Proposal

PMtoGo

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**ISSUED BY**

Team Algorithmic Alchemist

<https://github.com/abhay772/AA_Senior_Project>

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**Introduction**

Most property management software provides property owners, managers, and landlords the foundation to keep track of their finances and business needs. These applications are tailored toward the residential bookkeeping and tenant management side of a property. However, what these applications lack, and overlook is arguably the most important factor of property management, the physical property.

Property management software mainly focuses on the accounting aspect of a business rather than the property itself. However, property value and appearance need to be maintained, restored, and preserved. Algorithmic Alchemist proposes a web application that will allow the common property owners and commercial property managers to manage maintenance services, and renovation projects(upgrades), assist in scheduling and budgeting and provide generic property value estimations and schedule appraisals. On the other hand, maintenance and property services companies will be able to incorporate and utilize this application to provide their customers with a tool to oversee and manage their services with that company such as canceling or requesting additional work to be done to their property.

# **Problem Scope**

## What is the problem we want to fix?

Property managers and owners lack a foundation to effectively manage and improve their property appearance and value. Software for property management today focuses on residential businesses, bookkeeping, and connecting maintenance companies with property managers. For instance, the top property manager application, Buildium allows its users to keep track of rental payments, vacancies, and accounting (*Buildium*). However, you need to attract and retain tenants first and foremost. For instance, Hales Property Managements published an article titled “8 ways to make your rental property more appealing to prospective tenants” in 2021 with each listing pertaining to the property’s appearance and upkeep. On the other hand, Angie’s, an application that connects property managers to pros in their area, allows consumers to keep track of their open projects and compare quotes(*How does Angi Work*). However, Property Manager to Go will allow for the common property owner and property managers to keep track of their properties, maintenance services, and renovation projects, manage and assist in the scheduling of services, and provide quick estimates for property value. The appearance and value of a property are equally as important for reasons such as tenant attraction and retention, in addition to simply wanting a well-maintained home. What the industry lacks is a one-stop-shop application for property owner's to efficiently and thoroughly manage their property while overseeing their property value change. Thus, Algorithmic Alchemist proposes PMtoGo, a web application to meet these needs and provide a foundation for all property services management one room at a time.

# **Our Product Value**

The value of our product is in providing a foundation that prioritizes increasing property value by organizing all property services management into one platform. Our goal is to provide property management software that will efficiently and thoroughly assist its users, with the elevation of property value as its objective, an overlooked outlook within property management. The software will focus on digitizing and organizing services that property managers use frequently for property upkeep, in addition to organizing business transactions and needs. While providing insight on how the property value changes before and after all transactions and assisting in the scheduling, budgeting, and planning of value-increasing services. Our service provides property managers with one app that manages all their needs rather than property managers utilizing multiple apps. Our software also provides the feature to give services a rating based on performance. This also tells maintenance and property services companies what they can improve on and what they are doing well, improving the overall quality of work. Our software will accommodate each user by recommending service schedule dates and comparing estimates for budgeting. Lastly, our software will help with the planning of future services by providing the change in property value for mere service inquiries and after-service completion.

# Project Scope

## **Target Audience**

The target audience for PMtoGO will include homeowners, landlords, and property managers. These are people who own or currently manage a residential space and need to be connected to specialists in order to maintain and improve upon that space. They will be provided with a range of services they can choose from such as cleaning, repairing, home renovation, and maintenance on residential properties. In addition to budgeting via estimations, scheduling, and planning assistance of these services. The target audience also includes companies and organizations that provide property and maintenance services. They will be provided with a platform to sell and market their services to a wide range of properties and property owners and managers. In addition to receiving feedback on the services they provide and customer service.

## Supported Culture

Currently, our app only supports the en-US language. All transactions through the app will be in the US dollar. The currently supported browser is Chrome version 104.0.5112.79 for Mac/Linux and Chrome version 104.0.5112.79/80/81 for Windows(*Chrome Releases*).

