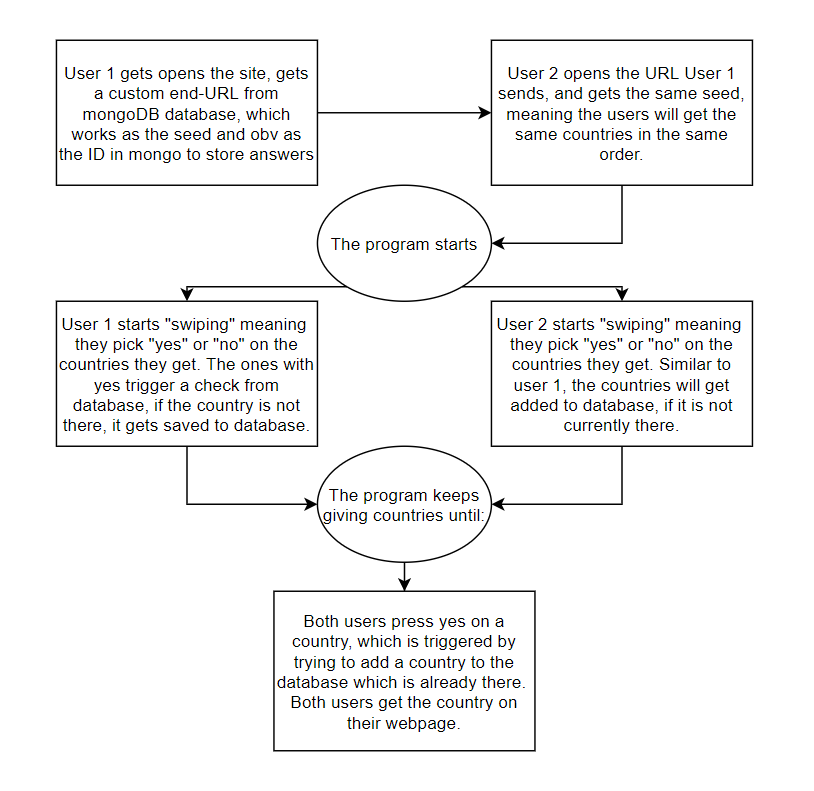
**HOBBY PROJECT: COUNTRY SWIPER**

After applying for jobs and looking trough my CV, I decided to create a small web application to take a break from studying Microsoft Azure. It was inspired by a tweet I saw:  


Now even though this person might have been skeptical of the concept because of her state, I found it to be at least an interesting idea to try to tackle in few days.

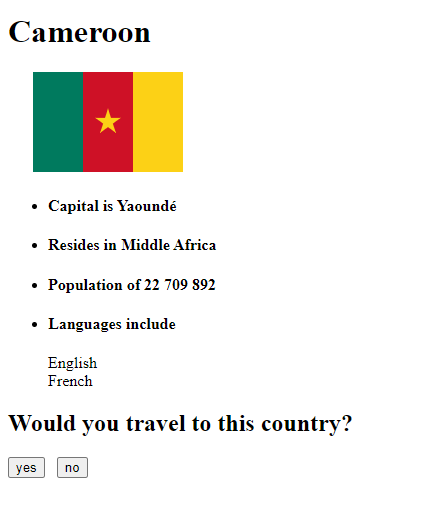
While it is at least theoretically possible to access a movie list from the likes of Netflix, I decided to take something that I have used previously: Countries. This is because now I will not have to spend days trying to figure out a best way to display movie data, but instead I can use a program called “maat” from Osa2 in my GitHub, which has a frontend that displays data of countries depending on the search. It utilizes a site called restcountries.eu, which is a RESTful API displaying data from different countries.

So far, I have added a random seed generator called LCG, that allows me to seed the random country I will pick. Here is a rough sketch of how this program will work:



Things to note:

* The problem might be with URL sharing, since this is my first time creating a program that lets users interact with each other in real time.
* Might be smart to instead use seed to pick 10 countries which are given in truly random order, and if those countries do not find a match pick another 10 by varying seed by constant. This makes the program more interesting in my opinion.
* Using the RESTful API we can display interesting data about the countries in the “yes” or “no” screen.

Alright, so we are back to creating this magnificent piece of work. On the right we can see that frontend is working like intended (at this iteration). The new idea that I had that differs from the previous idea was using the URL id as a database identifier. Instead of using the id as a seed, we use id as a key. This means that we must store country data from RESTAPI to our own database (mongoDB), but if we parse it this should be better in the long run (and a lot more pleasant, since the ID version is truly random). Currently the code is a bit all over the place both in frontend and backend. Frontend has awkward array definitions in useEffect which I do not really want to fix before we slap backend and frontend together, since this ID thing might change drastically again.

Backend has been created using NodeJS and Express, which I have used before. On the left we can see Postman requests (could have also used visual studio) and currently we have get, getID, post and patch which are the key commands. Remove will be added, but I wanted to write this update and push this first.

We also do not have app.js, since I did not see a need for it right now, this might change when this backend starts to grow.

Next job we must do is to choose which features we want to add to “countries” part in our mongoDB. Then we also must choose how many countries we want to be randomized, and what will happen if the people cannot seem to agree on x number of countries, we provide for them. I think soon we will have a working prototype that can be used to determine which country out of 255 options 2 people want to travel to. After this I can see myself adding possibility to have N amount of people, choose a filter (e.g. European countries, remove countries with less than certain population or in certain region) and then we can try to make the site look better using HTML and CSS. Its good to have plans, right?