



VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STUDY PROGRAM

Problem-Based Project

Leisure Map Application

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Abstract

The aim of this project was to develop an application for Android devices that would ensure that the most suitable leisure places and activities would be proposed based on the user's selected preferences. Essentially, there is an implemented filtering feature that can be applied to find the most appropriate places and significantly facilitate the decision while choosing where to spend the free time. A filtering feature will include properties such as rating, place type and the distance to POI based on the user's current location or the city where the place is located. Moreover, the application will analyze the user's data during the session while using collaborative filtering. Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC) will be used to find the most similar user and depending on that recommendations will be offered. Additionally, there will be features added such as GPS, navigation and the possibility to save favorite places. Other useful functionalities as displaying weather forecasts of POI and the ability to use a search box to find desired objects manually will be enabled. With the support of a web server that manages the database, makes API calls and executes algorithmic calculations, the security and performance of the application are significantly increased.

Keywords: Android application, Collaborative filtering, Recommendation algorithm, POI recommendation, Web server

Santrauka

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Introduction

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1 Analysis

The following analysis consists of advantages, disadvantages and a general sense of feeling of the user with the aim to compare the competitiveness of other similar Android applications in the market. Three different Android applications were taken into account to determine this situation. Essentially, analyses that were taken into consideration were completed by our team. Therefore, there is a possibility that our opinions will not match users' opinions.

1.1 Analyzed applications

1.1.1 "Google Maps" by Google LLC

Advantages

- Large selection of categories - objects are categorized into different categories which makes searching for locations quicker and easier.
- "Google Maps" provide a street view which allows users to check the visual view of the location they are searching for.
- Objects have star classifications. This helps users to visually see the ratings of objects and to form expectations according to other people's reviews.

Disadvantages

- No disadvantages were found.

Conclusion

Overall "Google Maps" has great functionality and covers most of the users' needs. The application also provides users with a lot of information about objects such as pictures, ratings and reviews which helps to form an overall opinion about particular places before going there.

1.1.2 "Bikemap" by Bikemap GmbH

Advantages

- A function to see different layers of the map (3D, Night, Satellite). That helps to plan your routes depending on terrain and environment.
- A function to save routes is very useful and allows users to go through that route many times.
- A function to share routes with other users.

Disadvantages

- Most of the functions are paid. Due to this situation, an application lacks some important features like seeing different layers of the map or using offline maps.
- Annoying advertisement which promotes "Bikemap premium" every time you open the application. This is definitely the worst feature of the app.

Conclusion

Overall "Bikemap" delivers a clear example on how the application should look like. The functionality of the application is great, although most of the features are paid. The function layout is clear and comfortable for everyday use. "Bikemap" gave few great ideas for our project like using a few map layers instead of one.

1.2 Analysis conclusion

Analyzed applications helped us to generate more ideas for our team's project. It allowed us to see how similar applications look from users' perspective and which functionalities fit users' needs the best.

2 High-level overview

2.1 Users

- **Non-registered user** - has the ability to use most of the functions like search locations, use maps and navigation, read reviews and check weather in any location of Lithuania. They also will have the ability to create an account.
- **Registered user** - can use all functions available in the application including saving locations, leaving reviews and also getting recommendations from application special algorithm.
- **Admin** - can use all functions available. Has the ability to manage users and their reviews. An admin inherits use case models from the registered user.

