

Team 33 Retrospective Report

Members:

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Mashup: <http://projects.cse.tamu.edu/rudym78653/search/>

NOTE: Since the site is hosted on the CSE Department's Projects page, the user must be using the TAMU network or VPN into the TAMU network in order to access the site.

Overall Process

This project was to make a mashup website that would take API's from several web services and combine them together to provide functionality that a user would otherwise not be able to get. The first part of the project was to create a prototype that would represent the direction that we were to try to go in with the website.

Site Functionality/Reflection

The website is called Song Shuffler and it allows the user to discover music from their favorite artist, or explore a recently found one, as well as learn about them and explore other related artists. The site takes an artist name and returns a random song, along with the lyrics, information about the artist and their top three albums, the most relevant YouTube video for the song returned, and some artists that are related (similar) to the one searched. In order to provide this functionality we used the Youtube API for the video, the MusixMatch API for the lyrics and the last.fm API for the bio and the pictures. This also meant that we reached the three API lower limit while providing needed functionality.

Although the website is functional and stable, there are a few improvements that we would like to have been able to make. Unfortunately our lyrics api, "MusixMatch", only displays up to 30% of the song that is returned. We were not able to find an lyrics api that would best fit this function and was free, some were up to \$25,000/year in order to get a key. Another improvement would be the YouTube video returned. If we had more time, it would be interesting to conduct more testing for/develop the query sent to YouTube in order to receive a video that would be the most relevant for the user. For example, official vs. lyrics vs. live vs. cover video, etc. or perhaps a combination, or all, of those options. Finally, in general more time to experiment with the design/UI of the site to find what works/jives with the function would be nice. Another "stretch" feature that we did not get to was linking the related artist names to a new search for that artist. This would have allowed people to more easily learn more about related artists.

Presentation

Going into the presentation we were pretty satisfied with what we had prepared, so the team doesn't feel like anything was missing or we weren't able to show something that was planned earlier.

Multipliers

The team agrees that the work was split evenly among all members, leading to the following assignment of multipliers:

Alex: 1.0

Julian: 1.0

Rudy: 1.0

The work was roughly split up by api and UI work. Alex was in charge of the last.fm api and collecting information about the artist/song. This includes the About and Related Artists sections of the website, but also contributed to the user study questions along with Rudy. Julian was in charge of the lyrics api and set-up the initial website design/UI. Rudy was in charge of the Youtube API and developed the prototype and questionnaire for the user study. After having most of the functionality for the api's on the website, the whole team discussed and contributed to the design/UI for the final website.