

CSCE 608

Project 1

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Design and Implementation of a National Ride-sharing System between Cities in United States

1. Introduction

Due to the conflict between global warming and growing demand of transportation, people tend to choose other ways to travel, such as bicycling and public transportation. Among these options, the ride-sharing is the most promising way that deserves further developing.

One of the benefits about ride-sharing is that it literally reduces the number of cars on the streets. When there is less congestion, there would be typically less driving stress. In other words, less time spent behind the wheel, and less risk of car accidents occur. In economic aspect, the longer we avoid accidents and car insurance claims, the lower our premium would go.

Even if we successfully avoid an accident, the stop-and-go traffic would cause a major headache. Anyone who drives with such a traffic would be exhausted and frustrated when he finally gets off the car. Thus, ride-sharing offers us a great opportunity to increase the occupancy of vehicles and efficiency of our transportation system. In reality, many states reward carpoolers with their own private comfort lane. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) claims that in most cases, these high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are both more efficient at handling congestion and safer than their unrestricted counterparts.

Considering the environmental issue, ride-sharing can contribute to reducing our carbon footprint. When there are fewer cars running on the street, it means that there would be fewer exhaust pipes putting out harmful emissions. Moreover, the DOT reports that HOV lanes have positively affected surrounding air quality.

In addition to the economic and environmental issues mentioned, ride-sharing also offers a healthy social alternative to a solo commute. This is absolutely true when we need to drive for a very long journey. Instead of traveling alone with radio channels, it is better to ride with other interesting colleagues and make new friends.

Therefore, based on the benefits we have discussed, it is important to establish a ride-sharing system in our life. In this project, we developed a national ride-sharing system between various cities in United States. The system is called "PickMeUp", where anyone traveling between two cities can post his or her ride information. People can update and withdraw their posts anytime in case of emergency. As passengers, we can search and select any available ride between two locations. Moreover, passengers can cancel their booked rides whenever they change their mind. Note that this ride-sharing system does not involve with payment module. It is just an information gathering system, where any user can pick or post their rides based on those information in the database. Furthermore, some of the data in the current system are not real, especially the user information, such as user name.

2. Data Collection

We developed the database for this ride-sharing system using MySQL. The name of the database is “pickmeup”, consisting of five tables: users, Ride, us cities, VehicleModelYear and book_user. We collected the data of US cities from the following website: https://github.com/kelvins/US-Cities-Database/blob/master/us_cities.sql. It contains more than 1,000 tuples with city name, county, latitude and longitude. Part of the data in this table is presented in Figure 2.1.

id	id_state	city_name	county	latitude	longitude
1	2	Adak	Aleutians West	55.999722	-161.207778
2	2	Akiachak	Bethel	60.891854	-161.39233
3	2	Akiak	Bethel	60.890632	-161.199325
4	2	Akutan	Aleutians East	54.143012	-165.785368
5	2	Alakanuk	Wade Hampton	62.746967	-164.60228
6	2	Aleknagik	Dillingham	59.269688	-158.619882
7	2	Allakaket	Yukon Koyukuk	66.543197	-152.712155
8	2	Ambler	Northwest Arctic	67.46951	-156.455652
9	2	Anaktuvuk Pass	North Slope	68.11878	-151.679005
10	2	Anchor Point	Kenai Peninsula	59.788818	-151.732933
11	2	Anchorage	Anchorage	61.211571	-149.876077
12	2	Anderson	Denali	64.300693	-149.1718

Figure 2.1 Part of the data in table “us cities”.

We also collected data of vehicle from the following website: <https://github.com/n8barr/automotive-model-year-data/blob/master/data.sql>. It contains more than 1,000 tuples with the produced year, make and model. Part of the data in this table is presented in Figure 2.2:

car_id	year	make	model
1	1909	Ford	Model T
2	1926	Chrysler	Imperial
3	1948	Citroën	2CV
4	1950	Hillman	Minx Magnificent
5	1953	Chevrolet	Corvette
6	1954	Chevrolet	Corvette
7	1954	Cadillac	Fleetwood
8	1955	Chevrolet	Corvette
9	1955	Ford	Thunderbird
10	1956	Chevrolet	Corvette
11	1957	Chevrolet	Corvette
12	1957	BMW	600

Figure 2.2 Part of the data in table “VehicleModelYear”.