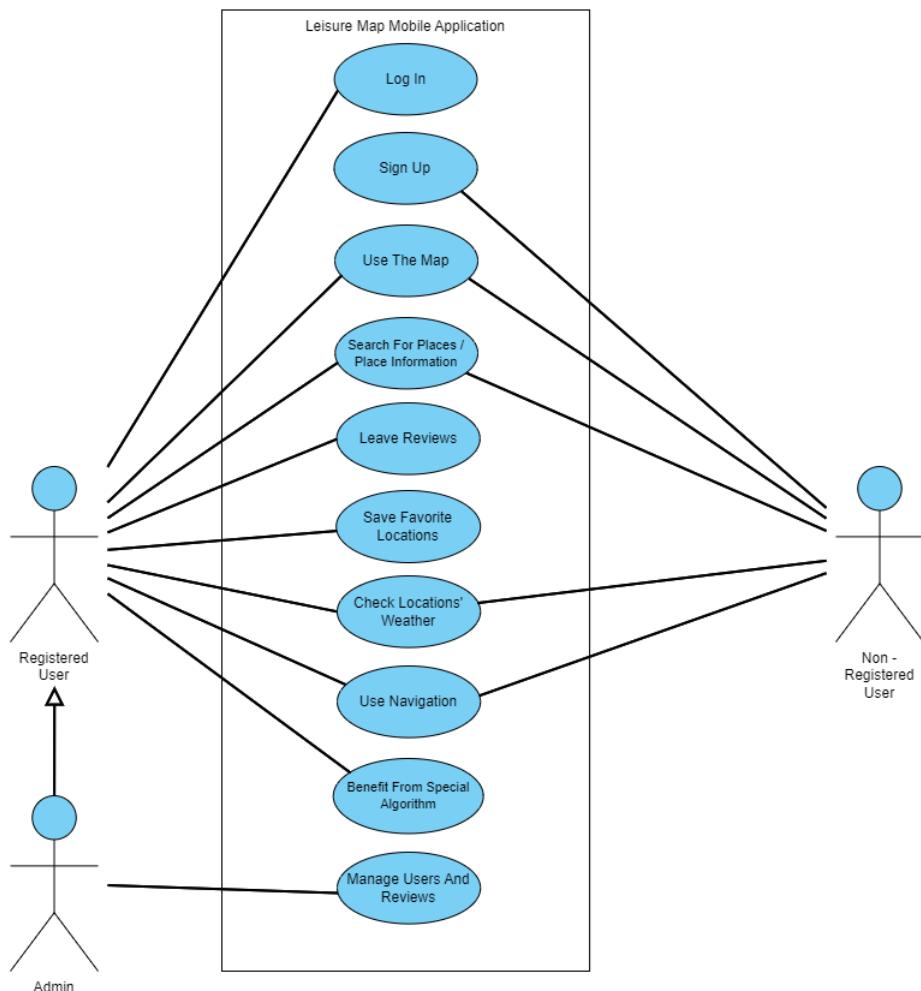


Figure 1. Use case diagram

2.2 Location

- Source code will be uploaded on GitLab repository available at: <http://.....>
- The final version of the application will be uploaded on the Google Play Store platform.

2.3 Responsibilities

- Provide users with information about all leisure places around Lithuania.
- Recommend leisure places based on collected data and preferences of users.
- Provide users with the quickest routes to reach desired leisure places.

2.4 Need

The problem with today's applications is that they do not provide any recommendations for users that they might be interested in. Our application solves this problem, essentially, the most suitable leisure place will be picked while taking in consideration users' preferences or collected data about them. Moreover, users will be navigated through the quickest route to reach the chosen leisure place.

3 Preliminary design

After starting the application users will be met with main menu. Panels can be changed by clicking buttons. "Sign In/Sign Up" panel allows users to login or register. "Map" panel shows map and users have the ability to search for leisure places. "Find Activities" panel gives users recommendations on how they could spend their free time. "Exit" button closes the application.

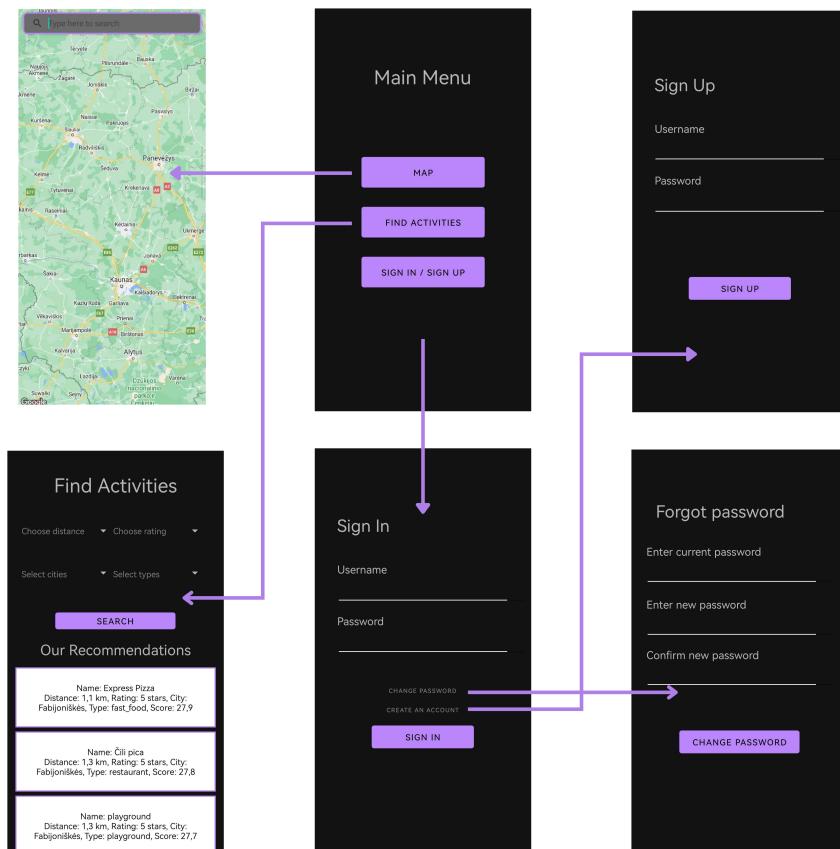


Figure 2. Preliminary design of the Android application

4 System architecture

4.1 UML Deployment diagram

The UML deployment diagram illustrates the execution architecture of the system, representing nodes as hardware components. Software components are running inside of hardware components and are marked as artifacts.

