

Charity Source

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Project Goal

Charity Source will provide a fast, efficient way for users to donate to and support their favorite charities throughout the United States. The main goal is to remove the ambiguity of what charities do with the donations they receive. It will also be an easy way to donate to a good cause that will leave people feeling comfortable knowing where their contributions are going.

Features

Core

The primary features of this project are facilities to help users find a charity and donate to it. This means that Charity Source's Web pages clearly convey information about charities. The "Charity Tab" page is easy to navigate so users can find the appropriate charity they want to donate to. To find the charities they want to donate to, users can type the name of the charity into the search bar on the "Charity Tab" page. Financial transactions will be handled by PayPal. Charity Source's Landing page is intended to build users' confidence by explaining the team's mission and stressing that we take no money from their transactions. It ensures users that 100% of their money goes to the right place to be used correctly. The Statistics page gives users the ultimate confidence boost because they can see how much money a charity takes in and where that money goes. With this information, users can make smart decisions with their donation money. The Statistics page is fueled by a database that stores all of the financial information for each charity. The final core feature is the "Contact Information" page, where users can find contact information for the developers, such as email addresses.

Likely

The user login ability will be useful for tracking their donations and posting to blogs. We would like to make it possible for users to log in through their Google accounts. Another useful feature would be the ability to filter charities by certain parameters so that users can explore new ones. We plan to allow sorting by most/least donated, most/least viewed, and, of course, the classic alphabetical. Users will also have the ability to customize their profiles.

Unlikely

If time permits, the team will implement a gamification system so that users can gain recognition for their donations and forum posts. Users will receive small rewards as they achieve higher recognition.

Software Requirements

The technologies Charity Source will be using include:

- HTML5 will be used to lay out the content of our pages.
- CSS3 will be used to style the content and create a consistent layout.
- The Google Chrome Development Console will be used to help write CSS and debug any JavaScript.
- JavaScript and jQuery will be used to make requests for data from the server and help format it to be user-friendly.
- MySQL will be used to hold information about charities, such as how much is donated annually and where the money goes once donated.
- PHP will be used to handle server requests.

- NetBeans will be used as our main development platform. Other text editors such as Sublime Text 3 or Notepad++ may be used as well.
- SketchFlow which is part of Microsoft Blend for Visual Studio will be used to create an interactive wireframe.
- GitHub will house our code in an easily accessible place for the whole team.
- Adobe Photoshop will be used to create the final logo for Charity Source.
- XAMPP will be used on our personal machines to run PHP.
- PayPal will be used to manage transactions between users and charities.

Intended Users

Charity Source users are intended to be over the age of eighteen due to the fact that this website will involve financial transactions. Outside of age restrictions, Charity Source is intended for all those who wish to support and donate to charities of their choice. Charity Source will be user-friendly, allowing those with varying degrees of computer and website experience to easily navigate the website. Charity Source will also encourage the charities themselves to have an active role on the website. For example, they can fill out an application to be showcased on the site. Charity Source requires this application process so that fake or scamming charities are not added. For the time being, mock charities will be used to show the functionality of the website. In later versions, real charities will be used.

Potential Issues

There are a handful of potential issues that Charity Source may run into. One of the biggest hurdles will be to find the information about the charities that we would like to display. Our solution to this problem will be either to find an API that could be used to get the

