WhatsHappenin

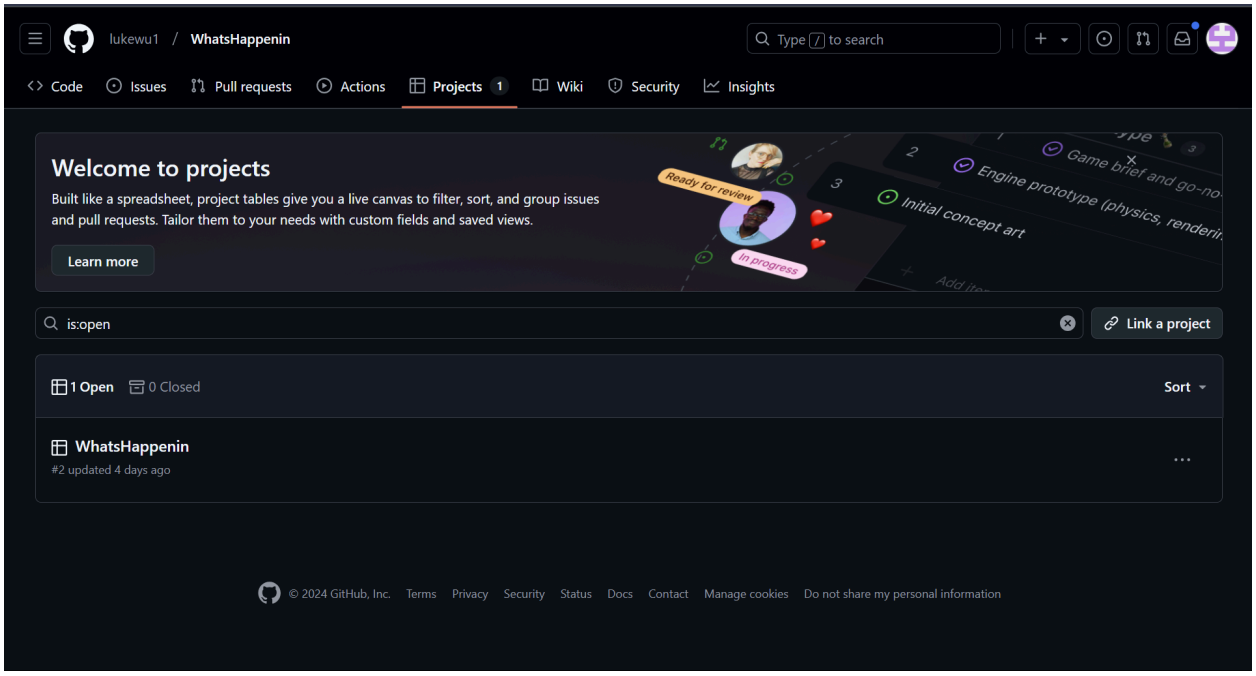
Aidan Donnelly, Alicia Zhang, Eric David, Luke Wu, Kenneth Flowe

Project Description:

Our program, WhatsHappenin allows people to drop pins around the world and read local news from their pinned location. WhatsHappenin is an interactive news application that lets users explore various local news headlines from anywhere in the world. Users are able to create an account to login, where the home page displays the interactive map. From there, users are able to drag and drop pins to view headlines relevant to each location, which makes it easy to stay informed about current events happening around the world.

For each selected location, the application displays a curated list of articles, allowing users to click on any headline to read the full story. Each headline links directly to the original news source, providing seamless access to the article's content. Users are able to save and come back to their news articles of interest at any time, as well as comment their thoughts and opinions on any article from the list. Each user also has their own personalized profile page, which can be customized in a variety of ways, such as changing the user profile picture or editing the username. WhatsHappenin combines the convenience of a map-based interface with curated news, offering users a way to stay informed about the world around them and to satiate one's general curiosity.