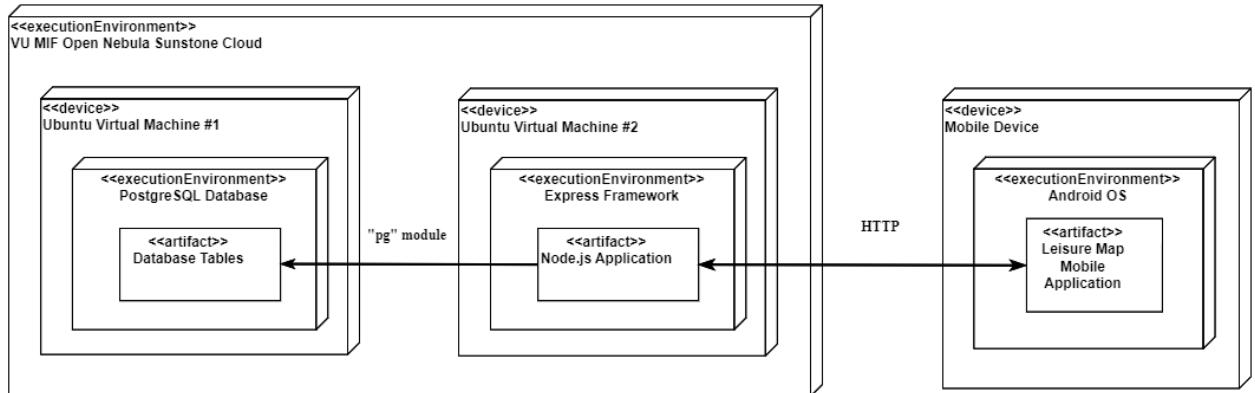


Figure 3. UML Deployment diagram

- **Ubuntu Virtual Machine #1.** A version 20.04 of Ubuntu is installed on the virtual machine which is on a cloud computing platform Open Nebula. The virtual machine with a PostgreSQL database created where log in credentials and saved favorite places. Moreover, a quantity of tags of selected objects during the session will be stored in the database.
- **Ubuntu Virtual Machine #2.** A version 20.04 of Ubuntu is installed on the virtual machine. The web server uses Express framework which runs Node.js application. Furthermore, the web server requests data from external APIs. Additionally, it manages user logins, account creations.
- **Android Mobile Device.** Leisure Map Mobile application is used on the Android Mobile Device.

4.2 Web server

A web server will improve Android application's performance by executing functions in web server rather than in application. Web server consists of functions:

- **API calls** - all API calls will be made from the web server. This ensures security of user's IP since Android application will not be directly connected to the API.
- **Caching API data** - LRU cache will be used to make reduce amount of API calls. It will increase application's performance as well it will lowers chances of getting IP blocked from API in case a web server exceeds maximum allowed requests.
- **Score algorithm** - function to calculate POI's score for recommendations.
- **Database management** - function to execute CRUD operations with database.

4.3 System context diagram

The context diagram represents external factors that are interacting with our internal system. A system context diagram is used to depict defined boundaries between the system and its environment. The internal software is interconnected with external entities that interact with the system.

