README: CS-340 Dashboard Project

Project Overview

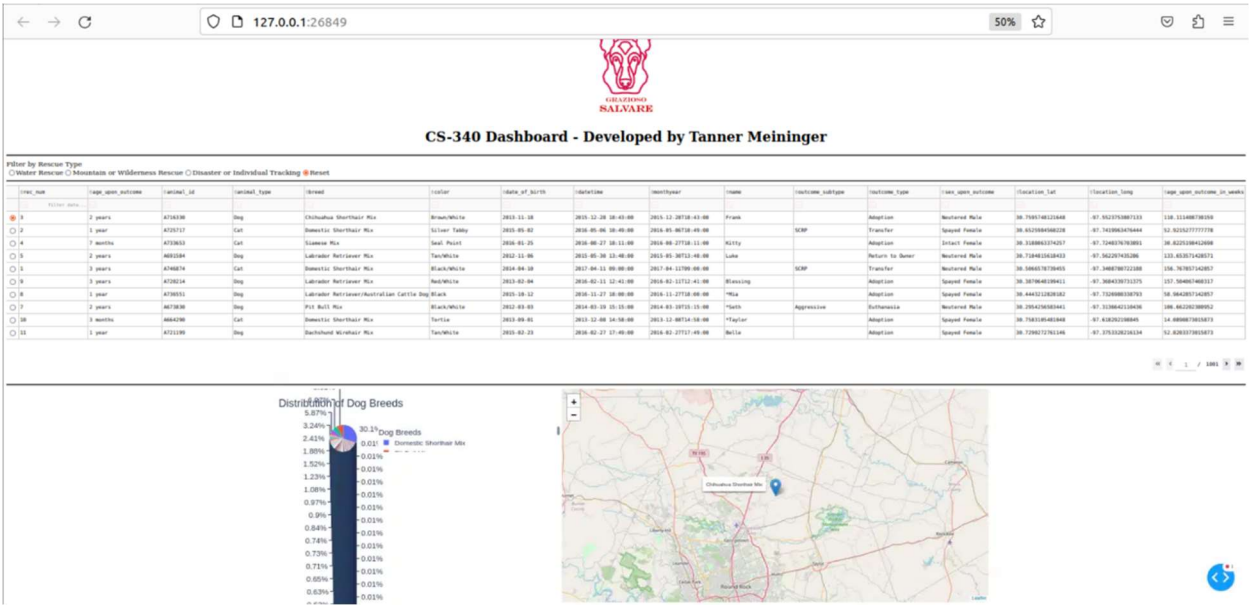
This project involves creating an interactive dashboard for Grazioso Salvare that visualizes rescue operation data for dogs. The dashboard allows the client to filter data dynamically, visualize it in a pie chart and a geolocation map, and interact with it through a responsive data table. The data is retrieved from a MongoDB database, and the web application is built using the Dash framework.

Key Functionalities

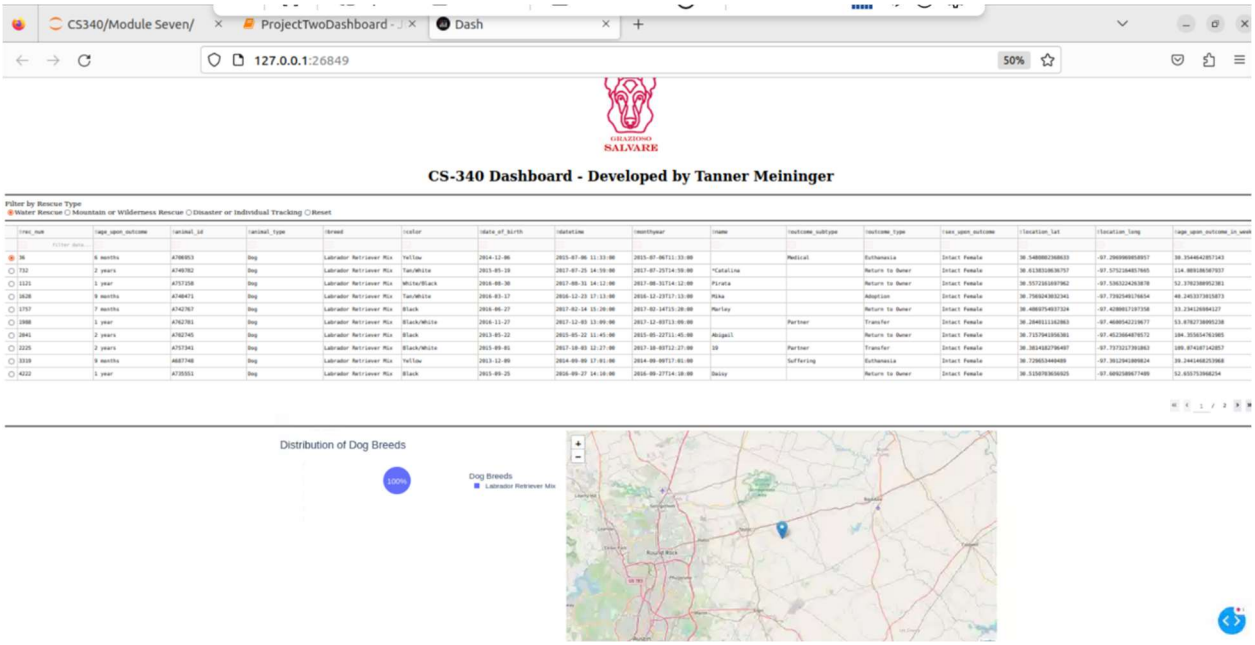
- **Interactive Filters**: Users can filter the data by rescue type (Water Rescue, Mountain or Wilderness Rescue, Disaster or Individual Tracking), and reset the filters to view all data.
- **Data Table**: A dynamic data table that updates based on the selected filter and displays the relevant records.
- **Pie Chart**: A pie chart displaying the distribution of dog breeds, dynamically updated based on the filter applied.
- **Geolocation Map**: A map displaying the geographical location of selected dogs based on the data table.

