Untitled Itinerary Scheduling App (Title TBA)

Group G-9
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Introduction

This proposal outlines the development of a travel itinerary application that combines itinerary creation and reminders for streamlined vacation planning.

Many vacations suffer from poor planning, resulting in underwhelming experiences. Existing apps offer partial solutions, but there's a gap for an application that seamlessly combines itinerary creation and reminders.

We propose a versatile travel itinerary app that automates schedule generation, including user preferences and reminders for events like flights, enhancing the travel planning experience.

The motivation behind this project is to improve vacation experiences by introducing structured schedules, similar to their role in academics and daily life.

This proposal introduces a project to develop a travel itinerary app that addresses fragmented vacation planning and offers a convenient, all-in-one tool.

Problem Definition

Poorly planned vacations can be very common depending on the person. Some people are very disciplined and are able to get as much out of their vacation as they wanted or more from planning in advance, while others can end up making their time off underwhelming due to not going to places on time, having too much time to fit very little things, or even spending too much time in certain events.

People usually attribute laziness or freedom to vacation; not needing any constraints on anything and doing whatever they feel like doing. Ironically, putting some constraints in the form of a schedule can make vacations feel more fun than having no constraints. It allows you to maximize what you get out of it, allowing you to go to a reasonable amount of places you want, do activities that fancy you, and etc.

There already exist applications that somewhat solve the problem discussed above. Wanderlog is an itinerary app that is more map-centric as it has the ability to optimize routes and shows what is around the locations you wish to visit. Tripit is able to solve this problem

by creating its own comprehensive itinerary, basically doing what Wanderlog does and more by utilizing a map with times. However, it seems more fitting towards a business traveller as it has tools more focused on ease of getting on flights.

There does not exist an application that can exist both as an itinerary creator and a reminder to help keep people on track, which is what we wish to do.

Proposed Solution
We will create an application that is able to make an entire travel itinerary on its own. This will allow for everybody to have the ability to look at all their options while planning for a vacation, giving them the freedom to go wherever they please and do whatever they want.

It will work similarly to the sites provided that are able to find the best deals on everything and put it into a schedule. This schedule will also allow for details inside to be modified for those using it to make time for activities to be done during the trip such as food, sightseeing, etc.

The application will function as a simple schedule app. Upon startup, the system will prompt the user for their arrival time and departure from the destination to generate the schedule. The user can ask for an alarm for upcoming scheduled events, such as a reminder for the flight. The user will also be asked about the location they are visiting, with an option to remember their location and set a reminder that will send a notification around the time the user is scheduled to arrive.

The system will pull up a database (how this will be added is not yet decided upon) of all attractions in that area. The user can choose where they wish to go and the specified time that they wish to spend at that time. It will check if there is enough time to spend in the desired attraction before adding it too. **The user can add their own attractions if the ones they want are not there, or are personal things they plan to do.** If possible, the feature to check if the locations are close enough to travel without needing any other form of transportation. If not, it can recommend rental cars, public transport, etc. (however we have no idea if we are able to do this, this is an extra feature we might try to add)

Itineraries will be saved by user account into a database so they won't have to keep it saved on their phone to save storage - same with searching for attractions in order to save space on their phone.

Motivation
Schedules have been really helpful for us in our daily lives, allowing us to be on top of whatever it is that needs to be scheduled. In an academic setting, it is crucial for students to have a schedule in order to balance their studies, especially in university as it is where classes are their most grueling. Wouldn't it be really useful to bring it to our vacations too? It's nice to be laid back when having time off, but some constraints can help make the most of your free time.

Such a program will allow for further streamlining of the travel planning process, helping some people who lose track of time "maximize" their vacation by experiencing as much as

they want instead of losing track of time and missing out on potential opportunities to visit other places.

Conclusion:

In summary, this project addresses the challenge of fragmented planning by proposing a user-centric solution. The problem is the disjointed nature of coordinating various aspects. Our motivation is to simplify the entire planning process, offering a convenient, all-in-one tool.

Estimated Timeline:

Oct 1 - Oct 10: Start working on base ER diagram, start learning about using a python (this was our decided choice of language) framework (probably going to be Django) in preparation for starting this project. Also possibly starting drafts on either the Sequence and UML or HIPO and DFD diagrams.

Oct 10 - Oct 20: Work on RM, finalize drafts on diagrams, keep getting the hang of framework

Oct 20 - Nov 10: Finish diagrams, maybe start programming - **diagrams will be done first before coding is started**

Nov 10 - Last week of classes: Work on actual project

- Nov 10 - Nov 17: Gather/create databases, connect database to program, start to work on features
- Nov 17 - Nov 24: Continue working on features, if done early within the week attempt to port program onto mobile
- Nov 24 - Dec 3: Attempt to port program onto mobile, maybe add the extra transport information feature if there is extra time

Sources

https://www.tripit.com/web - Tripit
https://wanderlog.com/ - Wanderlog