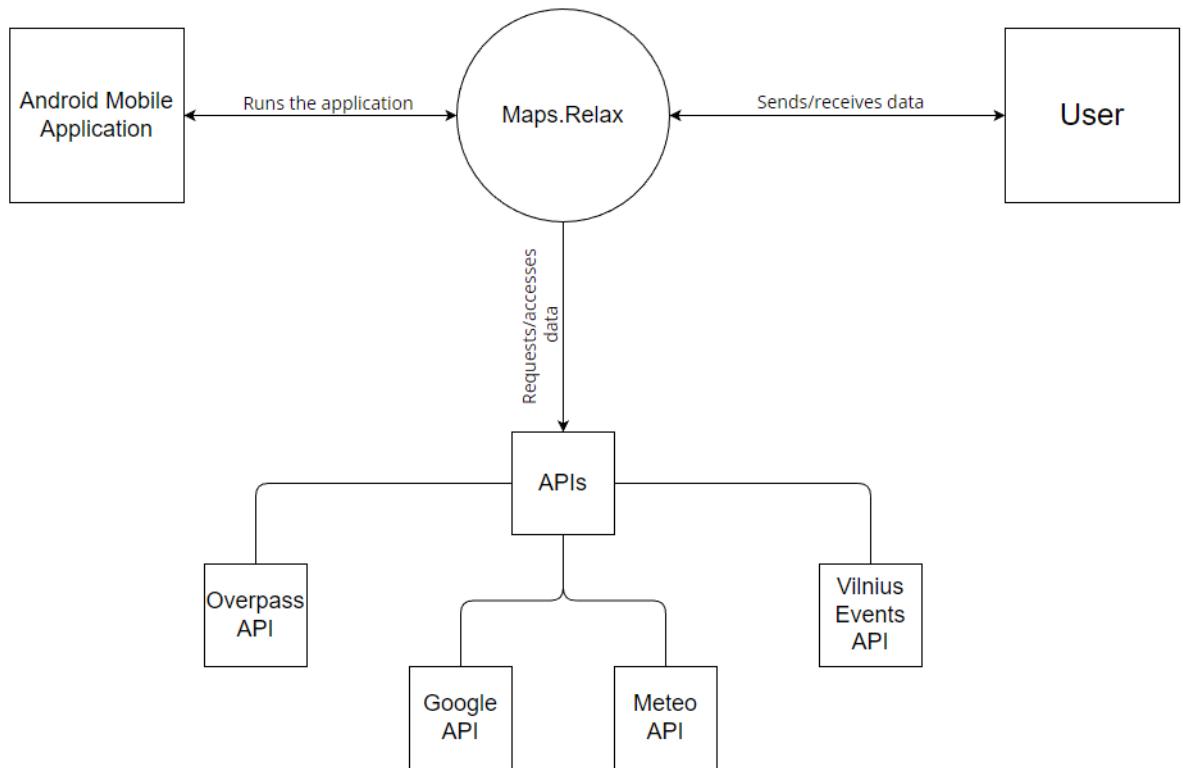


Figure 4. System context diagram

4.4 Data flow

Diagram above represent data flow with API. Android application calls web server with specific route (e.g. ip:port/weather?city=vilnius), then web server function takes parameters provided in url query and makes API call based on given parameters. After that web server pulls data from API and sends that data back to Android application.

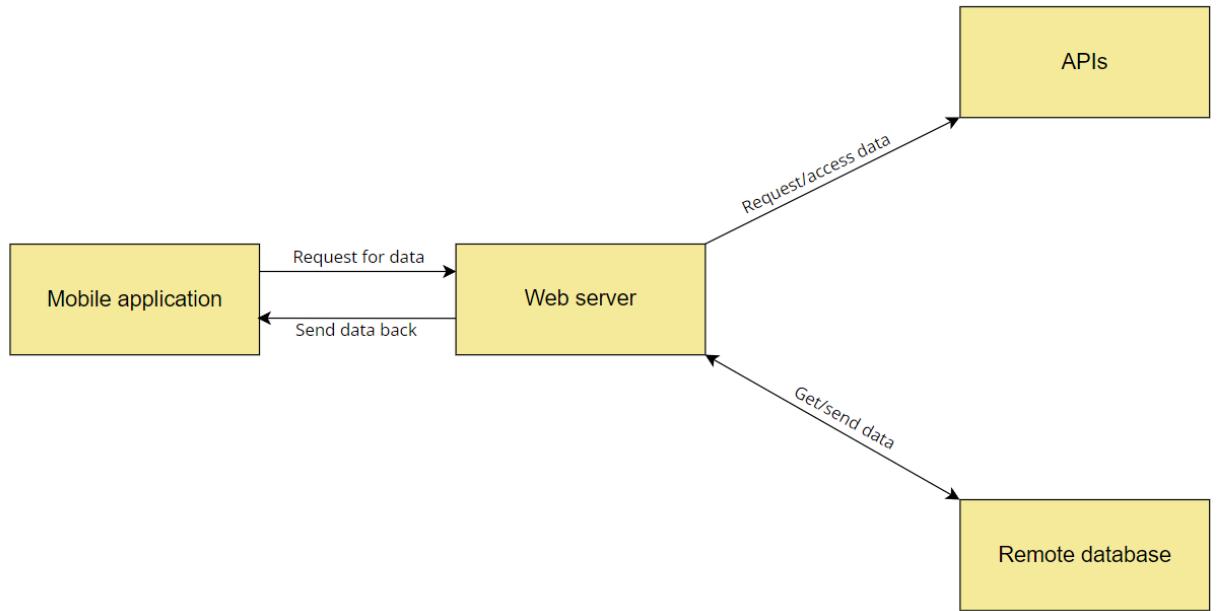


Figure 5. Data flow diagram

5 Technologies and Tools

This section describes programming languages, tools, APIs used in the project.

5.1 Programming languages

- Java programming language will be used in the process of Android application development.
- SQL is a standard language, it will be used for storing and retrieving data in databases.
- XML will be used for the user interface part of the mobile application.
- JavaScript will be used to create web server and implement its functions.

5.2 Tools

- OpenNebula is an open-source cloud computing platform that will act as a hypervisor. It will allow to monitor and manage virtual machines on a single shared environment.
- Android Studio is used for the development of Android application.
- PostgreSQL is an object-relational database management system that will be used for data storage.
- Visual Studio Code is software used for a web server code editing.
- Putty is software used to connect to web server's and database's virtual machines
- Firebase Test Lab is a service which helps to test android application activities
- Thunder Client is extension used to test web server responses

5.3 Modules and Libraries

- "lru-cache" is a JavaScript module which will be used to implement least recently used cache.
- "pg" is a JavaScript module which will be used to connect web server to database.
- "chai" is a JavaScript module which will be used for web server unit testing.
- Volley is a library to facilitate networking for Android apps that enables HTTP requests such GET or POST, essentially, send and receive data from the web server.

