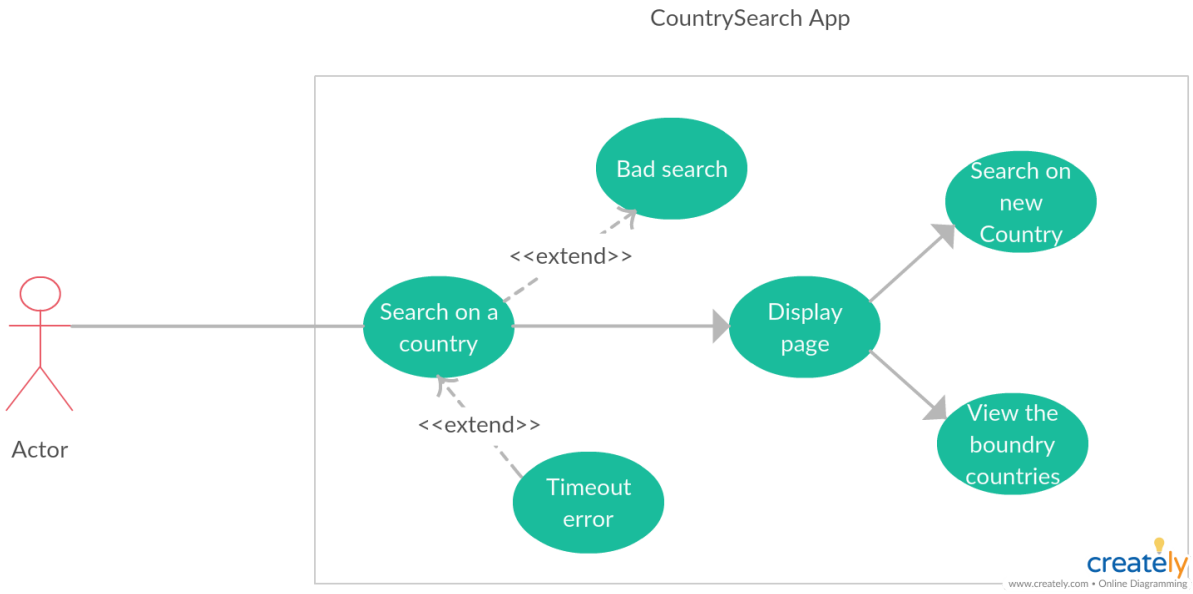
Assignment - 2 Mashup

CountrySearch App

This is a app about countries. The idea behind this service/application is simplicity, you go on to the app, you search on a country and then you get data about the country.
When you could ask yourself why use this app, because you want data about the country quick and easy. For example if you search on google for “Sweden”. You get a lot of links to different pages, and then you have to go onto the new page, read and extract the data you want. This takes time and can be annoying when you only want to get the easy facts like the flag, capital, population, the boundary countries, the weather and so on. This is where CountrySearch App comes in play. The application fills that gap!

Use case

The user inputs a string in the text field, clicks on the search button. The application will now see if there is a country by the name of the input string. If there is then display page, if not then nothing will happen.
If a country is displayed, then the user can view at the data off that country.
The user can also click on the boundary countries to get more information about them.
Lastly the user can just make a new search on a country.
This application is limited to only search on countries names.



Technologies

This project is built with Javascript and jQuery. jQuery is mostly used for ajax calls to the different API:s this application is using.

The application uses two global variables, *country* and *boundryCountries*. The country variable is an object off the *Country* constructor function. The other variable is just a simple array that holds Country objects.

The different API:s that the application is using are Restcountries API, Google Maps API and Openweather API. The Restcountries are used for getting information about a country. Openweather gives us information about the weather in a specific city. And last the Google Maps, generates a map.

The Restcountries API is the the most important in this project. This API gives us the all necessary information on the country that the user searched on. This information is later on utilized on the other API:s. If this API is down, the application will not work as intended or not at all. This is because the other API:s are depending on the Restcountries data. For example the Weather API needs to have a city, the Google Maps API has to have a latitude and longitude to work. And all these parameters the Restcountries API can provide for us.

The hard part of this application was to get to flow right. After a user has search on a country, then we need to call the API:s in the right order. Otherwise the page will probably just be blank or partial. The reason for this can be many, one of the factors are the Ajax calls to the API:s. The second one are that the Ajax calls are asynchronized witch means that are not sequential. But this is good thing because this makes the page loads faster, and therefore feel more responsive. There is nothing worse than just looking at a loading page. But with this comes a few obstacles, for this project we need to first call the RestCountries API, get all the data, load it on to our country variable, then make the call to the other API:s.