Overview

Project Name: Spark Bytes
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Purpose: To allow for sharing of food providing events on the BU campus.
Stakeholders: Event planners, BU faculty

Scope of Work

On campus, you are often looking to find events to attend that are enjoyable and an opportunity to meet new people. The challenge comes, however, when the need to eat food is also present. You never can tell if these events are ones where food will be provided, and so you may skip the event, missing the chance to meet your new best friend, future employer, or generally have a fun time. All this because you needed to eat. Spark Bytes aims to eliminate this dilemma by making the food options at on-campus events public information. Instead of choosing to visit the dining hall again, you can attend an educational, inspirational, or conversational event while having the opportunity to eat at the same time.

As a user of this app, you will be able to select between different options for event types, food types, locations, and times to fit your preferences, interests and schedules.

Functional Requirements

Key Features

- User sign-up and sign-in
    - Security requires authentication of BU accounts, allowing only valid students and faculty to use the service.
    - Allows for storing user preferences such as location, allergies and other dietary restrictions
- Map
    - Allow for finding food & events nearby that are both tasty to your mouth and your brain

- Search
  - Search for events that are interesting, or food that you like to eat
- Friends
  - Ability to add other users as "friends"
- Sharing
  - Send events to friends, create groups, and plan outings together all within the app
- Food restrictions
  - Allow users to input their food preferences and restrictions, which can be allergies, religious or other personal reasons
- Event hosting
  - As faculty or even other students who are planning events, users should be able to create an event, add food, and invite other users to their event.

Non-Functional Requirements

Usability
- Clean, clear, fast interface that allows users to quickly find exactly what they are looking for

Performance
- Little to no loading time for navigation within the app
- Fast & responsive API to support the requirement above

Security
- OAuth & SSO with BU account for allowing only permitted users in
- Keep personal data protected on a secure database (i.e. not on campus)

Technical Requirements

Platforms

- The ideal candidate for a platform is mobile, as students can then find options for food wherever they are
- Building a web application would be an easier approach, however, and may be the right choice for this project.

Integrations

- Maps API
  - For serving location data about the user and nearby events with food

Constraints and Assumptions

Constraints

- TIME (Always the biggest)
  - The time that we have to design and build this project is going to be the most limiting factor.
- Access to information
  - Getting information about events and food, either from some predefined source or through crowdsourcing, will prove difficult.
- Technical ability
  - Although the app is best suited for mobile, it is likely that given our knowledge and time, it would be easier to make this a web-app.

Assumptions

- Users don't want to use the app, they want food. Make sure they can get food as quickly and easily as possible.

Risks

- User participation
  - If this app is to rely on users to input data about events and their food, low participation in this aspect will be fatal to the success of the app. Advertising and some form of incentives can help boost usage, which should then be self-perpetuating
- Security and data-protection

- Keeping users' data safe and secure will be very important and challenging. To ensure this is taken care of, we must keep up to date on security practices, and implement security measures wherever we can.