Proposal

Wanderlust Travel Recommender

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Submitted in partial fulfillment
Of the requirements of CSC-431
Software Engineering course project

Preface

This is a proposal for the Wanderlust Travel Recommender project for partial fulfillment of the requirements of a Software Engineering course (CSC431) project in the department of Computer Science at the University of Miami.

This proposal provides the scope and context of the project to be undertaken. It details the intended user group and the value that the system will have to them.

The intended audience of this document is the course professor and teaching assistants so that they can determine whether the project should be approved as proposed, approved with modifications, or not approved.

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1.0 Overview

1.1. Purpose, Scope and Objectives

The purpose of the Wanderlust Travel Recommender project is to develop a web-based application that assists users in planning their travel itineraries by providing personalized recommendations based on input regarding cities, flight details, and hotel preferences. The application aims to simplify the travel planning process, enhance user experience, and promote exploration by offering tailored suggestions for destinations, activities, accommodations, and local attractions. The key features included in Wanderlust Travel Recommender will be user registration and authentication, intuitive input forms for travel details, activity recommendations based on user preferences, and user reviews and ratings. To develop this web-based application the hardware requirements include desktop computers, laptops, and smartphones with internet connectivity. Wanderlust Travel Recommender will leverage web technologies on both the client and server sides. For the client-side, web browsers (such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Edge) with JavaScript, HTML, and CSS support will be necessary for Wanderlust Travel Recommender. On the server side, the application will rely on a relational database for storing and retrieving user data securely. Therefore, PostgreSQL and Nodejs will be essential for Wanderlust Travel Recommender.

1.2. Project description

The Wanderlust Travel Recommender aims to address the challenges faced by travelers when planning their leisure travel itineraries. Traditional travel planning methods often involve extensive research, comparison of multiple sources, and subjective decision-making, leading to inefficiencies and potential dissatisfaction with the final travel arrangements. The goal of this project is to develop a user-friendly web-based application that streamlines the travel planning process by providing personalized recommendations for destinations, activities, accommodations, and local attractions based on user preferences and constraints. The Wanderlust Travel Recommender aims to enhance user experience, promote exploration, and facilitate informed decision-making in leisure travel planning. The services and features included in the Wanderlust Travel Recommender are:

- User Registration and Authentication: Allow users to create accounts and log in securely using custom programs to handle user account management, password encryption, and session management.
- Input Forms: Provide intuitive forms for users to input travel details such as departure city, destination city, travel dates, budget range, and accommodation preferences using custom programs developed through HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

- Activity Recommendations: Suggest popular activities, attractions, landmarks, and events at the selected destination using existing software such as ChatGPT (Open AI API) or existing travel recommendation applications.
- User Reviews and Ratings: Allow users to leave reviews and ratings for destinations, accommodations, and activities with custom programs that include data storage.

Overall, the Wanderlust Travel Recommender will incorporate a combination of custom program implementation and the use of existing programs to provide a comprehensive solution for travel planning and recommendation.