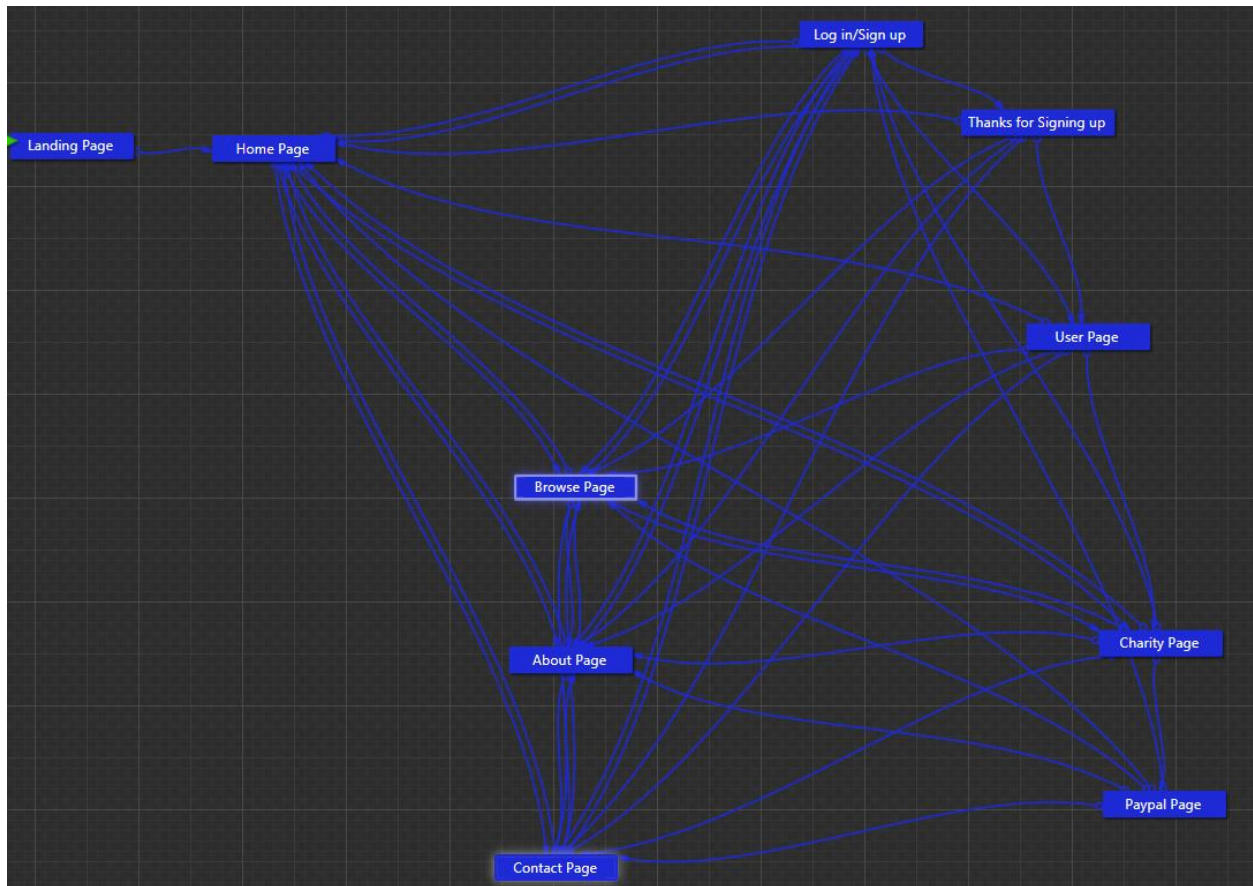
information on request or to use a Web scraper to gather the information to store in a database. If both of these fail, we will use mock data to simulate what we would like to show users.

