

9 October 2017

Website Project Plan

For our website project we will use data from the [National UFO Reporting Center](#) to construct a database in which users can search for specific UFO sightings based on city, state, UFO shape, or the date sighted. The data set also includes a summary which gives a detailed account of what was seen. The National UFO Reporting Center website states, “We hope that this information will prove to be useful to the general public and the UFO community at large,” which indicates that we have permission to use this data for academic purposes. Additionally, all photos used on the UFO website were found using by filtering all Google Image results to usage rights marked as “labeled for reuse.”

The intended audience for our UFO sighting database includes: conspiracy theorists, science fiction novelists, sociologists, and extraterrestrial enthusiasts. A conspiracy theorist may use this website to help prove that aliens are real, to connect with those who claim to have seen a UFO, or to gain information on where they would most likely be able to spot a UFO themselves. A science fiction novelist may use the report summary from various UFO sightings as inspiration for an upcoming novel or as means for gathering information on how to depict a UFO sighting in their work. A sociologist may use this data to study the culture surrounding UFOs; including determining when the general fascination with extraterrestrial life began and whether any geographical or date-related trends exists in the data. Finally, one who enjoys learning about extraterrestrial life may use the UFO database for educational or entertainment purposes.

There are many functional requirements for the UFO sighting database, including:

- The system must allow the user to search by date, city, state, shape, and keyword
- The system must store the data from the National UFO reporting center
- The system must allow the user to filter their search by date, city, state, and shape
- The system must display the summary, city, state, date sighted, shape, duration, latitude, and longitude for each reported UFO sighting
- The system must display a list of all UFO sightings in the database
- The system must allow the user to filter the list of all UFO sightings by date, city, state, and shape

There are also a few non-functional requirements which the UFO sighting database must uphold:

- The system shall load data/results within 3 seconds of user search
- The system shall be accessible to color-blind users
- The system shall have the ability to be “tabbed-through”
- The system shall be updated with recent reports of UFO sightings every month

Key Features (Current Phase):

1. The system will display the main sections of the website clearly in the page navigation.
2. The system will include a search tool for the user to find specific sightings.
3. When the user selects a specific sighting, the information will be presented in a clear and organized way, which includes the summary, city, state, date sighted, shape, and duration.

Key Features (Plans for Phase Two):

1. The search tool will include a filter which allows users to search by date, city, state, shape, or keyword
2. The website will display a complete list of all UFO sightings in the database; this list will have the ability to be filtered by date, city, state, or shape.
3. The homepage will feature recent UFO news and a “Featured UFO Sighting of the Week.”
4. The system will allow users to submit their own UFO sightings.
5. The system will allow users to sign up for a mailing list.
6. The system will include a “UFO Store” which allows users to purchase various alien-related items.