The rest of the data in this database is created on our own. The “user” table contains the user information, such as user name, email, password and created date. Part of the data in this table is presented in Figure 2.3.

id	username	email	password	trn_date
1	Satya	ss@gmail.com	03c7c0ace395d80182db07ae2c30f034	2016-10-11 00:18:11
2	Sardar	s@ss.com	872cacff48ab5fd129c45d25bd472de0	2016-10-11 02:38:39
3	Krishna	k@ggg.com	243bd1ce0387f18005abfc43b001646a	2016-10-11 08:43:58
4	Rahul	rah@gmail.com	439ed537979d8e831561964dbbbd7413	2016-10-11 10:47:52
5	Rahul	rah@gmail.com	439ed537979d8e831561964dbbbd7413	2016-10-11 10:48:50
6	Rahul	rah@gmail.com	03c7c0ace395d80182db07ae2c30f034	2016-10-11 10:50:14
7	Stark	mail2saideepreddy@gmail.com	202cb962ac59075b964b07152d234b70	2016-10-11 10:56:38
8	Kalyan	kalyan@123.com	028ddefe12c1d819b78727ae42fdb9d1	2016-10-11 15:56:25
9	user1	user1@gmail.com	24c9e15e52afc47c225b757e7bee1f9d	2016-10-11 23:35:41
12	iceljc	franklujc@gmail.com	123	2018-10-05 17:09:46
13	rubi	lujicheng24@126.com	123	2018-10-05 17:10:50

Figure 2.3 Part of the data in table “user”.

The “Ride” table contains all the ride information, such as user name who posted this ride, source, destination, car make, car model, start date, cost and status. Part of the data in this table is presented in Figure 2.4.

ride_id	1	name_user	source	destination	car_make	car_model	start_date	cost	booked
31	iceljc	Aguila	Ajo	Austin	1500	2018-10-10	35	0	
30	Krishna	Algona	Anita	Ford	Mustang	2018-10-06	70	1	
29	Satya	Alexander	Andrew	Ford	Mustang	2018-09-06	65	1	
28	Satya	Alden	Andover	Ford	Mustang	2018-03-06	60	1	
27	Satya	Alburnett	Anderson	Ford	Mustang	2018-06-06	55	1	
26	Satya	Albion	Anamosa	Ford	Mustang	2018-06-23	50	1	
25	Satya	Albia	Ames	Ford	Mustang	2018-03-06	45	0	
24	Satya	Albert City	Amana	Ford	Mustang	2018-09-07	40	0	
23	Satya	Akron	Alvord	Ford	Mustang	2018-07-06	35	0	
22	Satya	Ainsworth	Altoona	Ford	Mustang	2018-02-06	30	0	
21	Satya	Agency	Alton	Ford	Mustang	2018-08-06	25	0	
20	Satya	Afton	Alta Vista	Ford	Mustang	2018-07-06	20	0	
19	Satya	Adel	Alta	Ford	Mustang	2018-07-06	15	0	
18	Satya	Adair	Allison	Ford	Mustang	2018-03-06	100	0	

Figure 2.4 Part of the data in table “Ride”.

The “book_user” table contains the information about the user name who pick the ride and its corresponding ride ID. Part of the data in this table is presented in Figure 2.5.

book_id	user_name
1	Tom
2	Jim
3	Krishna
4	Ryan
5	Peter
6	John
7	Sardar
8	Ben
9	Frank
10	Larry
11	Brian
12	Tim
13	Satya
14	Dede
15	Grace

Figure 2.5 Part of the data in table “book_user”.

3. Entity-Relationship Diagram and Table Normalization

In this section, we first describe the Entity-Relationship Diagram and describe how it is implemented in our ride-sharing system “PickMeUp”. Then we use table normalization to improve the structure of database.

