

## CSC 214 – Project 1

The purpose of this app is to help people plan for vacations. Essentially, the app functions as an on-demand trip planning software; it asks the user for a destination and about his or her preferences, which will be submitted to a trip advisor (me) who will then take that information and create a customized travel plan for them. Project 1 will be the skeleton of the app – containing more of the application logic, and Project 2 and 3 will expand them in greater detail.

My target audience for the app is someone who is busy and doesn't have time to plan a trip. College students, for example, are often bogged down with exams, projects, and homework. And when there is a break coming up, those who want to get away from Rochester often do last-minute planning with their friends. People who have full-time jobs have vacation time, but often they are too occupied thinking about work and don't have the time to plan a vacation for their family. So really, the total potential market is anyone who finds that they want a vacation but just don't have the time to plan them.

I love to travel, and that's why I created this app and will extend its features. The main reason why I decided to write this app is that I noticed that there are two issues that often arise when people try to plan vacations: they don't have the time, and even if they spend the time to plan something, that is time taken away from doing something more productive like working. So there is a gap that needs to be bridged, and my goal is to bridge that gap by providing a software that can help people with making those plans. It differs from other travel apps like Trip Advisor or to some extent, Yelp because those apps require people to search destinations up and only give them reviews. My app takes a self-service approach, where people can select a city and then select the things they want to do (coming in project 2 or 3), or submit a form to an advisor and have them plan everything for them. Either way, the information will be stored to the account, in which they can later access the entire plan and use it while on vacation.

As hinted from the paragraph above, I find that TripAdvisor and Yelp to be very important resources that I use when I plan trips. So in the next project or the third, depending on when we learn to use APIs, I will leverage both of those technologies by making API calls and using those to generate recommendations for my users.

I also hope to make the user experience a little better. The registration view is a table right now, and I hope to embed that into a Navigation Controller. I want to do the same for the core components of my app as well.

One of the biggest issue that I have is persistent storage. I want to be able to store the users' information. I am currently using a Singleton to do that. However, when we learn how to use databases or some form of local storage, I hope to migrate off using an array to store data.

In terms of feature upgrades, I mentioned that I want the app to store the user's saved trips and be able to access it. I also want to create an "Add Spontaneous Trip" that uses the user's current location to find recommendations. Since we are going to be learning about web services, it is my hope that I will be able to connect solo travelers with others who use the app. I want to be able to provide a timeline of the trip, tell the user where he or she is, directions to get to the next destination, details about the location, and the neighborhood around him or her per trip.

According to the syllabus, we will also be learning how to use the camera, so I want to implement a feature where the user can take photos of him or herself as a profile picture; right now, it's a photo of a presidential candidate. And I also want to extend that functionality to allow users to take and submit photos of their trip.