphone or who are really familiar with the specific national park might find this product useless.

Limitations & Follow-Up Problems

Like all other mobile applications, Travel Advisor would require installation on a compatible smartphone, and the smartphone needs to be charged. For users with disabilities, this product would need to be designed differently to serve those users better.

Risks

One risk the user might encounter is possibly exposing personal information, that's why we only ask very minimal personal information for creating an account. Another risk would be application crashes while using it, and this could result in serious consequences.

Costs

There are many costs associated with developing any application, this one included. The main costs which were calculated in this instance were the following: 12 weeks+ of development, functional/unit testing, 6 use cases, 41 requirements, 6+ UI designs, 3 different user modes, and continued maintenance. These costs were calculated with an average hourly price of \$75, bringing the total development cost to \$17,100.

Waiting Room/Ideas for Solutions

One of the main features suggested for this product's initial release was the ability to track animal species within the National Parks. By offering this information, the user could use the navigation feature to pass by not only scenic spots, but also locations in which popular animals could be frequently seen. Due to time constraints, this was not included in the first release. This is the main idea held within the waiting room. This animal information could potentially be stored within a SQL database, with fields for population, seasonality, and parks they are located within.

Project Retrospective

One of most important aspects of developing this project was the weekly scrum meetings. By discussing weekly goals as a group, it was much easier to move through the development process in a timely manner. Our group utilized Google Drive to concurrently work on deliverables, which acted as a manner of communication in itself. Due to the timing of this project, an unexpected lesson was one of fluidity; without the ability to congregate in person, we were forced to rely on other avenues of communication. Deliverable dates also had to be shifted to account for these changes. It was an unexpected, but ultimately, welcome change that will aid our team for years to come.