EECS 497 Lo-Fi Prototype Write-Up

Our project's Lo-Fi Prototype satisfies or addresses a significant number of our overall requirements. From a technological point of view, we have produced a website that achieves much of the baseline functionality that we are seeking. In particular, we have produced an easy-to-navigate website where one can browse tour guides and read about their backgrounds, view their rates, and view their contact information to setup a tour. This effectively achieves three of our five major project requirements. The three fulfilled requirements are: Prospective students find it easy to find a tour guide similar to themself, Prospective students find our website easy to use and navigate, and Tour guides and prospective students find it easy to communicate with one another after selection. While we will conduct final surveys during beta testing to ensure that we have achieved high feedback marks for those three requirements, from a technological development standpoint, they have been completed. However, from a platform viability standpoint, our website is lacking in terms of number of tour guides and diversity of tour guides. But, we have developed an approval process and application, which is linked on our website, and will be looking to add more tour guides before our final project is launched. Those two aspects represent our remaining two requirements and are not very technologically complex.

Regarding the transformation from our Lo-Fi Prototype into our final project, we have a number of remaining features to implement and refine. In particular, we hope to greatly refine our front-end user interface to boost our website's usability and overall appeal. We have leveraged Bootstrap to augment our pace of front-end development and feel that we have the competency to execute our design aims. Moreover, our Lo-Fi Prototype has not implemented our match-making algorithm that allows a prospective student to provide basic profile information and be matched with a "best-fit" tour guide. Though we have not coded the algorithm yet, we have outlined the match-making algorithm according to parameters that were valued highly by survey participants. Additionally, we are hoping to add a review system to our website that will allow prospective students to review tour guides (1 to 5 stars) and add a sentence about their tour experience. All review scores would be aggregated and displayed on a tour guide's profile, in addition to there being an option to view all written reviews. We hope that this review system will allow prospective students to make better decisions when selecting a tour guide and provide an added incentive for tour guides to give good tours.