

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Connekt is a web application designed to support new graduates and job seekers in overcoming the challenges of entering the workforce while also managing the demands of daily life. The app aims to be an all-in-one resource, blending job search functionality with personalized lifestyle tools to provide a comprehensive, user-friendly experience. It is particularly helpful for individuals who are either starting their careers or seeking a career change, and who also require assistance in finding a living location that balances proximity to work with essential everyday services like grocery shopping, entertainment, and more.

One of the core features of Connekt is its job availability search. By leveraging the Indeed API, the app allows users to find job openings tailored to their specific skills and preferences. Additionally, Connekt delivers personalized job recommendations, helping users discover opportunities they may have otherwise missed.

Each user has access to a personalized dashboard, providing a clear snapshot of their job search progress, upcoming deadlines, and saved opportunities. The app also features an innovative map radius function powered by Esri's web mapping tool. This allows users to visualize their ideal job location and the distance to critical daily tasks, ensuring a good balance between career and lifestyle.

To further enhance its value, Connekt integrates lifestyle features such as grocery store locations, movie theaters, and entertainment options, allowing users to consider all aspects of their daily life when choosing a job or relocating. This holistic approach ensures users can not only pursue their career goals but also maintain a healthy work-life balance.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Connekt web application project is an ideal fit for this class as it integrates key concepts and skills I've learned across multiple courses. Specifically, the project applies my understanding of web development, API integration, and user experience design—skills I have built throughout my previous coursework at LMU.

In terms of technical difficulty, Connekt strikes the right balance between challenge and feasibility. While the app requires integrating multiple components such as the Indeed API for job searches, Esri's web mapping tool for geospatial functionality, and lifestyle data for entertainment and shopping location features, these tasks are well within the scope of what can be accomplished in one semester. Additionally, the project will challenge me to effectively use front-end and back-end development techniques, including JavaScript and React, which are tools I am familiar with but have yet to apply in a project of this scope.

The skills required to complete this project are ones I have developed through previous classes, including database management, web design, and API usage. However, this project will push me to refine and apply these skills in a more complex and integrated way.

The project is not only interesting to me, but it also holds potential appeal for my classmates. The theme of supporting job seekers and new graduates resonates with the challenges many students face. Overall, Connekt provides an exciting opportunity to apply, extend, and refine my technical abilities in a meaningful way within the timeline of a single semester.