

Pitch'

n

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Status Quo

- People don't know what to donate
- Donations are often not appropriate for the charity
- Disposing of unusable items can actually cost the charity more money

In the case of clothing donations:

- Charities have issues with soiled, torn, or unusable clothes
- 25% of clothing donations end up in landfills (goodonyou.eco)

“We didn’t get much that was ridiculous,” ... “The problem was getting reasonable items that weren’t appropriate for our population. The vast majority of our clients are men living outside. We have little need for suits or women’s or children’s items. Someone would clean out a closet, and we’d be inundated. We’d spend a lot of staff or volunteer time sorting through bags of donations. It stressed out staff to have to triage the stuff, and it taxed our physical space. We’d give usable items to the Salvation Army, but that’s again costing us time and resources and probably wasn’t the donor’s intent.”

- **Schenkelburg, president of Miriam’s Kitchen**
From the Washington Post

Observations

- No reliable way of knowing what donation centers accept and don't accept
- Different donation centers want different things
- One has to visit each charity's website to view their donation guidelines
- Locating centers is a hassle
- Information on google maps is usually inaccurate and not updated.

Frustrations

Donator:

You've decided to donate some items in your pantry that you don't want. You decide to drive to a soup kitchen, the only one you know, missing one that may be closer. You give them the donation only to find out later on that they have no need of what you've given them.

Donation Center:

You are receiving a deluge of donations for the holiday season but you don't have enough volunteers to sort through all the items. Because of this, many perishables go bad in the meantime. While the items are being sorted, you lose more manpower because you need some of the volunteers to dispose of unusable items.

Why people do not donate

- “Although there is much to be grateful for when it comes to people giving to good causes, such as that altruism, and that our brain's reward center lights up when we give, what we expect as fundraisers is not always what we get. Neuroscience, in fact, has found that there is a dark side to our altruism. Sometimes we don't give to compelling causes, or we don't provide as much as we could. The problem seems to be most severe when we are asked to give to many people who are far away, even in the direst of circumstances. Or when a particular disaster is not massive enough or dramatic enough.”

- *Ten Reasons Why People Don't Donate to Charity, from The Life You Can Save*

- “While it is true that there are far too many organizations who pay executives before the people who need help, it is typically quite easy to find out which charities are legitimate. Try looking up “[the charity’s name] scam” on Google and you will quickly find all the information you need. Furthermore, if the cause itself sounds suspicious, try reading more information from third-party sources, such as news sites or scholars who study these problems. If there is no other information out there, you may want to consider donating to a different cause.”

- *Reasons People Don't Donate to Charity, From Sylvester Knox*

What Pitch'n does

- Pitch'n shows the locations of the nearest centers, so that the donator can see the distance they need to travel to make a difference
- Real legitimate organizations are shown, so Donators will know that the items they donate will go to people who actually need them.

What Pitch'n does

- The Pitch'n system also shows what items a Donation center needs so not only do the Donators know what to donate and where but the centers get items they actually need.
- The Pitch'n system also lets you save center and its so you can see when you can help the center.