Screenshots:

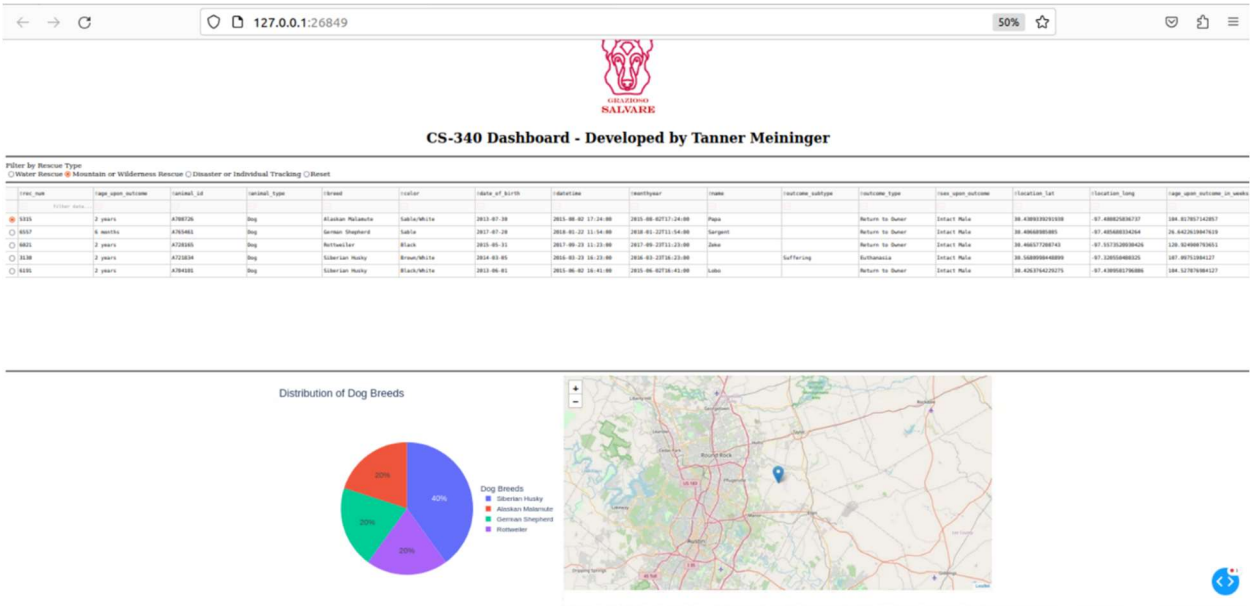
- Initial state of the dashboard with **no filters (and reset filter)** applied.