# Product Scope

## Goals

The main focus of the website will be to make the process of maintaining a property easy with a one-stop website. Where the Contractors and Service Providers are able to upload their information in the form of profiles. And, the property manager/owners are able to view these profiles, filter through them, compare, and put in a request for service. Property managers and owners are able to set intervals for the services. The objective is to help the target audience increase their property value while providing a means to help them with their budgeting and prioritizing of services.

## Limitations

* At the initial stage, the product will only be accessible from the web. Which in the future will be available as a **Mobile and Desktop/MacOS app**.
* **Payment Processing** is going to be added after the initial release, to make the payment process easier and cashless.
* At the initial deployment, the app will only cover Contractors, Service Providers, and Properties in **California**.
* At the initial deployment, the app will only support US-English.

# Feature Scope

## Feature Descriptions

For the rest of this proposal, Algorithmic Alchemist will refer to property owners, managers, and landlords as users and will refer to companies and organizations that provide maintenance and property services as clients.

**User Features**

1. **Property evaluation**

Property evaluation allows the user to request property walk-throughs with local appraisers. Property evaluation will also provide the details of how the value of the property is estimated. This estimation will account for the condition of the interior and exterior of the property including any stains, plumbing problems, or leaks and the size, bedroom and bath count, and the overall design of the property.

* **Estimate:** Estimate will show how refurbishments or remodels on the property will affect its value.
* **Schedule:** Schedule will allow users to arrangean appointment to get their property evaluated by a professional.

1. **User Profile**

* **Storage:** Stores users' past services and projects, this allows contractors to have an idea of what work has been previously done.
* **Rates:** Show how the user rated services and the provider for future service request inquiries
* Shows history of business/ contractors they have worked with.

1. **Maintenance and renovation**

* Gather maintenance and renovation project details from the user by prompting the user to answer questions regarding each desired service.
* **Compare:** Compare the costs of each maintenance and renovation service to help the user budget and choose the service provider that best fits.
* **Estimate:** Estimate the cost of maintenance and renovation projects and shows how much property value increases or decreases from inquired or completed service. Allow property owners to manually change and input costs when concrete costs are figured out.

1. **Scheduling**

* Scheduling appointments with service providers or contractors or appraisers.
* The calendar will show available dates for scheduling appointments with service providers, contractors, or appraisers.
* The calendar will show all your upcoming appointments and services.
* Viewing ongoing projects.

1. **Document Storage with Optical Text Search**

* This will allow users to store documents and make them searchable using the Optical Text Search algorithm.
* This also allows users to share documents with other people in a case where the receiving party needs to review, modify, and/or digitally sign it.

1. **Dashboard**

* Dashboard will be where the users can find any updates about their services and upcoming appointments or service days sorted by the soonest to latest date.
* The dashboard will also include an automated property value estimation and updates from service providers.
* These updates include the cancellation, frequency change, service addition request status, and contract upload notifications.

1. **Service Management**

* **Request Service:** Request service will allow users to request a range of maintenance services from the client such as landscaping, street sweeping, janitorial, steam cleaning, window washing, and repairs. Plus additional property services such as remodeling which will include changing the layout of a room or entire property and upgrades/renovations which will include replacing tiles and flooring, fixtures, and appliances.
* **Show Services:** Show services will allow the user to view services and their status including ongoing, completed, or canceled. Show services will also show the service details for each service such as the days a week service is provided, the hours for each visit, and the cost as uploaded by the client.
* **Service Tool:** Service tool will allow users to request service cancellations or frequency change
  + A cancel request can be automatically completed or require further speculation from the client. The user will be updated according to the company's cancellation policy.
  + A frequency change will allow the user to change the frequency of ongoing services such as times a week, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually for ongoing maintenance services. The user should also be able to pick the day of the week they want their service done.
* **Service Rating:** Service ratings will allow users to rate their experience with the company and their performance. Service rating will be available during or after a service is completed. The user will be prompted with questions on the service using a Likert scale.
* **Sign Contract:** Contract signing will allow users to digitally sign and agree to contracts uploaded by the clients.