The ER diagram is presented in Figure 3.1. There are four entity tables (i.e., ‘user’, ‘Ride’, ‘us cities’ and ‘VehicleModelYear’) and one relation table (i.e., ‘booking’).

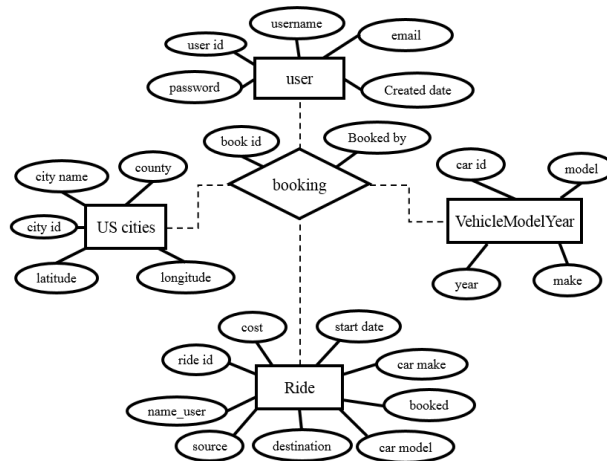


Figure 3.1 Entity-Relationship Diagram.

We notice that all the entity table has a relation ‘booking’. This is because once a passenger books a ride, all the information about this ride would be included, such as the user who posted this ride, its source and destination city, car make and model, cost, and the date of travel. Moreover, when a passenger wants to cancel his booking, it only deletes its booking information. All the other information, such as user, city, car and ride, would still maintain. Additional functions of this ride-sharing system would be illustrated in the next section.

Then we use table normalization to improve the structure of the database. First, we give the structure of each table to check if it is already in BCNF (Boyce-Codd Normal Form).

Figure 3.2 gives the structure of table “user”. Note that the nontrivial function dependency (FD) is ‘user id’ → ‘username’, ‘email’, ‘password’, ‘trn_date’. Thus this relation is already in BCNF.

#	Name	Type	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
1	id	int(11)			No	None		AUTO_INCREMENT
2	username	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
3	email	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
4	password	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
5	trn_date	datetime			No	None		

Figure 3.2 The structure of table “user”.

Figure 3.3 gives the structure of table “us cities”. Note that the nontrivial function dependency (FD) is ‘city id’ \rightarrow ‘id_state’, ‘city_name’, ‘county’, ‘latitude’, ‘longitude’. Thus this relation is already in BCNF.


#	Name	Type	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
1	id 	int(11)		UNSIGNED	No	None		
2	id_state	int(11)			No	None		
3	city_name	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
4	county	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
5	latitude	double			No	None		
6	longitude	double			No	None		

Figure 3.3 The structure of table “us cities”.

Figure 3.4 gives the structure of table “VehicleModelYear”. Note that the nontrivial function dependency (FD) is ‘car id’ \rightarrow ‘year’, ‘make’, ‘model’. Thus this relation is already in BCNF.


#	Name	Type	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
1	car_id 	int(11)		UNSIGNED	No	None		AUTO_INCREMENT
2	year	int(10)			No	None		
3	make	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
4	model	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		

Figure 3.4 The structure of table “VehicleModelYear”.

Figure 3.5 gives the structure of table “Ride”. Note that the nontrivial function dependency (FD) is ‘ride id’ \rightarrow ‘name_user’, ‘source’, ‘destination’, ‘car_make’, ‘car_model’, ‘start_date’, ‘cost’, ‘booked’. Thus this relation is already in BCNF.


#	Name	Type	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
1	ride_id 	int(10)		UNSIGNED	No	None		AUTO_INCREMENT
2	name_user	varchar(30)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
3	source	varchar(30)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
4	destination	varchar(30)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
5	car_make	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
6	car_model	varchar(50)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		
7	start_date	date			Yes	NULL		
8	cost	int(10)			No	None		
9	booked	tinyint(1)			No	0		

Figure 3.5 The structure of table “Ride”.