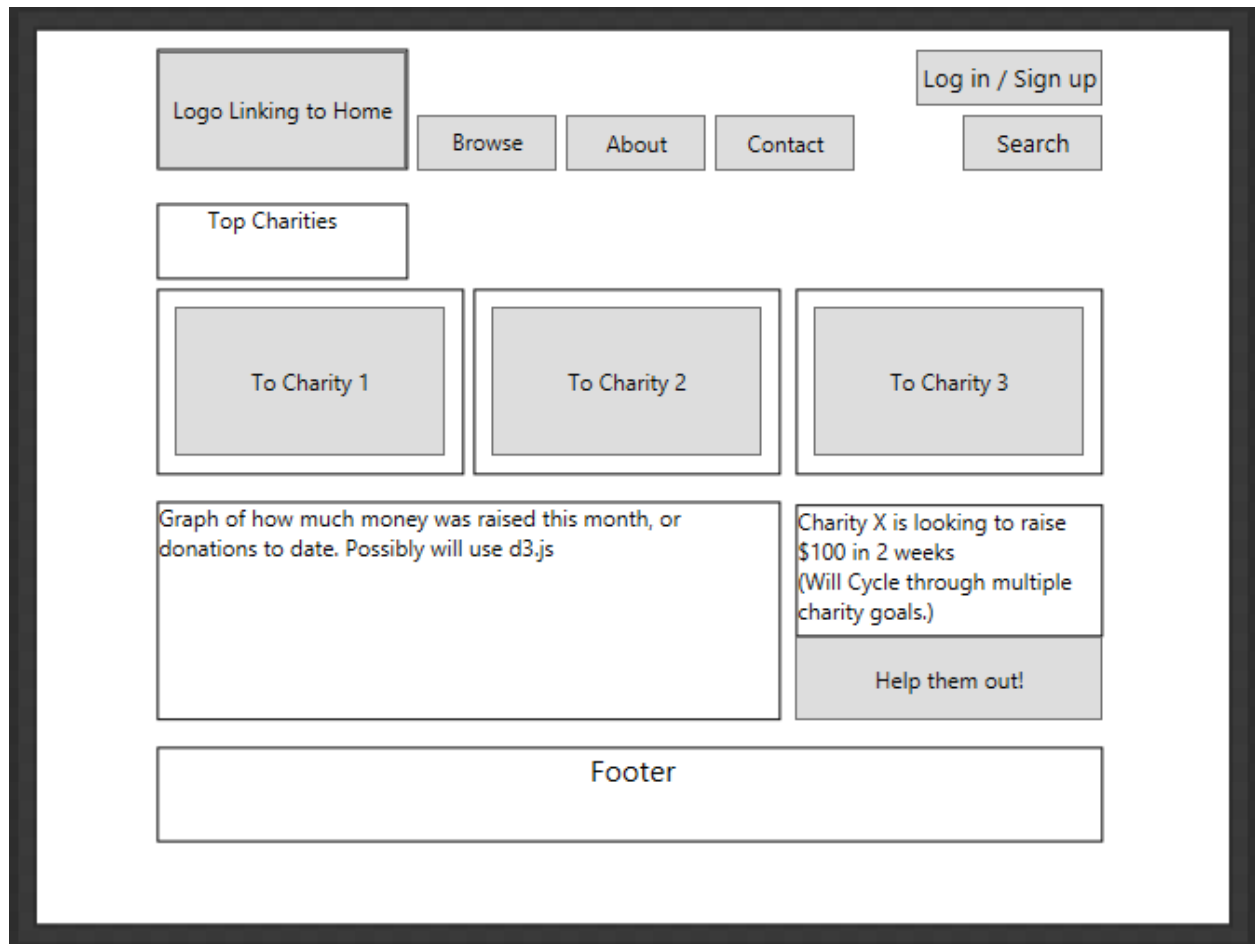
Another issue may be legal problems. More research still needs to be done to determine whether or not charities would be allowed to use the site and accept donations via this external page. Since transactions are going to be done through PayPal, there is also a need to make sure that charities listed on the website are either using PayPal already or are willing to create an account. Fortunately, for the scope of this project, there should be no problems simulating PayPal functionality for different charities, as it will not be live.

Since none of us has worked with PayPal, using it may cause some problems. If all goes well, there will be an easy-to-use public API that can be incorporated with little effort. However, if the API is difficult to use, it may take some time before we are able to get PayPal incorporated and functioning properly.

Scheduling (Subject to Change)

Projected Due Dates, Subject to Change	Description	Participants
February 10	Fundamental Website Structure.	Stanzione/Saras
February 17	Find proper charity information (if available), elaborating upon simple html pages (plugin information).	Stanzione, Saras, Getchell, Blanchette
February 24	Setting up the database.	Blanchette
February 26	Alpha due. Connecting all functionality together.	Stanzione, Saras, Getchell, Blanchette
March 5	Alpha usability testing and tweaking	Stanzione, Saras, Getchell, Blanchette
March 12	Apply charity filters	Saras and Blanchette
March 19	Blog / Logins	Getchell and Stanzione
March 26-April 14	Touching up the website, fixing bugs, preparation for Beta presentation	Stanzione, Saras, Getchell, Blanchette





Logo Linking to Home	Browse	About	Contact	Log in / Sign up	Search
Charity Name					
Image for charity	About the charity				
	Donate now!				
Pie chart of what percentages go where	How these stats compare to other charities	Current goals of the charity (if any)			
		View full summary			
Footer					