5.4 APIs

- Overpass API - provided by OpenStreetMap which gives the ability to see different locations on the map.
- Google Maps API - for getting maps, distance, routes, getting reviews and ratings of locations.
- Vilnius Events API - providing information about events in Vilnius city.
- Meteo API - providing information about the weather in Lithuania.

6 Functional Requirements

6.1 Sign In/Sign Up features

- Users will have the ability to create accounts.

6.2 Live/open source map

- Users will have the ability to see their current location and look for leisure places.

6.3 Search of leisure places

- Users will have the ability to search for specific objects particularly in Lithuania and will be provided with additional information such as working hours and reviews.

6.4 Quickest routes

- Users will have the ability to search for the quickest routes to reach their desired leisure place.

6.5 Rating leisure places

- Registered users will have the ability to rate leisure places from one to five stars.

6.6 Saving favorite locations

- Registered users will have the ability to save locations.

6.7 Leisure place recommendations

- Corresponding to users' current location, preferable type of activity, leisure place's rating, similar users preferences the algorithm will find the most suitable options for users to spend their free time.

6.8 About

- Users will have the ability to familiarize with general information about the app.
- Users will have the ability to look through security and privacy policies.

7 Non-functional Requirements

7.1 Compatibility

- The app will be compatible with Android 9.0 and greater. No future plans to make the application compatible with iOS.

7.2 Internationalization

- A supported language on the app by default will be English. More languages will be implemented in future updates.

7.3 Usability

- Any user who has Android mobile phone with Android version 9.0 or greater will be able to fully utilize applications features.

7.4 Reliability

- The application should not have any performance issues or any bugs that would prevent user from using the application.

7.5 Security

- Sign up feature will not use any real names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers in order to prevent users personal information.
- Passwords will be encrypted in mobile application and will stay encrypted during all processing and safely stored in remote database.

8 Algorithms

8.1 Overpass API data updating algorithm

```
function(request, response){  
    Request data from Overpass API  
    Parse received data to JSON type  
    FOR(run loop until i equals to received data array length - 1){  
        From received data get object`s[i] latitude and longitude  
        Using 'local-reverse-geocoder' module find and assign city that is closest to the object[i]  
        Send query to remote database{  
            IF object[i] id from data does not exist in the table 'place' THEN  
                Send query to remote database{  
                    Insert object[i] into the table 'place'  
                }  
            }  
        }  
    }  
    Send response that update is completed  
}
```

Figure 6. Overpass API updater algorithm

Algorithm used to find new objects that does not exist in the database. The function starts by calling web server route '/update/overpassapi/leisure'. Firstly, algorithm requests leisure place data from Overpass API. Then loop starts and using 'local-reverse-geocoder' node module it assigns closest city to the object[i]. Next algorithm checks if object[i] exists in our remote database. Lastly, if the object[i] does not exits then it gets added to the database table 'places'.

8.2 Storing weather forecast in LRU cache algorithm

```
function (request, response) {  
    Request city name in query parameter  
    Parse city name so that the first letter is capital  
    Send query to remote database to check if the city exists{  
        IF the city exists with name provided in query parameter THEN  
            Send query to remote database to get city id  
            Convert city id from string to integer  
            IF cache is not empty with id of the city THEN  
                Send weather forecast data to the user  
            ELSE  
                Insert city name into Meteo API URL  
                Encode URL so that 'request' module accepts Lithuanian letters  
                Make new API call with encoded URL  
                Send weather forecast data to the user  
                Save data in LRU cache and store it for one hour  
            ELSE  
                Send response that city does not exist  
    }  
}
```

Figure 7. Storing weather forecast in LRU cache algorithm

This algorithm stores Meteo API weather forecast data and figures in which cache to put which city. Function starts when route '/weather?city=' gets called with a parameter, e.g. 'Vilnius'. Then algorithm checks if the city exists in our database. If city does exists then query is sent to remote database to get the city id. Then algorithm check if cache with id of the city is not empty. If there is data in that cache then data is function returns data to the user. If cache is empty then algorithm makes new API call, sends data back to the user and saves it in cache with that city id for one hour.

8.3 Android Application object request algorithm

```
Instantiate new request to webever using Volley library

onResponse(response) {

    try {

        Get array from JSON

        FOR(run loop until i is array length - 1)

            Get JSON object

            Get object[i] latitude, longitude, type, name, city and rating

            IF objects does not have a name

                name is equal to type

                Location startPoint is equal to users' position

                Location endPoint is equal to objects' position

                Calculate distance between user and object

                Calculate score of object

                Create new object(name, distance, latitude, longitude, rating, city, type, score)

                Add object to objects list

    }

    catch(JSON exception) {

        Print stack trace

    }

    Sort list using sortList() function

    FOR(run loop for each object in objects list)

        Create textView for object using createTextViews() function

    }, response Error Listener {

        On Error Response displays error using Toast

    }

    Add request to queue
```

Figure 8. Android Application's request to the web server

Android Application requests data from the web server. Data is received in JSON format. Objects are taken from JSON array and data of each object such as name and city is taken, moreover, distance and score is calculated for each object. New object is created and added to list. Later the list is sorted using sorting algorithm.