Project Tracker Link and Screenshot: https://github.com/users/lukewu1/projects/2



Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-dRo8KK1Kc

VCS Github Repository Link: https://github.com/lukewu1/WhatsHappenin

Contributions: (less than 100 words) eric checked testing too but if any of u wanna read it and lmk

Aidan Donnelly: My contributions to WhatsHappenin were focused on the features related to the Google Maps API, comment editing, and integration between APIs and the database. Google maps provided examples that made it intuitive to implement an interactive map. I also faced roadblocks implementing comment editing. Since this is a common challenge I found resources on how to use database information in the names of HTML elements to control those elements. We also had problems because the mock data we used for development was different from the APIs data, but this was solved by mapping API data to what we expected.

Alicia Zhang: My main contributions were the user login/registration as well as the implementation of the comment feature. I used Javascript to implement the authentication for user registration and user login. Additionally, I used Bootstrap, HTML, and CSS for the layout of the registration/login page. For the comment feature, I used Handlebars and Bootstrap to display a modal of comments for each article, as well as Javascript on the backend for populating each article's modal with corresponding comments. On the back end as well, I implemented enabling users to comment a new comment or edit/delete an existing one.

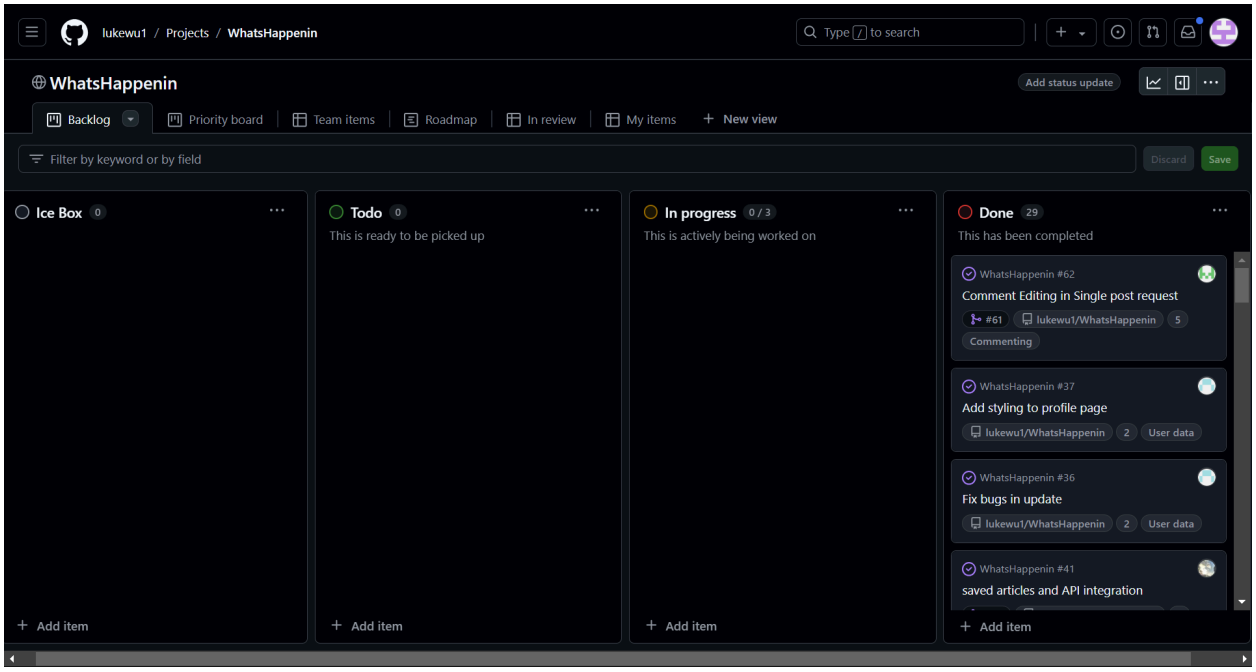
Eric David: My main contributions to the project centered around the saved articles page and the search result page of the user placing a pin. On the front-end side, I used Bootstrap, Tailwind, HTML, and CSS to style the page and created partials to be displayed for each article that included information such as image, title, author, and date. On the back-end, I used Axios and Javascript to tweak the calls for the news API to allow it to work internationally on the map pin. I assisted in the code that sent articles from API to the database when pressing "save article."

