Distributed Systems
An Automated And Personal Touristic Tour Application Using Google Maps API
Second Step : Analysis of Existing Applications and of Google Maps API

Quentin Augrain
Florent Mallard

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

We want to design an application which allows a tourist to optimize his visit of a city, offering him to select the monuments he wants to see and finding the best way to go to all of them. At first we also thought of a few additional features, such as displaying the distance between each monument in the list and the traveling time. In order to know what existing tourism applications already offer to do, and decide whether it's worth adding features to our application or not, we found some and analyzed them. In the following report we will firstly propose a description of the applications we found, their features, why we decided to implement them or not, and the technologies involved. Then we will also show the results of our analyze of Google Maps API, which we will use in our application. It will include what we can do with it, the ease of implementation and the services proposed by the API.

2 Existing applications

We managed to find some applications, but also platforms allowing you to build your own application.

2.1 Bluebridge

Bluebridge is a provider of tourism applications. It provides :

- Back-end technology (platform) to power your app
- Mobile App Studio CMS (product) to design your app
- Best-in-class app packages
- Professional services
- A message center to manage push notifications

The platform is a Software as a service, using its own technology, so we don't have any way to know how they are implemented. But the features proposed on the website are interesting, so we will developp them.

GPS locating As far as we thought, the GPS location is one of the main features when you want to implement an applications creating tours. Of course we can decide not to use it, and just display the best way between the monuments the user chose. This would mean that we assume that the user can find the first monument of the tour alone, and then will manage to find easily the way the application displays. The GPS location will allow the user to know where he is and

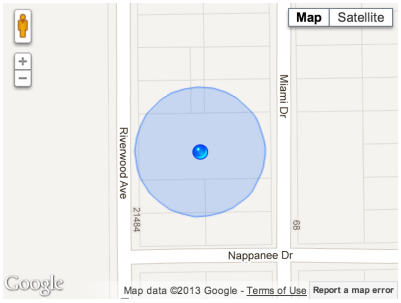

Figure 1: Google Maps displaying your location.

to confirm he goes in the right direction.

GPS directions This function is complementary with displaying the way between two monuments. Thanks to the GPS directions, the user can just be guided by the GPS, telling him which street he is currently in, where and when he should turn. Of course it will also announce his arrival to the monument he selected. It's not a compulsory feature, but it sure is a convenient one.

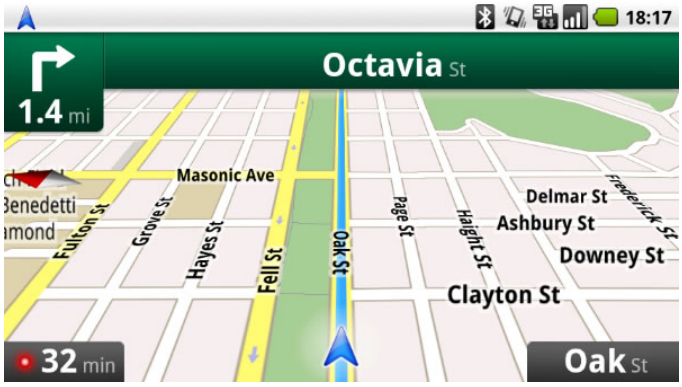

Figure 2: Google Maps displaying the navigation directions.

3 Google Maps API

References