Scientist Pre-Interview Notes

Scientist: Dr. Chelsea Schelly

Description

App Idea: Energy Utility Polling App

Residential households access electricity through electric utility companies, which can be organized as private-for profit entities or public municipal entities. Utility companies offer a diverse range of programming and opportunities for their customers. For example, utilities may provide options to for customers use more electricity generated from renewable energy, incentives to install renewable energy, information or incentives on becoming more energy efficient, or changing how much customers are charged for energy based on when it is consumed. However, customers may not always know what kinds of programs are available to them. Utility companies are also proactively involved in planning for the renewable energy transition – particularly the utilities that have regulatory requirements or elective commitments to increase renewable energy usage. This application will target 4 specific municipal utilities in northwestern lower Michigan (Traverse City, Petosky, Charlevoix, and Harbor Springs). It will allow customers to indicate which utility company provides their electricity, and then will provide information about the programs and opportunities available through that utility for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and time of use pricing, as applicable. It will also provide information about the current energy portfolio mix of the utility and their goals for renewable energy. Finally, it will include polling questions so that users can provide their input regarding what kinds of programs they are interested in and what kinds of renewable energy they are most likely to support for future utility investments. Thus, this application will be used for both education/information provision and for polling/data collection. This application will provide information for the partner utilities to inform future decision making. This application is one facet of a large collaboration, and Dr. Chelsea Schelly will provide access to information about the utilities as well as questions to be used in the polling feature. The development of this application will provide new information about how to most effectively transition to renewable energy and more efficient energy use for public utilities in Michigan.

Initial Meetings

First Team-Scientist Meeting: Wednesday, 1/19/2022 at 2:00 pm EST

Second Team-Scientist Meeting: Wednesday, 1/26/2022 at 11am EST

Team Members and Interview Roles

- Basia Kornoely - Product Owner
- Trent Carlson - Technical Lead (ask “technical” questions)
- Sawyer Knowles - Notes
- Brian Reece - Notes
- Jack Hayes - Absent (Lab overlap)
- Aaron Kettelhut - Absent (Class overlap)

Interview Questions:

Important Requirements Notes

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Supplementary Questions

- Please tell us about your app idea.
- Who are the users of your app? (clients and admins?)
    - Are there user accounts?
    - Anonymous users?
    - Admin accounts?
- What data should the app collect?
- When or where will the app be used?
- What information or content does the app show the user?
- Do you have any documents such as flyers, forms, or spreadsheets that you can share with us?

Additional Questions to Ask

- What format is the information about the utilities in?
    - Spreadsheet, database, etc?
- What kind of **user** information do you want to collect, if any?
    - Metadata (e.g. platform, location, etc.)?
- What format of polling questions do you want?
    - Text box?
    - Multiple choice?
    - Ranking: on a scale from 1 to 5?
- What should the app layout look like? (relationship between polls/information)
    - Separate parts?
    - Integrated with one another?
- Design preferences?
    - Color, font, element style, etc.
- What platform do you think most people will interact with the app on?
    - Mobile?
    - Desktop?
- Should the information and polling features be developed simultaneously or does one aspect of the project have a higher priority?

- Is there a format for displaying user energy consumption and utility portfolio that you prefer?