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Team 24

CSCE 315-503

### Project 3 Team Retrospective

For our project, we created a home site for the new Zachry Engineering Building so that students would be able to plan events, get information from the Engineering school, and be updated on both building hours information and surrounding traffic. We planned for our site to consist of 4 basic pages, including a home site, where each member of the team would implement one API in an intelligent way. The following aspects list what we incorporated into our site:

- Zachry homepage with pictures and amenities listed, and a Learn More link which takes the user to the Zachry page on the Texas A&M engineering website
- Appealing design throughout the site
- Easy navigation
- Map of buildings on the A&M campus using the maps API
- Building Hours and pages for engineering buildings around the complex
- Engineering event calendar from the Google Calendar API
- Live twitter feed from Texas A&M engineering Twitter API (Extra/4th API)
- Traffic map for the surrounding area from the Google Maps API
- Reference site links for easy access to the TAMU Engineering home page, and College Station home site

Our final project ended up largely as we expected it to, but with some minor changes. For example, on our Building Hours page we originally wanted include functionality to where the user could hover their cursor over a building, and a thumbnail would pop up showing the hours for that building. However, we decided that there would be more benefit in showing building hours in separate windows so that we could include a link to a site associated with the building, and so a user could compare the hours of multiple buildings easily. We did end up including a 4th API which was the live twitter feed, which we had not originally planned, but we reasoned that it was very beneficial to the functionalities we were trying to incorporate. In our final design, all of the engineering buildings and most of the surrounding buildings shown in the map link to sites where the user can find the corresponding building's hours of operation.

Individual Multipliers:

Lukken: 1

Neff: 1

Grattafiori: 1

Every person involved with the project was able to complete their assigned portion, and we decided to make each member's multiplier equal.

Aspects we would have liked to include but could not due to time constraints:

- Building hours for the entirety of campus, more surrounding restaurants, nearby apartment complexes, and other places to study
- Pictures of on each building site
- Building info displayed when hovering over a building on the map API

During our development, we discovered that certain planned features were not part of the APIs we planned to use. Specifically, the "live status" of the restaurants is not information Google shares through the API, so we simply used screenshots showing the general trend and provided links to Google Maps and the restaurant websites so the users could get more info.

The data we collected from the User Evaluation was very beneficial and helped us a lot towards our final product. We got very good feedback from users about the look, feel, and design of our site. This is because we had the user experience in mind when creating the site and looking for a site outline. There were helpful tips that users gave us in their evaluation which we ended up using in our final product, such as including more information on the homepage and including hours for buildings.

Ultimately, we envision our website being most suitable for student engineers here at Texas A&M. It will allow them to become more involved with the engineering school through the event calendar and live twitter feed, to use their time more efficiently through the traffic map, to find new and better places to study through the building hours page, and to organize and meet with groups or organizations on campus using the event calendar. Our website has the potential to become extraordinarily useful for every engineering student and its relevance would remain throughout the student's college career for years to come.