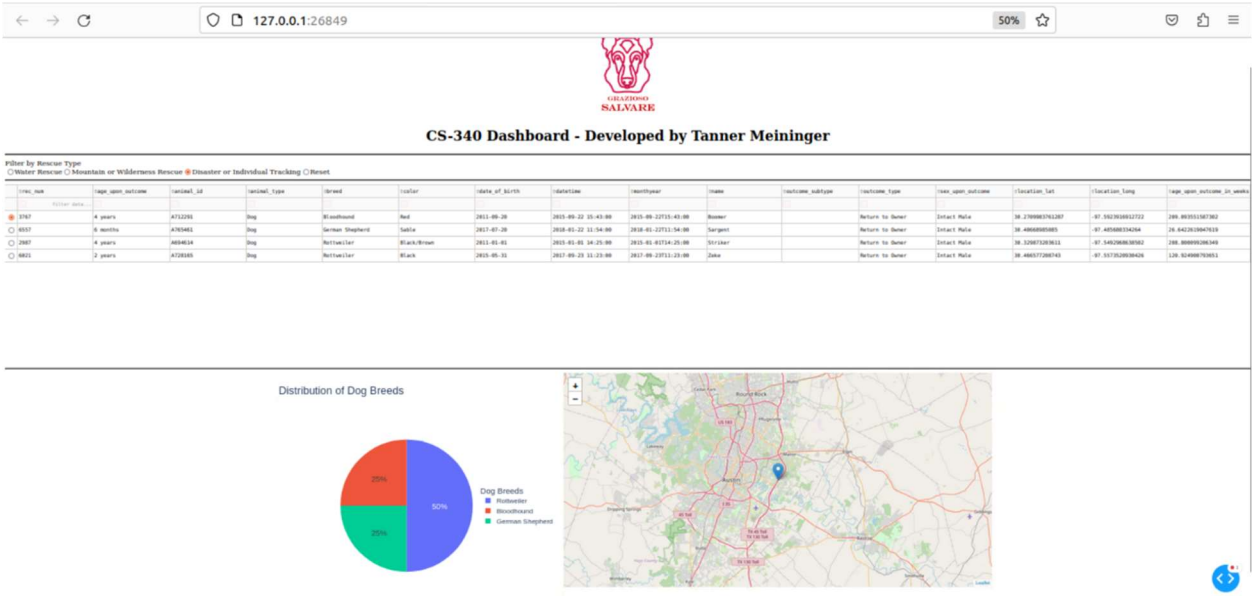
- Dashboard after applying each of the following filters:
    - **Water Rescue**



    - **Mountain or Wilderness Rescue**



- **Disaster or Individual Tracking**



Tools and Technologies Used

MongoDB

- **Purpose**: MongoDB was used as the model component of the project to store and manage the rescue operation data.
- **Why MongoDB?:**
    - Scalability: MongoDB is a NoSQL database that excels at handling large datasets and provides flexibility in data structure.
    - Ease of Use with Python: MongoDB provides an excellent interface for Python using the pymongo library, which allows for easy CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) operations.
    - Document-Oriented: Its document-oriented nature is ideal for storing semi-structured data like rescue records that may include complex relationships or varying attributes.

Dash Framework

- **Purpose**: Dash is a Python framework used for building web applications with an interactive user interface (UI). It provides both the view and controller structure for the project.
- **Why Dash?**

- Python Integration: Dash allows seamless integration with Python, making it ideal for data-driven applications where Python is used for data manipulation and visualization.
- Interactive Components: Dash provides various UI components such as graphs, data tables, and filters that automatically update when new data is passed to them.
- Plotly for Visualizations: Dash integrates with Plotly to create dynamic and interactive charts, which was essential for the pie chart and map used in this project.

Other Tools:

- **Dash Leaflet**: Used for the geolocation map visualization.
- **Plotly**: Used for creating the interactive pie chart that visualizes dog breeds.
- **JupyterDash**: A version of Dash that allows for running Dash applications within Jupyter Notebooks.
- **Jupyter Notebooks**

Steps to Reproduce the Project

Set Up MongoDB

- Install MongoDB and load the rescue data into the database.
- Configure a MongoDB user account (e.g., aacuser) with the necessary permissions.
- Ensure the MongoDB instance is running and accessible from your application.

Create the CRUD Python Module

- Develop the CRUD class to handle interactions with MongoDB (insert, read, update, and delete operations).
- Test the CRUD operations to ensure data is correctly retrieved from the database.

Develop the Dashboard Application

- Use the Dash framework to build the user interface, including the data table, pie chart, and map.
- Use Plotly for creating a dynamic pie chart visualizing dog breed distribution.
- Use Dash Leaflet to render the geolocation map that shows where each dog was rescued.
- Set up filters (radio buttons) to allow users to filter data based on rescue type.

Run the Application

- Use JupyterDash to run the Dash application in a Jupyter Notebook or as a standalone web app.
- Test the application to ensure the filters, charts, and maps are responsive and update dynamically based on user input.

Test and Capture Screenshots

- Ensure all functionality is working as expected (filters, chart updates, data table, map).
- Capture screenshots or screencast for the project documentation.

Challenges and Solutions

Challenge 1: MongoDB Authentication and Connection

- **Issue**: There were initial difficulties in connecting to MongoDB due to authentication issues.
- **Solution**: The problem was resolved by ensuring that the correct MongoDB URI was used, with proper encoding for special characters in the username and password.

Challenge 2: Plotly Legend Overlapping the Chart

- **Issue**: The legend in the pie chart was overlapping the chart itself, making it difficult to read.
- **Solution**: The legend was moved to the right of the pie chart and resized for better readability.

Challenge 3: Data Filtering

- **Issue**: Ensuring the correct filtering logic was applied based on rescue type.
- **Solution**: Applied MongoDB queries that filter the data by breed, age, and sex to match the rescue type criteria.