Luke Wu: My main contributions to the project included creating the profile page, nav bar, database, and adding error messages throughout the register and login pages. I used HTML, Tailwind CSS and Bootstrap to style the profile page. I also used a Bootstrap modal for the edit screen and included some Javascript to add a more responsive UI for users who want to change their profile picture. The nav bar was also styled using Tailwind. For the database, I looked at previous labs and had previous experience in the database systems class to ensure it was scalable and had minimum redundancy.

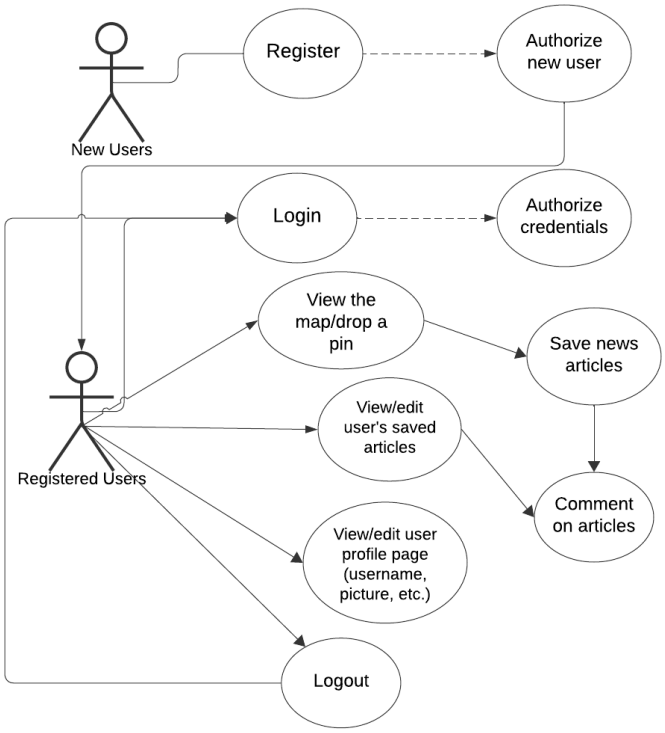
Kenneth Flowe: My Contributions were handling the search bar using the news API. This includes creating a dynamic, location-based news browsing experience by integrating a search bar with a comprehensive news API and coupling it with an interactive map. So whenever a user clicks on a specific spot on the map, local news stories relevant to that exact region are retrieved and displayed at that time that the user selected it. These stories are then presented as neatly

designed news cards. In addition to ensuring the reliability and robustness of this functionality, I used JavaScript for thorough testing by putting in mock data.

Project board screenshot:



Case Diagram:



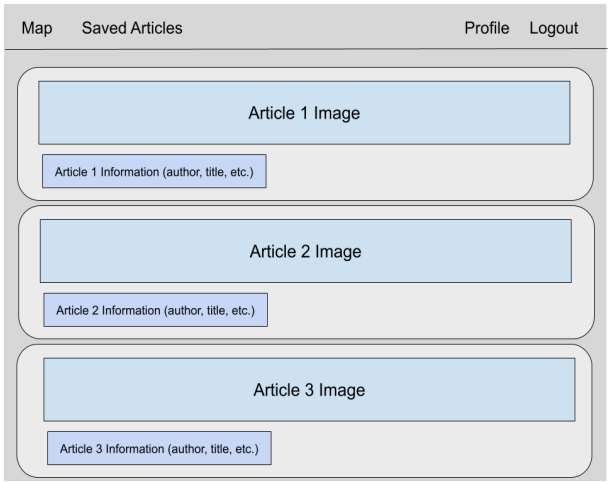
Wireframes:

Login Page:

