CMPT 276
Group Project Proposal

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Background

Nowadays, it is very common for people to dine by themselves due to the fast-paced urban life. We may have got used to it, or more likely just ignored the existence of loneliness in our hearts. To solve such kind of unpleasant experience and let every lonely dinner have a sense of belonging, we designed our application, **DiningPal**.

Introduction

DiningPal is an online web application allowing multiple users to make plans of dining together. After sign up/login, users can propose their favorite restaurant(s) (with ranks) and find friends (or strangers), who also prefers similar restaurant during that specific time, to have dinner together. The features of this application will include locating the user him/herself, locating/ranking/auto-(help)choosing restaurants, with future implementations including creation of chat rooms, friend/user filter system, map navigate, coupon search, weather condition check and so on. Though this application can be used to arrange other places of collective activities, such as gym, theaters, shopping malls etc., it is primarily designed to help people find dinner mates in an easy and comfortable fashion.

Situational Analysis

The following real-world problem is poorly solved: Instantly find someone to dine with is usually hard in real life with finite friends and schedule constraints. Even if one has found any friends, they sometimes end up struggling of choosing among different restaurants. There does not exist such a popular application to solve this problem perfectly.

By using the app of this project, people can step out their own social circle and find their dining pal through our app to dine with and schedule leisure activity later if they are in the same city. The pity of missing a good restaurant or great meal offer can be more likely solved by having whole other users as your “new friend zone”. Moreover, friends who have different opinions on where to dine can stop struggling and agree with the app’s decision of going to a certain restaurant

Our group think there are 3 major target audience can be regarded as our potential users:

1.High school/college/university students, and junior employees ages from 16-30 years old, who likes to dine out and make new friends.

2.Travelers who are unfamiliar with the new spaces and want to meet up with local people/friends.

3.Families and friends who have problems on deciding what to eat, and need following up leisure activity.

Feature and Scope of Project

Main features of this app include:

1. User login/sign up
2. Locate oneself on a map
3. Match up users who are willing to dine together at specific time range
    3.1 Users individually choose a(some) restaurant(s) they prefer and time for which they are available

And other potential features are:

4. Friend with other users can check their preferences
5. recommend restaurants to users in terms of their different utilities' surveys and locations
6. Search and present coupons for target restaurants
7. Calculate and show the shortest route for matched users to a restaurant
8. Plan further leisure activity for users after the meal

Base on real case happened on our group members, here are 2 typical scenarios:

The first one is, many times when we finish our school work on that day, we feel exhausted and don't want to cook meals by our own. Look up yelp and easily find a fancy restaurant we want to dine in, but after that, problems occur. We don't like to dine alone, so we look up our friend list and ask if they can dine with us, but they have no time or don't like the style of food in that restaurant. Finally, the plan failed, we have to eat McDonald's at the end.

The second one is, one day our group finished our group project and agree to have a big meal to celebrate, but everyone has their own opinion of what to eat. It's hard to come up with a common choice that everyone is happy with. The conversation had a sad ending.

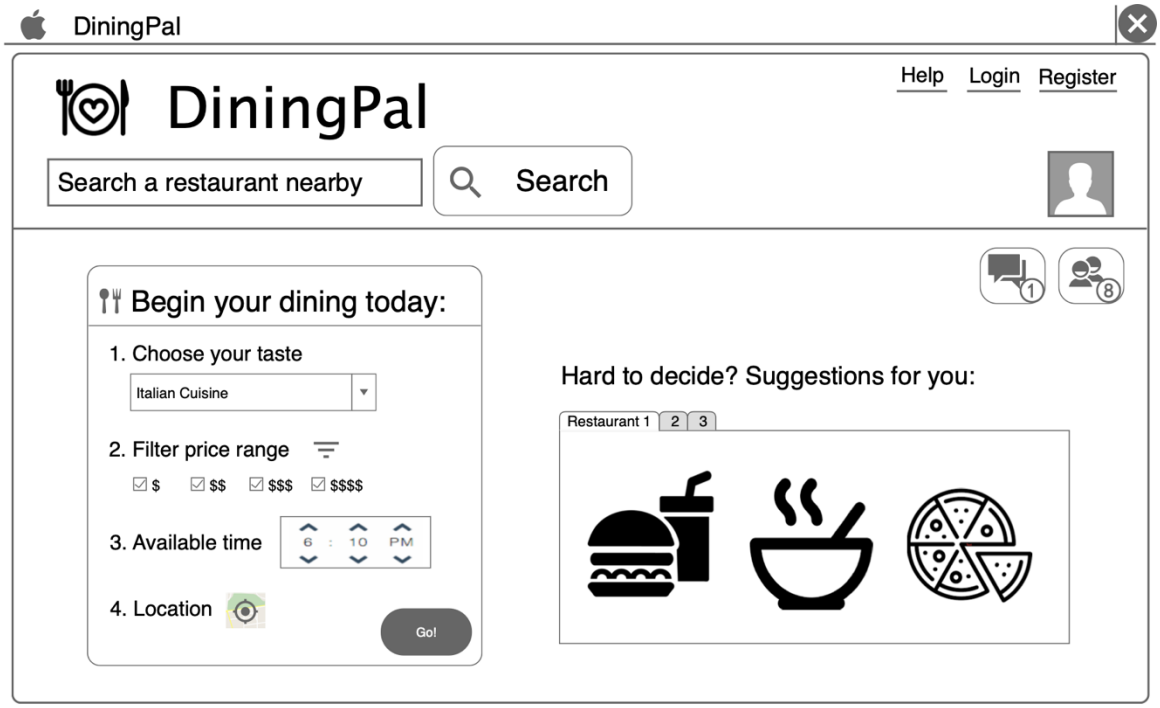
More specifically, as a user of this app I can create my personal account and log in with 'login' button. After logging in, I can locate myself on a map, and match up with other users who wants to dine in the same restaurant searched on the map, also filter some blockers. Or I can get recommendations with same taste preference based on my dine history. After each dine matched, I can send friend requests to add the dine pal into my friend list which will show more information about each other. If target restaurant is decided, I can click the guide button to show the fastest way for all participants. Once meals finished, choices are provided for entertainment.

As an admin, I can manage the users account on the server, record their preference which can be used for later recommend. Also, I can edit or delete the account based on users' active levels.

For the workload, regarding to the features and sub-features listed above, it's quite sufficient for all members in the team. Each member has at least one to finish. Concerning that some of the features might be easier than others when implementing, we agreed that the member who assigned

an easy feature has responsibility to help members who takes hard features. After the draft implementation, we are going to do the test and debug together to make sure each part of our project runs perfectly.

Appendix



Appendix A: Our UI Mockup