8.4 Android Application object search algorithm

```
Marker currentMarker equals to null
searchView.setOnQueryTextListener(new SearchView.OnQueryTextListener() {
    public boolean onQueryTextSubmit(String s) {
        location is equal to user's input from the search box
        for (run a loop through each city marker) {
            IF city marker title in lower cases equals to entered location name in lower cases {
                set listview as invisible
                pointToPosition(city marker position)
                animate camera on the map(update camera to new latitute and longitude city position under zoom level 10)
            }
        }
        for (run a loop through each town marker) {
            IF town marker title in lower cases equals to entered location name in lower cases {
                set listview as invisible
                pointToPosition(town marker position)
                animate camera on the map(update camera to new latitute and longitude town position under zoom level
13)
            }
        }
        IF currentMarker does not equal to null {
            remove current marker
            set currentMarker value to null
        }
        for (run a loop through each object) {
            IF object name in lower cases equals to entered location name in lower cases {
                IF currentMarker equals to null {
                    currentMarker = add a marker on the map(set marker position(to latitute, longitude, title and type of
object and set color to blue)))
                    set listview as invisible
                    pointToPosition(created current Marker position)
                    animate camera on the map(update camera to new latitute and longitude of current marker position under
zoom level 15)
                }
            }
        }
    }
})
```

Figure 9. Android Application's search box and navigation to objects

A search box allows to search for cities and towns. Once, the user enter the full name of location the he will redirected to particular marker. However, for regular objects the marker is created only when user searches for the object. In a case a person enters a new name of the object, the previous marker will be removed from the map and the new marker for a new searched object will be added.

9 Testing

9.1 Android application testing

9.1.1 Firebase Test Lab

Android application tests were done using Firebase Test Lab. This service helps with automatic application activity change testing, button and text view layout on different android devices. Firebase Test Lab provides informative feedback with screenshot cluster and video material of testing progress as well as performance statistics. The service also allows uploading custom tests written by developers themselves. This option will be used to test user input information such as password and e-mail (e.g. whether the email or password user input has the correct format). Also, Test Lab gives insight about implementation issues and errors that were missed while testing ourselves.

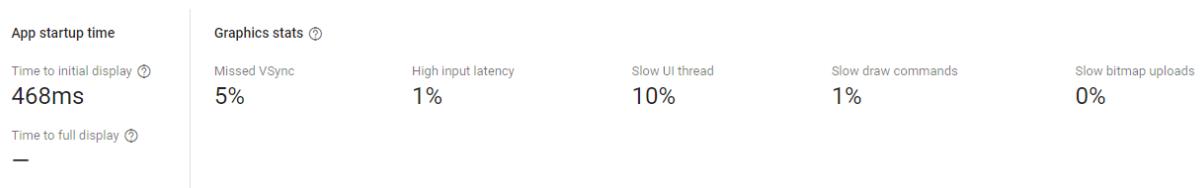


Figure 10. Android application performance statistics

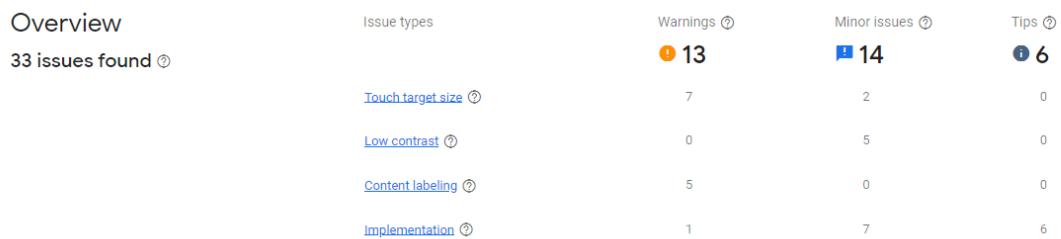


Figure 11. Test Lab AI review of applications' code

9.1.2 Instrumented tests

Activities have a set of tests which check whether all elements in the activity are created and work as intended

Activity launch tests

Test monitors whether the activity launches successfully.

```
@Test  
  
public void testLaunch() {  
  
    View view = mapAct.findViewById(R.id.map);  
  
    assertNotNull(view);  
  
}
```