**Client Features**

1. **Dashboard**

* Client representatives will also have a dashboard that shows their upcoming appointments with users sorted by the soonest to latest date.
* The dashboard will also show the client's overall user rating

1. **Client Profile**

* **Storage:** Stores past services and projects, this allows contractors to have an idea of what work has been previously done.
* **Rates:** Shows their accumulated rating out of 4-star ratings from users.

1. **Request Management**

* **View Request:** View Request will allow clients to see any request made by users such as adding, canceling, or changing the frequency of service.
* **Update Service:** Update service will allow client representatives to update any changes to the user services such as the frequency change, cancellation status such as pending or accepted, and service status such as ongoing or finished.
* **Service Rating:** Service Rating will allow clients to rate their users after a service is provided or canceled as difficult or as pleasant and will work with again.
* **Upload Contract:** Upload contracts will allow the clients to upload established contracts to the website for user viewing.

# **Competitors**

## Buildium

Buildium is a cloud-based solution for property managers to monitor and maintain their business from wherever they may be (*Buildium Reviews, Demo & Pricing - 2022*). It offers a myriad of features, such as online rent payments and vacancy listing, but important for comparison to our offering, Buildium also allows tenants or employees to submit maintenance requests. These requests can be set as recurring, and vendor payment for maintenance requests can be done through Buildium (*Buildium*).

## DoorLoop

DoorLoop prioritizes providing property owners/managers with analytics, presented in a clear, graphical format. They allow for quick assessment of a property’s success anywhere, anytime. DoorLoop offers a space for tenants to submit maintenance requests as well (*DoorLoop Reviews, Demo & Pricing - 2022*). The property manager, or their staff, must still arrange for a vendor to address the request, but DoorLoop makes it easy for tenants to receive updates about their request (*DoorLoop*).

## RentRedi

RentRedi provides property owners/managers with a suite of features designed to make their work easier. They can collect remote rent payments, list properties on popular sites such as Zillow, and vet potential tenants (*RentRedi Reviews, Demo & Pricing - 2022*). For the tenants of a property that utilizes RentRedi, they can schedule rent payments and reminders, as well as make maintenance requests with short videos of the issue from their phones. RentRedi includes an optional feature to entirely automate maintenance requests. Their automated coordinator will allow tenants to select third-party service providers, with a budget set by the property owner, and will send updates to the tenant about their request (*RentRedi*).

**Angie’s list**

Angie formerly known as Angie's list prides itself on connecting consumers with pros and allowing its users to request and compare estimates for a wide range of maintenance services and renovation projects. Users can find various information on contractors in their areas with ratings and reviews, they also have the option of hiring contractors through the website making it a simple and easy process for its users. Angie’s list also provides its members with huge discounts when hiring contractors through them. The process goes as follows, you will be able to search for the type of contractor you need and view their ratings and reviews, request a quote, and choose, once you choose a contractor you will be able to book the service you want from them through Angie’s list and after that, you will be able to schedule an appointment.

**Our Vision**

**Evolution of our product:**

In the future, we plan to expand upon the functionality of PMtoGo by including new features such as the following:

* **Chat:** Allow users and service providers to communicate through the app via direct messaging or voice calls.
* **2D Drafting:** Allow users to create simple floor plans for potential expansions and renovations to their properties.
* **Mobile Optimization:** Make the PMtoGo website easier to access on the go by making it a mobile-optimized website, improving the user experience on smartphones.
* **Dual Factor Authorization:** This will grant users more security by requiring a second form of identification when they login into their account via text or email.

In the meantime, our product will provide users with peace of mind and around-the-clock access to the services provided by clients. This product will act as a medium that will expedite the process of getting services like cleaning, repairing, home improvement, and maintenance provided. Our product will also increase response time for the common services changes and requests, all while alleviating and assisting client representatives' workload by redirecting them to the app. For homeowners, landlords, and property managers to get the services they need. For contractors, freelancers, and construction/cleaning/handyman companies to provide those services.

**Contact Us**

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