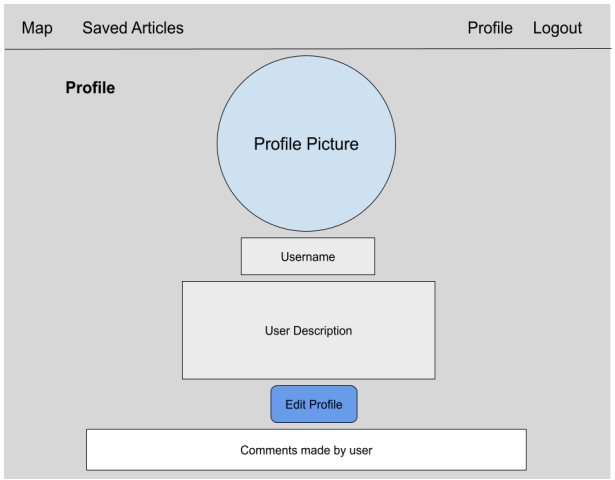
Register Page

Map Page

Saved Articles Page



Profile Page



Testing:

Navigation bar feature:

The results of testing the navbar feature were successful. We observed that when using our website, our classmates intuitively used the navigation bar at the top to view the different pages on our website. When users wanted to view a different page, they were able to find each page they wanted linked in the navigation bar. This behavior is consistent with the use test case, with no deviation from the expected actions and thus no changes to our application were made to the navigation bar feature based on the test. The automated test cases using Mocha and Chai were also successful and met the conditions of being able to redirect and render each page when the according button was pressed. The navigation bar's design and functionality have proven to be user-friendly and effective in guiding users through the website. As the project evolves, we may consider adding dropdown menus for better organization and improved navigation efficiency.

Saved articles feature:

The results of testing the navbar feature were successful. We observed that users were able to locate their saved articles on a separate page linked in the navigation bar. When on the saved articles page, users quickly got the grasp of how to comment by using the comment button on each article. The comment modal was successful in opening comments for the chosen article. Users also knew the function of the edit and delete buttons. This behavior is consistent with the use test case, with no deviation from the expected actions and thus no changes to our application were made to the navigation bar feature based on the test. The saved articles feature has shown to be an essential part of the user experience, allowing for easy access and interaction with content. Future updates may include a filtering option to organize saved articles by date or category for better user navigation.

Interactive map feature:

The results of testing the interactive map feature were mostly successful. We observed that most users preferred to drop a pin on the map, but those who wanted to search for a specific location were able to find the search bar easily and input their chosen location. Additionally, each search resulted in a successful load of article cards. Users also clicked on the "Read More" button without being prompted to view the original articles. One feature included in the testing plan but was not implemented in the final project was a random dice feature that gave users local news from a random location. However, the feature was overall very successful without any issues occurring during testing. The automated test cases using Mocha and Chai were successful and met the conditions of pressing a pin on the map and returning a location. It also passed the automated test case of showcasing the news results of placing a pin. User's behavior is consistent with the use test case, with no deviation from the expected actions. However,

we included the randomization feature in our future plans for our application. Additionally, users reported that the map's responsiveness and the speed of loading news were satisfactory, contributing to a seamless experience. Some suggestions included adding zoom capabilities for more precise location selection, as well as the ability to view articles by category (e.g., technology, sports, or entertainment). These features will be considered in future updates to improve overall user experience. The integration of location-based filtering could also show potential, allowing users to further refine the news results based on regions or proximity. In summary, the interactive map feature can prove to be a valuable part of our application, and with the suggested improvements, it has the potential to offer even more customized and dynamic experiences for users.

Profile editing feature:

The results of testing the interactive map feature were successful. We observed that when users asked where they could see their profile, they were able to locate the profile page without being told where to find it. Some users liked being able to choose their profile picture from preselected images, while others mentioned being able to upload their own. However, all users were able to and wanted to edit their username and profile description. In all cases, the edits were successfully saved and applied to the profile. User's behavior is consistent with the use test case, with no deviation from the expected actions. Additionally, we included the uploading custom profile pictures feature in our future plans for our application.

Deployment Link: https://whatshappenin.onrender.com/login