HOCO - Group 16

Victoria Housing Rental Consolidator

Request for Proposal Version 1.0

Sept 22 2021

Document History

Version	When	Who	What
1.0	Sept. 22, 2021	Housing Consolidator	Initial drafting

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1.0 Problem Description / Expression of Need

Any individual in need of housing (henceforth referred to as a "Renter") around The University Of Victoria (henceforth referred to as "The University") may spend a lot of their valuable time searching through different websites to find the perfect place for them. To name but a few, websites like UsedVictoria, Kijiji, and Craigslist (henceforth referred to as "The Websites") may each have entirely different sets of listings, which only increases the time one spends in search. Furthermore, a Renter may only know about one or two such websites and others may not know about any that are relevant to where they wish to live. To make things more complicated, some property managers may post their rental property to certain websites, but not others.

Any of the aforementioned issues on their own could be the factor that separates a Renter from the perfect place for them; all of these issues together create a complex digital landscape for a Renter to navigate efficiently.

2.0 Project Objectives

Our goal is to have a reliable and comprehensive web client that consolidates and displays listings from The Websites so that a Renter can quickly see what is relevant to their situation and find

housing faster. We envision a system that accomplishes this task through the implementation of web scrapers that collect links to those rental listings that fit some user specified criteria.

We would like the system to include property details, including address, price, amenities included (wifi, hydro), the type of residence, when the listing was posted, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, photos of the residence, whether the residence is furnished or unfurnished, whether there is parking, the length of the lease, a section for a description of the property, the ability for the user to contact the lister of the property directly (on the website of the original listing), and a option to bookmark the listing for future reference.

We would like a Renter that requires housing near The University to be able to organize their search for properties based on their preferences of the property details and the system should show only relevant search results based on those preferences, displayed in a sorted order that corresponds to a preference of the Renter. We only require that properties within Victoria listed be included.

3.0 Current System(s)

We currently have no system in place to help us solve this problem.

4.0 Intended Users of the System

The primary intended users of the system are students or other individuals associated with The University that require housing outside of the residence accommodation offered by The University. Other possible users include staff, administration and other people who work or spend a lot of time attending The University as well as staff of our organization who may need to perform maintenance on our system. Another possible audience are people who plan to live near The University. Generally, we expect the website to be able to be used by any individual located in the Victoria area who wants to rent a property near The University, including those who are not the most computer savvy.

5.0 Known Interactions Within or Outside the Client Organization

The solution to the outlined problem hinges on interactions with websites that are outside of the domain of our organization. The following list contains the three websites that our organization wishes to interact with: victoria.craigslist.org, usedvictoria.com, kijiji.ca.

6.0 Known Constraints to the Solution

Some constraints that we have identified that bidders should be aware of include:

- Reliance on external 3rd party services and websites to populate rentals (perhaps fees associated with using their website in a commercial way)
- Provide a way to identify the same property that has been posted on multiple sites and merge them into a single listing

7.0 Project Schedule

Milestones	week4	week5	week6	week7	week8	week9	week10	week11	week12
Client Meeting	09/27								
Website		09/30							
Project Charter			10/4						
Requirements				10/14					
Case & Model					10/21				
Feedback Session						10/28			
Domain Models							11/1		
Solution Design								11/15	
Final Report									12/6

8.0 Project Team

Name	Email	Role
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9.0 Glossary of Terms

Renter: any individual associated with The University (or not) who is in need of accommodation in the Victoria area

The University: The University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada

The Websites: https://www.usedvictoria.com/ https://www.kijiji.ca/ https://victoria.craigslist.org/