Columbus in New York – Concept

Team: MAPP (Mobile Applications)

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## Description:

Ever had the idea of participating in “The Amazing Race”? If the answer is **no**, **STOP READING!** (ahem…)

With the help of this application, you will be able to create your New York City version of “The Amazing

Race”! \*

C.N.Y.C will be a mobile application allowing users to explore and discover different parts of NYC in a fun way. It will allow them to “race” against their friends as well as discover the city on their own terms. The application will feature two distinct modes*,* which will enable a user to explore the city of New York either with a time pressure or without one. A user may decide to generate some “points of interest” and race against the clock (and/or their friends) to visit them all. Alternatively, a user can generate a list of places and select the ones that they want to visit and go to each without the added pressure of a timer.

C.N.Y.C will generate these points of interest based on available data about the New York City area via NYC Open Data (https://nycopendata.socrata.com). Initially, these points will include landmarks and parks. The program will also take into account subway locations, train timetables, and your current location to create travel directions and a timely itinerary for users to adhere to while exploring the city.

While racing and exploring the user will be awarded points or “gold coins” for each location visited to have some reward for their time spent. The more gold coins you get, the more you know the city! Visited locations will be recorded and used for future suggested routes. Users will be able to designate their friends and race against them in challenges to visit the same places. While racing, the application will use the participants’ check-ins at every major point to provide real time view of the race status.

Note that there will be a disclaimer built into the application asking the user to use discretion when visiting the locations given to them and that we are in no way responsible for their safety.

## User Stories:

1. User logs in using Facebook connect
   * In order to start using the application, the user must log in using his/her facebook account. The facebook API will handle the requests dealing with privacy and we will use this to authenticate the user. Also, potentially, a user can use his/her facebook to see if other friends are using the app (this is a feature that we could later implement).
2. User selects random points to visit in New York City

* As a user, I want to be able to select from a list of random points, places that I may or may not want to visit, based on my user preferences such as “I only want to visit landmarks” or “I only want to visit parks”.

1. User goes on a “race”

* As a user, I want to be able to start a race given my current location. I would like to receive my next destination and every destination after that as I advance through a list of places to visit. If I so choose, I can instead receive hints about my destination instead the exact place to make the race more challenging. Finally, I would like to be able to compete against my friends who are also logged in.

1. User arrives at location and earns “gold coins”

* When I arrive at a desired location, I would like to be rewarded by some “gold coins” indicating my successful arrival there.

1. User may input his/her own points in system

* As a user, if I find out about a new location that isn’t currently in the system, I would like to be able to enter that location into C.N.Y.C for myself and other users of the application.

1. Take and upload pictures of locations a user visits.

* While I am exploring the city, I would like to be able to upload photos I take of places I’ve been to. I would like the program to eventually have a collection of photos for other users to view organized by location.

## Languages and Frameworks:

* Front End – Cocoa UI (Objective-C)
* Back End – Ruby on Rails
* Database – MySQL

## Potential user suggestions not included in above revision:

* Filter destination types (Select only from bucket list or only parks)
* Have only useful travel suggestions (Have an option to not explore trains)
* Have an option where you do not collect any coins (no point system)
* Consider safety of “challenges”. (i.e. don’t send people to parks at 2am.)

We decided that these along with other comments from users were great additions to the app. However, we will focus on the core of the application before adding the above features to it.

## On Going Controversies:

At this time the entire group agrees about the general direction of the project. However, we have some minor concerns about the scope and where we will be obtaining our data. There is talk of getting data from factual.com. We believe that it would be helpful for that application to use Wikipedia to describe the places that the program suggests but believe that hooking dbpedia into our program would be a lot of overhead work.

Also, we are not absolutely sure about our project name.

\*As advertised, without the million dollar cash prize.