Figure 3.6 gives the structure of table “book_user”. Note that the nontrivial function dependency (FD) is ‘book id’ \rightarrow ‘user_name’. Thus this relation is already in BCNF.

Name	Type	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
book_id 	int(10)			No	None		
user_name	varchar(32)	utf8_unicode_ci		No	None		

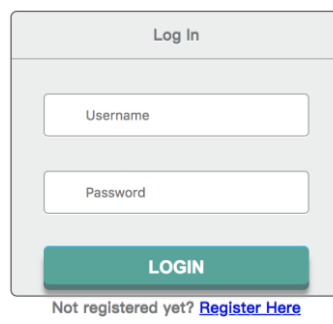
Figure 3.6 The structure of table “book_user”.

Therefore, all of the table structures remain the same because they are already in Boyce-Codd Normal Form.

4. User Interface

The “PickMeUp” ride-sharing system is composed of seven components: Login/Logout, Registration, Booked a Ride, Cancel My Booked Ride, Post a Ride, Cancel My Posted Ride and Update My posted Ride.

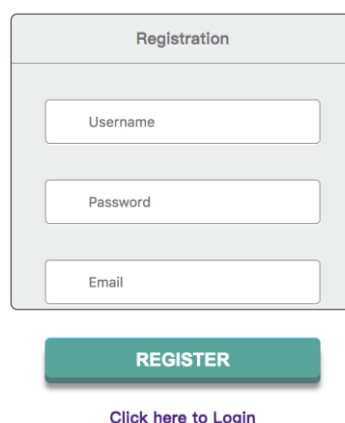
Before showing the user interface, we need to create a database called “pickmeup”. Then we import all the data we have collected or generated. To do this, we simply import the SQL files in the ‘Dataset’ folder. Once these two steps are done, we can go to our website (<http://localhost/pickup/login.php>). Figure 4.1 presents the login screen.



The login screen is a web form titled "Log In". It contains two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below these fields is a green button labeled "LOGIN". At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says "Not registered yet? [Register Here](#)".

Figure 4.1 Login screen.

Since we do not have an account yet, we can go to the “Registration” page and create our user account. Note that the user name has to be unique, otherwise the registration cannot be complete. Figure 4.2 presents the registration screen.



The registration screen is a web form titled "Registration". It contains three input fields: "Username", "Password", and "Email". Below these fields is a green button labeled "REGISTER". At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says "[Click here to Login](#)".

Figure 4.2 Registration screen.

For convenience, the two accounts have been created:

- 1) Username: iceljc, password: 123.
- 2) Username: rubi, password: 123.

We will use these two accounts for further illustration.

Once we log in, we will be directed to the home page, where there is a greeting slogan and the following instructions guide us to each module of this system. Figure 4.3 presents the home page.

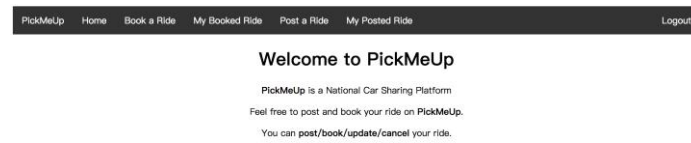


Figure 4.3 Home page.

We first go to the “Book a Ride” page, as is shown in Figure 4.4. We can pick a ride by selecting the radio button on the right. Once we have successfully booked a ride, there will be a hint below to indicate that our booking operation is completed. Then we can click “View Ride History” and move to the next page “My Booked Ride”. Note that once we book a ride, we cannot see the information about this ride in the “Book a Ride” page. This is because in this system, one ride can only pick up one passenger. Moreover, we are not allowed to select the ride which is posted by ourselves.