Figure 12. Activity launch testing example

Element tests

Test checks if all the elements in the activity XML file are created after the activity launches

```
@Test  
  
public void testElements() {  
  
    TextView textView = login.findViewById(R.id.textView);  
    assertNotNull(textView);  
  
    TextView usernameTextView = login.findViewById(R.id.username);  
    assertNotNull(usernameTextView);  
  
    TextView passwordTextView = login.findViewById(R.id.password);  
    assertNotNull(passwordTextView);  
  
    Button buttonChangePass = login.findViewById(R.id.changePass);  
    assertNotNull(buttonChangePass);  
  
    Button buttonSignUp = login.findViewById(R.id.signUp);  
    assertNotNull(buttonSignUp);  
  
    Button buttonSignIn = login.findViewById(R.id.signIn);  
    assertNotNull(buttonSignIn);  
  
}
```

Figure 13. Activity element creation testing example

Button tests

Test checks if clickable buttons open required activities

```
@Test  
public void testButtons() {  
    onView(withId(R.id.changePass)).perform(click());  
    intended(hasComponent(ChangePassword.class.getName()));  
    pressBack();  
    onView(withId(R.id.signUp)).perform(click());  
    intended(hasComponent(SignUp.class.getName()));  
    pressBack();  
}
```

Figure 14. Activity change after button click testing example

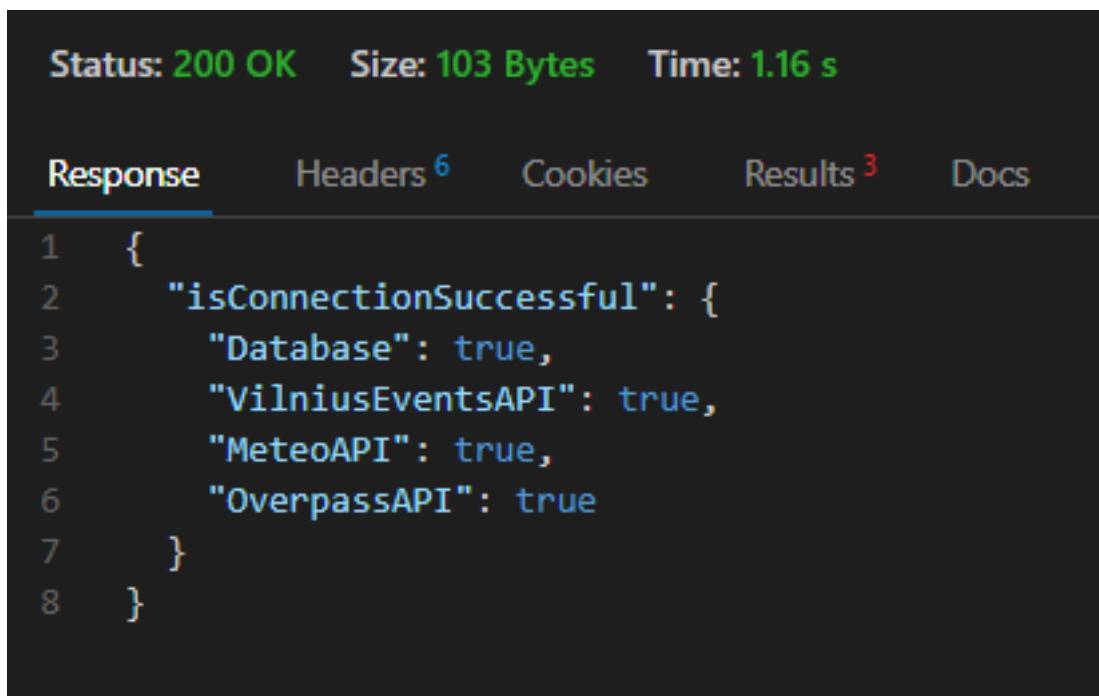
9.2 Web server testing

To test web server functions we decided to use Thunder Client extension in Visual Studio Code and Mocha framework. Extension gives the ability to send HTTP/HTTPS requests with methods GET, PUT, POST, DELETE. With Thunder Client we can manually test if SQL queries are working properly, is data we get from APIs is correct. Mocha framework tests our web server's routes and checks response codes and data type.

9.2.1 Web server connections testing

Web server has function assigned to route /testconnections that runs test function and gives back results in JSON format.

- **APIs** - to test connections with APIs we implemented a function to send 1 API call to each API. If the response status is 200 - connection with APIs was successful. If no response code or any other response code was sent - API is either down or not working.
- **Database** - to test connection with database we implemented function to connect and send simple query ("SELECT 1+1 AS SOLUTION") to the database. If the web server successfully sends a query to the database - the connection with the database was successful. Otherwise - connection with database failed.



The screenshot shows a Thunder Client interface with the following details:

- Status: 200 OK
- Size: 103 Bytes
- Time: 1.16 s
- Response tab is selected.
- Headers: 6
- Cookies: 0
- Results: 3
- Docs: 0

```
1  {
2      "isConnectionSuccessful": {
3          "Database": true,
4          "VilniusEventsAPI": true,
5          "MeteoAPI": true,
6          "OverpassAPI": true
7      }
8  }
```

Figure 15. Testing connections with APIs and our remote database

9.2.2 Testing with Thunder Client extension

We are able to manually test our web server using Thunder Client extension in Visual Code Studio. With the extension we are able to see response time of functions that makes API calls or queries to the database. We can also check response code, what data we get, data size and type. Thunder Client extensions also provides with automated testing to check all these things mentioned before.

