

Geolocated Real-Time News

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Description:

Our project will be a website that displays geographically relevant real-time news. Upon opening the website the user will see a map of the United States. Each individual state will be selectable as the user's mouse moves across the map. Once a state is clicked it will show the local real-time news headlines. The user can then click on the headlines to further investigate the story at their respective news sources. The purpose of the project is to generate a way for people to get news based on their interest in location instead of receiving news based on popularity.

Vision:

The final product will be a website displaying a map of the United States that when an individual state is clicked on will show news headlines relevant to that state.

Motivation:

From CNN to Huff Post, there are myriad different news organizations providing continuous updates from around the country. The internet is an increasingly popular way to access the stories these organizations are producing. However when the average person is searching the internet for news it can get rather complicated, especially if that person is searching for news that is local and relevant to them. Internet resources like cnn.com will only describe major headlines. The goal of this project is to make news sortable and easily accessible based on the location of the story. As mentioned above, our website will contain a map of the United States with each state being clickable. Since our target demographic will primarily be Americans, a map of the United States will be intuitive and easy to digest. If someone is planning a trip to Florida for this upcoming weekend they will be able to easily access local headlines to know if there is a Hurricane on its way, a festival occurring, or even some sort of riot. Some of this information may be accessed through means that are already available like Google. However, a simple Google search can bring up out-of-date news that is displayed in a seemingly random order. The Geolocated Real-Time News tool will bring up news that has recently occurred so that a person trying to find out what is happening in Florida right now does not have to spend an extended amount of time finding the proper news site and then finding the news stories they want to see. A web application like this will be helpful and applicable to a person's day-to-day life.

Risks:

1. Working Environment:

- a. Most members of the team have not dealt with web programming and hence will have a lot to learn. This will be a major challenge as learning a new language always is.

Mitigation: One member is experienced in web programming so he will be a huge help as well as the abundant resources online including tutorials and how-tos.

2. No Teamwork experience:

- a. Prior to the initial meetings no one on the team knew each other. When dealing with new groups trying to figure out the dynamic is one of the hardest parts. Once people find their niche and know where they can help the group becomes a lot more cohesive.

Mitigation: It is important that while we are working and meeting that we get to know each other, so that by the end of the project we are at least friends. This will allow the group to communicate more freely without having to worry about being judged as much. The more the group communicates the more cohesive it will be.

3. *Lack of time:*

- a. Everyone belonging to the group works outside of the class and/or has other classes that need attention. This makes time one of the critical resources of this group and one of the larger risks that will be faced.

Mitigation: Basically it is to stay focused when spending time on work. That means when meeting with the group it will be important to have goals that everyone want to accomplish for that meeting. This also means everyone will have to do their equal share of work so that everyone can get the work done for this class and then have time for their other responsibilities as well.

VCS:

- GitHub @ <https://github.com/leif-waldner/Software3308-Group1.git>

Requirements:

User Requirements		
ID #	Description	Agile Size
US-01	As a user of the website, I want to click on a piece of a map so that I can see the news headlines pertaining to that location.	5
US-02	As a user of the website, once I see the headline I would like to be able to go to the actual webpage that has that news source.	1
US-03	As a user of the website, I want to see only recent/real-time news sources	8

Functional Requirements		
ID #	Description	Agile Size
FS- 01	As a developer I want the application developed to be hosted on a website.	1
FS-02	As a developer I want news headlines linked to locations on a map based on the headlines' geographical relevance.	5
FS-03	As a developer I want the locations to be highlighted once clicked upon.	2
FS-04	As a developer I want to scrape news sites for headlines pertaining to states in the United States.	8

Non-Functional Requirements		
ID #	Description	Agile Size
NFS-01	As a developer I want to store the headlines found in a database that re-populates every hour so that news is up to date.	8
NFS-02	As an administrator I want the website to be able to run by itself with minimal necessary maintenance.	5
NFS-03	As an administrator I want no confusion on how the site is used; I want it to be easily understandable when the website is first opened.	3

Methodology: Agile

Project Tracking: Trello

- Link: <https://trello.com/b/lgHAJYSi/software3308-group1>

Project Plan Screenshot:

The screenshot shows a Trello board titled "Software3308-Group1" with a search bar and a "Show Menu" link. The board is organized into four columns: "DUE", "TO-DO", "Meeting", and "Overall Project -- Things to implement".

- DUE**
 - Add picture of trello to submission
 - Finish pdf doc
 - Add TA's, Prof to the github
 - Submit finished PDF both on GitHub and Moodle
 - Share Trello link with TAs and Instructor
 - Add a card...
- TO-DO**
 - Meeting times
 - Throw together a demo website for testing
 - Checkout different data-maps
 - Figure out how trello works
 - Add a card...
- Meeting**
 - Talk about ideas
 - Start a list of news feeds
 - MongoDB for database?
 - Add a card...
- Overall Project -- Things to implement**
 - Website(chrome extension?): visual appeal, theme, single-page, use github-url for now(purchase domain name later), set up backend
 - Clickable Map, d3.js vs HTML5
 - On event mouse click: Pull up list of available news sources? Pull up concatenated list of all news sources? Should user be able to pick and choose?
 - Select news source(s): Current events vs stored news(previously put in database). Access RSS feed... should we scrape for location-specific news? Or should we find news sources with location-specific rss feeds? Display headlines, links, images related to news found. If we use database, what is a reasonable refresh rate?
 - Perhaps we can display 'eye catchers'
 - Should we allow user to select multiple locations -> smush all news for both locations together?
 - Add a card...

On the right side of the board, there is a button labeled "Add a list..."