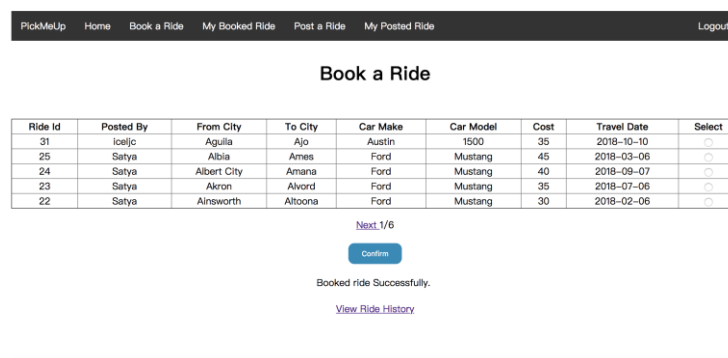


Figure 4.4 “Book a Ride” page.

After we booked a ride, we will be redirected to the “My Booked Ride” page, where we can check our booking information. If we select a radio button on the right and press the blue button below, we can cancel our booked ride and this ride can show up in the previous page again. Figure 4.5 presents the “My Booked Ride” page.

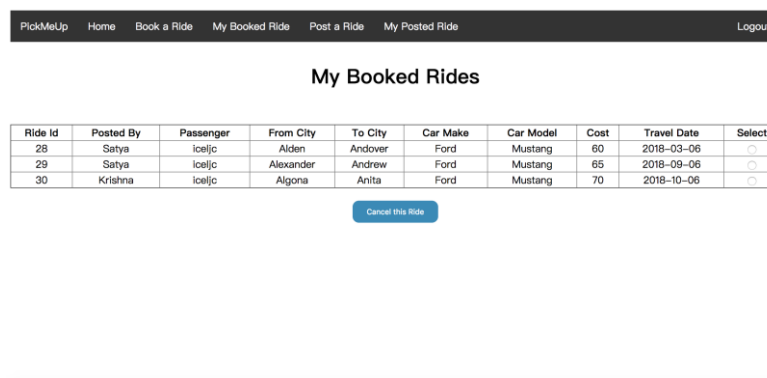


Figure 4.5 “My Booked Ride” page.

We can also post a ride information in “PickMeUp”. Figure 4.6 presents the “Post a Ride” page, where we can input our ride information, such as source and destination, car make and model, travel cost, and date of travel. Once we finish the input, click the “submit” button below and the ride information will show up in the “Book a Ride” page.

Figure 4.6 “Post a Ride” page.

After we post a ride, we can go to the “My Posted Ride” page, where we can cancel or update our posted page by doing the similar operation. Note that if we cancel the posted ride, the booking of the passenger who selected this ride gets canceled as well. Figure 4.7 presents the “My Booked Ride” page.

Ride Id	Posted By	From City	To City	Car Make	Car Model	Cost	Travel Date	Select
31	iceljc	Agulla	Ajo	Austin	1500	35	2018-10-10	<input type="radio"/>

Figure 4.7 “My Posted Ride” page.

When we finish the operations in the system, we can click “Logout” and the system will redirect us to the Login page.

(The complete code and data are at the github: <https://github.tamu.edu/iceljc/CSCE608>)

5. Discussion

To be honest, I am new to the database system because I transfer from other major. Thus, I spent some time on the SQL first and got familiar with the typical operations, such as insert, delete, select, update and etc. Then I go through part of the text book, mainly about the basics of database system, such as schema, relation, ER diagram, table normalization etc. I have tried my best to go through

the table normalization based on the application in this report. I am not completely sure that it is correct. If there is something wrong, please let me know so that I can enhance my knowledge.

Then it comes to the biggest difficulty in this project: how to use PHP to combine MySQL and create an interface. Thus, I first went to the library to check if there is any learning material about PHP and MySQL, fortunately the book “PHP & MYSQL: Novice to Ninja” gave me a great help and I started to get familiar with PHP. Moreover, I got some advice from my colleagues who used to do projects on database and their suggestion helped me fix the issues in my code.

Therefore, after going through this project, I finally get myself familiar with the basics of database system. Meanwhile, I have also gained knowledge about how to implement the MySQL query in PHP and presented these SQL operations in the user interface.