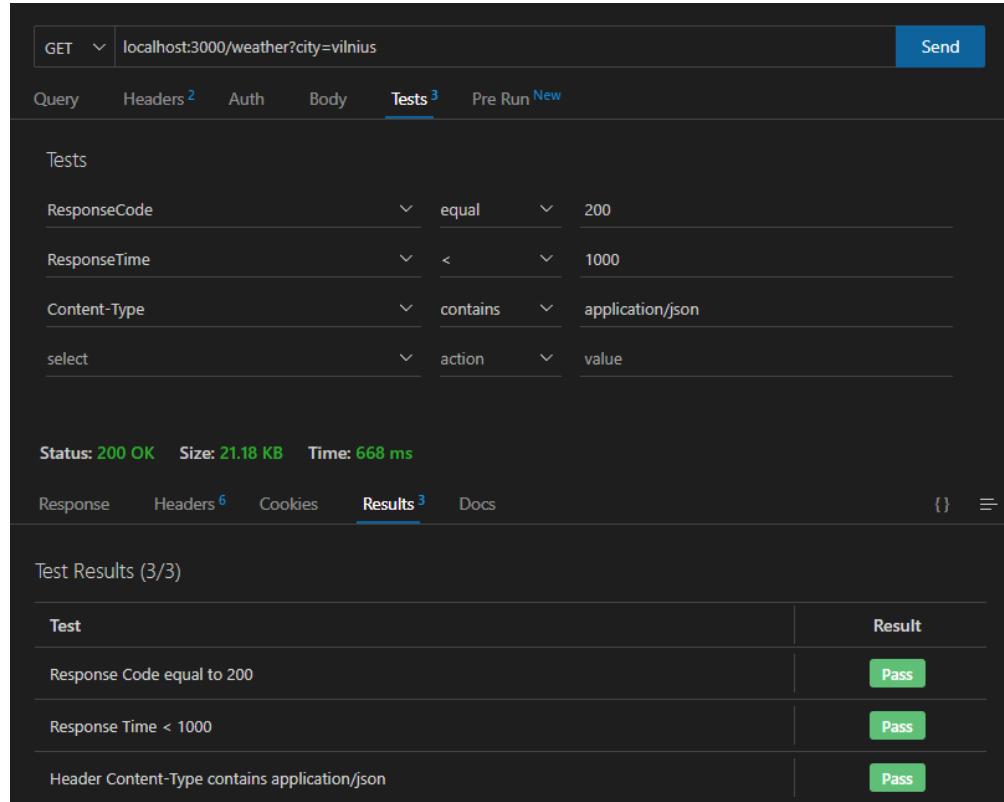


Figure 16. Thunder Client extension test example

9.2.3 Unit testing with Mocha framework

Mocha framework was used to test web server functions where API calls and SQL queries are made.

Test case 1: testing error handling We are able to test if web server's functions are able to handle errors. In this case we tested how function which sends queries to remote database handles errors. 2 queries were sent to the database. Test is expecting code 200 because function sends response code 200 if everything is fine. Otherwise response code is 404 and test fails.

```
/GET table place that exists
  ✓ it should GET all places from database (2116ms)

/GT GET table locations that does not exist
  1) it should GET all places from database

  1 passing (2s)
  1 failing

  1) /GET table locations that does not exist
     it should GET all places from database:

      Uncaught AssertionError: expected { Object (_events, _eventsCount, ...) } to have status code 200 but got
        404
```

Figure 17. Testing error handling with database queries

Test case 2: testing API calls With this test we can check if we get data back from API and if the data is JSON type. In this case three routes were called to get data from three different APIs. If response code is 200 and data type of response is JSON test succeeds. Otherwise test would fail.

```
/GET weather
  ✓ it should GET weather forecast for Vilnius city (659ms)

/GET events
  ✓ it should GET Vilnius Events data (907ms)

/GET restaurants
  ✓ it should GET restaurant data from Overpass API (3754ms)

3 passing (5s)
```

Figure 18. Testing APIs

Test case 3: testing account creation With this test we can see if account creation function works. In this case test tried to create 2 accounts with usernames 'gediminas' and 'arthur'. Response codes indicate account creation status. Account with username 'gediminas' was successfully created because username was available while account with username 'arthur' was not.

```
Creating user that does not exist
  ✓ it should should create new user (259ms)

Creating user that already exists
  1) response code should be 404 because user already exists

  1 passing (301ms)
  1 failing

  1) Creating user that already exists
     response code should be 404 because user already exists:
        Uncaught AssertionError: expected { _events, _eventsCount, ... } to have status code 200 but got
404
```

Figure 19. Testing APIs

Conclusions and Recommendations

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