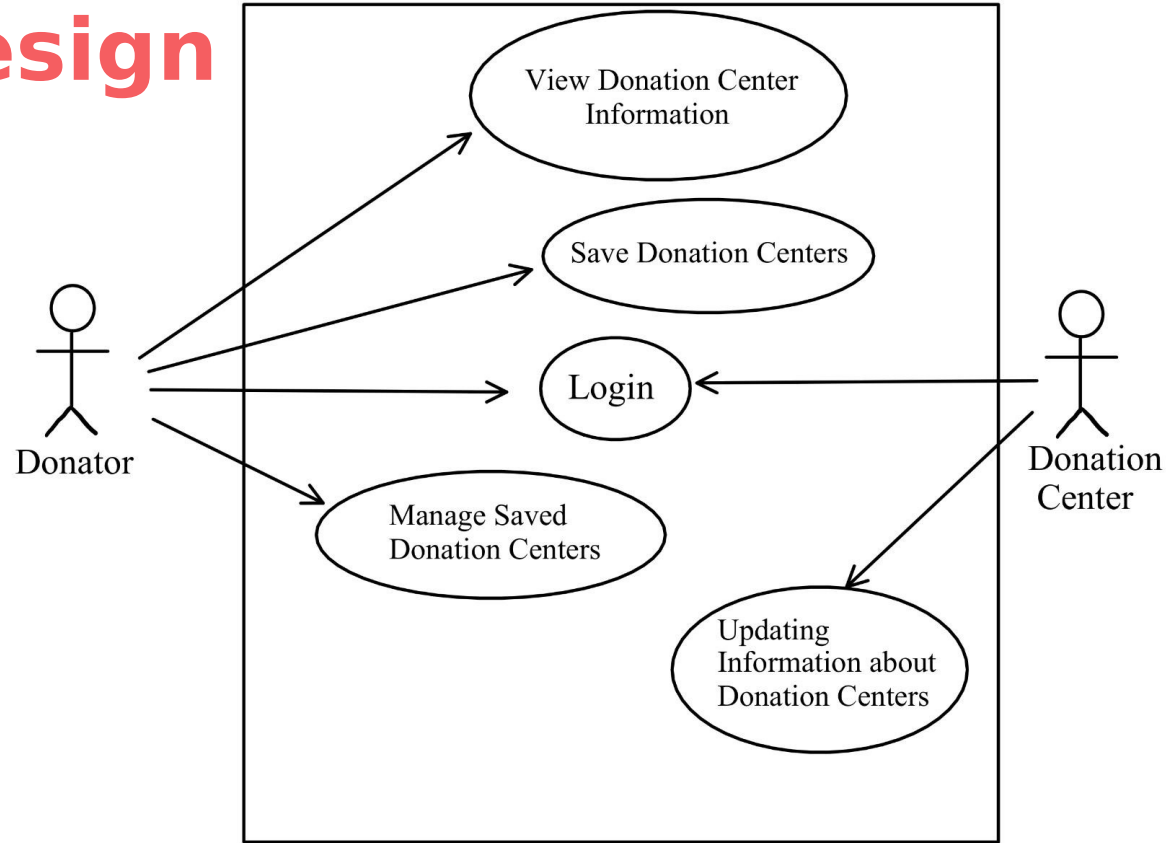
What Pitch'n does

- Each time someone sees that a Donation center needs something, they can see the effect they created right away, getting a sense of satisfaction right away making them want to donate again.
- People do not have to donate on sites that take their money and they never see it again. Instead they can go to the nearest Donation center and also see what kind of difference they are making.

Analogy

Pitch'n is kind of like a notice board, where charities can have all their information in one place for everyone to see rather than having individual flyers spread around where people may not see them.

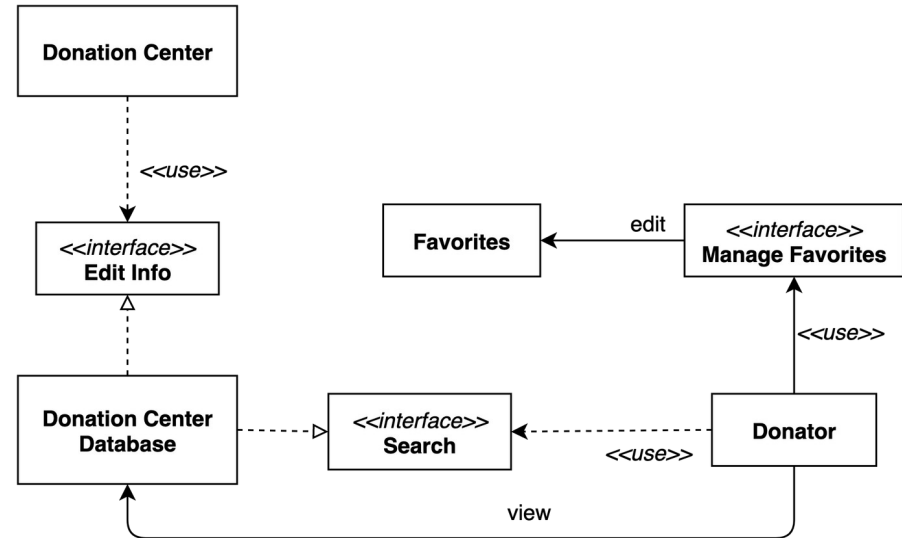
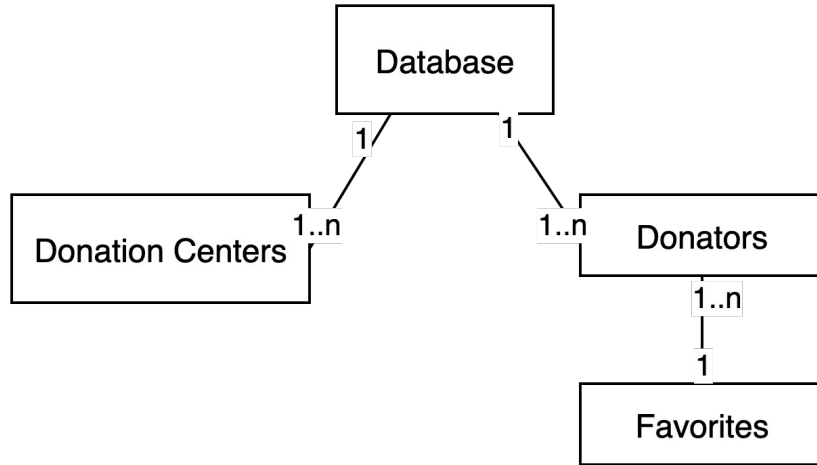
Solution-design



