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IT 3380

Tiger Hacks 2022 Report

I originally registered for Tiger Hacks 2022, my first hackathon, as an individual with the intent of exposing myself to material that aligns with my career goals, as well as surround myself with other individuals possessing common goals and interests. I was fortunate in that I quickly found a team that I would end up working with for the duration of the event.

My team and I struggled to generate ideas as to what we would create for our submission. We ended up deciding on the first idea I presented. We created a Python program that would serve as a trip cost calculator for users. The program utilizes the user’s vehicle year, make and model, distance to be traveled, as well as current gas prices to output an estimated cost to travel to the user’s desired location. For example, if you wanted to find out how much it would cost you to drive from your current location, we’ll say Lafferre Hall in Columbia, MO, to San Diego, CA. You input this into the program, as well as the details of your vehicle, and the program does all of the calculating for you.

The program uses data from open-source API’s to provide distances, cost of gas along the way, and your vehicle’s reported fuel emission statistics.

I feel that a good way to summarize my role in the work done was that I served as the product manager. I presented the idea and overall goal of the product and kept my team on track along the way. For code, I wrote the user prompts as well as some error checking to prevent the program from crashing due to bad user input. I wrote a couple dictionaries that contained data that would notify the user of how many times they would need to fill up by using the vehicles driving range given a full tank of gas.

I’m happy I chose to participate in Tiger Hacks 2022. I attended multiple events outside of working on our project. My favorites were H&R’s “Code in the Dark” and the Career Fair. I’m certain I will be participating in more events like these in the future. I legitimately feel that I improved my programming skills by attending and I made some great friends.