

Tarika Gadh, Lauren Mendez, Regine Fae Serafico

Professor Li

MIS3640-01

December 1, 2017

Assignment 4: MBTA-Helper

Project Overview

Our project deals with the usage of APIs from google and MBTA connecting them to create new data sources. Using this, we created a website that would inform someone of the nearest MBTA stop to them. Being that the MBTA system is kind of confusing and overwhelming for someone not from Boston, our site aims to aid those needing help. We worked with JSON, API connection and web app development.

Project Reflection

From a process point of view, planning out our project and the steps we would take to complete the assignment went well. We struggled understanding some of the concepts needed to complete the requirement. Doing the research necessary was a little more time consuming than we had originally planned. We used documentations from python, google, and MBTA in addition to some youtube videos on using APIs in order to better understand the topics. However, once we got started on the actual assignment we had a good plan set up. We would apply our knowledge, generate the functions, and test it. This way we were able to catch some errors right away rather than working with incorrect functions for a while. While it was a difficult assignment overall, we definitely learned a lot of useful knowledge. Presently, data is

increasingly valuable for any company. Having the knowledge to be able to use APIs and obtain data from other websites is a useful and valuable skill applicable in many real life scenarios.

A couple of interesting things to note from our experience are as follows. While our code works and functions, it sometimes stops working. For example, we would search Kenmore and would get an index error. However, if we tried running it a couple of times our code would start working. While we are unsure of why our code only works sometimes, we did not that sometimes adding “Boston” to our searches would “fix” the error and return us the desired results. However, some places did not need the “Boston” extension in order to run. So overall we are unsure of why this occurs and how to adjust our code to avoid this.

Our team worked well together, in part because this being our second assignment together and we are also working on the term project together. We know each other’s strength and weaknesses pretty well and communicate consistently when working individually. Since this was a topic none of us were familiar with we met twice for a few hours to gain some experience and knowledge on the subject before tackling the assignment. Once we were more comfortable with topic we met once more to begin applying our knowledge to the assignment. Once the functions were completed, we split up the web designing amongst everyone. We then worked individually and met once more once completed to ensure everyone was content with the final product. The only issue that arose from splitting up the design amongst everyone is that we all ended up with pretty different designs for the website. We didn’t want anyone to feel as if though their time was wasted. So we combined the best aspects from each design in order to include everyone and their efforts. Perhaps next time we should all brainstorm ideas and visions for the design and work from there.