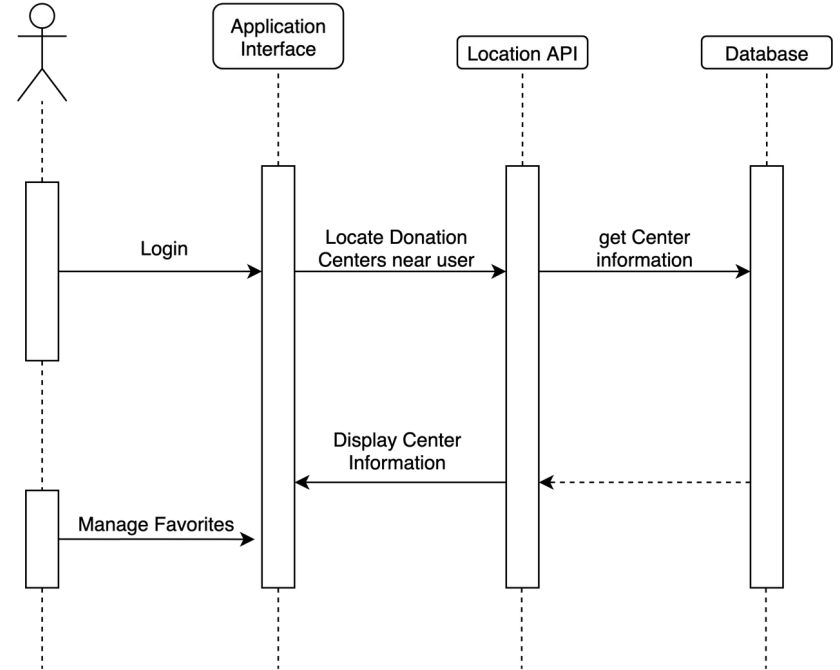
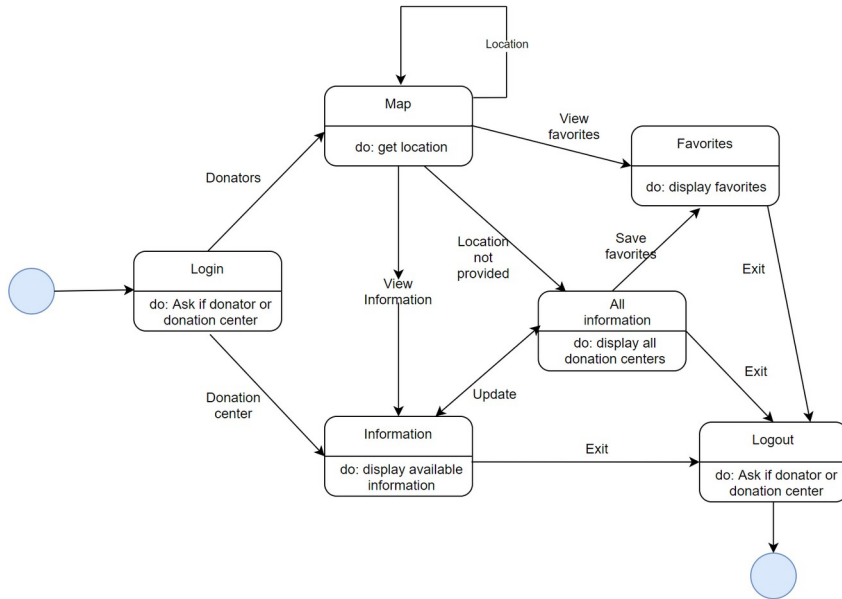
System requirements

- Display donation centers within 10 miles of the user's location
- Enable users to bookmark centers and review centers
- Connect to the Google Maps API
- Display updated and accurate information

Class diagrams



Behavioral models



Advantages of Pitch'n

- Reduce the amount of unusable donations
- Spread awareness of what should and shouldn't be donated
- Improve donation rates outside of the holiday season
- Make charities more effective in their goals

Future Work

- Complete and implement the project in Spring 2021
- Implement a search function for specific items
- Establish a connection to charity donation pick-up services

Post Implementation Review

- Met the project deadlines on time
- Created comprehensive documentation
- Split the work evenly
- Inconsistent formatting of the documentation
- Not enough diagrams for support
- Difficulties in scheduling work due to time zone differences
- Get clarification on documentation details earlier
- Seek assistance regarding analysis diagrams
- Establish a more concrete work schedule

Q&A

Any
questions?