



Capstone: Step One - Pick Project Ideas

You're about to tackle step one of your capstone project! To review the other steps of the project, [refer to this document](#).

Pick Your Initial Project Ideas (2-3 Hours)

The first step of your capstone involves brainstorming the kinds of sites you'd like to build and exploring available APIs. If you would like, you can also create your own API.

Where Will You Find Your Data?

There are many options for gathering data to use for this project. Most students will use an existing free API, but you can also scrape the web, gather user input, read a CSV, or manually input data in order to create your own API.

Please note that you won't need to finalize your choice of API until Step Three. For this step, we want you to explore available APIs to get a sense of the kind of data you can choose to work with, which should help to inform the project ideas you come up with. Think about what kind of website you'd like to make, the functionality it will have, and the features you'd like to incorporate into it. As you've already done this once, push yourself further in terms of scoping.

- We suggest you restrict your search to APIs that are free to access (happily, there are thousands available!).
- Get started with this [APIs List](#) but feel free to explore other resources too

- Consider using an API provided by a major tech company, such as Apple Music's API. If a company you are interested in working at has a publically available API, consider building your Capstone based off of it. That way, if you were to interview there, you would have the benefit of more intimate knowledge of their product.
- Making your own API is an excellent and challenging option, and will be a good thing to talk about in an interview

Identifying Initial Project Ideas

Please come up with three project ideas for sites you'd like to build. Refer to the Project Overview document for examples. Please keep in mind that you are going to spend 45-65 hours working on this capstone project. Be sure to reach out to your mentor if you're ever feeling stuck as you brainstorm.

Submitting Your Ideas

- Create a Google Doc labeled "Capstone Two Ideas [Your Name]".
- Write a short blurb explaining each of your ideas.
 - Be sure to highlight the idea that you think you'd most like to work on.
 - The blurb should, at a high level, describe the problem and the data you'll be using to solve it. At this point, there's no need to talk about specific tools and technologies.
- Post the blurb, with a title, to your Slack community and solicit feedback from other students.
- Submit your ideas to your mentor for review. Work with them to narrow in on the idea that you will move forward with.

Note: The goal of this project isn't to create something that's never been done before. We want you to work on a challenging project that will incorporate all of the full-stack skills you've been developing throughout the course. You can create a website similar to one that already exists, or use a popular API.
