INFO30005 - Web Information Technologies

Project Proposal

Team Members:

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Question 1

Give your team a creative name.

Ans.

The name of our team/project is **Kitchen2Kitchen**.

Question 2

Research the problem that you will examine. Summaries your findings below. Example questions to answer include

What are the different types of people suffering this problem?

How prevalent is the problem? How many people are impacted by it?

What is the economic and social consequences of this problem?

What are the possible causes?

What are the current solutions being explored?

Ans.

Food waste is a major problem not just in Australia but the world. Statistics show that managing food waste globally costs about a trillion dollars with 1.3 billion tonnes of food going to waste. In Australia, it is costing the government about $20 billion each year. The amount of food wasted in Australia (5 million tonnes) can fill up 9000 Olympic size swimming pools. Eight billion dollars' worth of food thrown away every year, this is double the Federal Government's commitment to financial aid.

On an average Australians discard 20% of the food they purchased which is about 1 out of every 5 bags of groceries they buy. $1036 worth of food is thrown out each year for an average Australian household. This much money could have been used to feed an average household for a month and also could have helped feed the homeless. Many rely on food reliefs programs and more than 4 million people are experiencing food insecurity every year.

This food wastage has drastic environmental effects like when food rots in landfills it produces methane the second most important greenhouse gas and it traps heat in the atmosphere and contributing to climate change and global warming. When we waste our food we also waste the

resources used to grow our food and energy. The amount of packaging material wasted along with this also contributes to environmental damage.

The causes are:

- End up cooking more food than required, over preparation of food at restaurants
- No clue what to do with leftover food
- Vague concept about best before and use by date
- People eating out or doing takeaways instead of eating at home.
- Managerial or production problems at production houses.
- Bulk sized packaging in supermarkets
- Buying more food than needed

The solutions being explored are:

- Creating awareness through consumer education programs
- Improving storage methods on farms
- Promoting and providing excessive food banks and similar outreach programs
- Technological applications being used to tackle this
- Retail food donation programs

BringMeHome is one such solution which aims to connect restaurants and cafes who want to sell their surplus food/produce at a very low cost. It is available in a few cities across Australia and is a mobile-based application for both Android and iOS.
Kitchen2Kitchen excels over BringMeHome as:

- It is a completely free service, where anyone can put in a request a pick up meals/ingredients.
- Kitchen2Kitchen caters to both food ingredients as well as meals whereas BringMeHome only allows readymade meals from cafes and restaurants to be sold off. Also, Kitchen2Kitchen can be used by both home-makers as well as restaurants and cafes.

Question 3

Write a couple of paragraphs with a summary of what you propose to build to address this problem. Give enough detail to enable a discussion with your tutor and your teammates.
Ans.
In order to address the issue surrounding food waste, we plan to build a web platform centred around a visual geographic representation of the food available to be ‘saved’ and used by another member of the community. Furthermore we plan to leverage humans desire for competition by displaying points earned by different Geographical regions such as; State, suburb, street and individual households, in order to pitt different regions against each other and drive more traffic and use of our platform.

The software should be lightweight to the end user and allow them to achieve their aim quickly. In order to achieve this the landing page (once an account has been created) will be the map of

their local area, centered around the users location (or house). Allowing the user to either hover their mouse over the items in order to see a brief description, or by clicking on the product to gain access to greater detail (using Google Maps JS API).

Not only will the user be able to graphically see the products available to them, a user will have access to a search bar where they can search my name of a product and or apply different filters including; user rating, distance, category and expiration date etc.

To assist in the accuracy of this search bar its important that when adding a product the user is given appropriate standardised attributes to categorise their product. Which will make storage of the products in the database and consequently pulling products from the database cleaner.

Given that the software will have no central governing body its paramount that the users can self regulate, hence the importance of a user rating system. With both the donor of the food and the receiver to have the ability to rate each other after each transaction, it will ensure that only users who are positive contributors to the platform will be allowed to trade.

[Wireframe: https://fc5i9y.axshare.com/home.html]

Possible extra features:

- **Chat functionality** between users to discuss pick up points, times etc. Currently this is being left up to the users to communicate through there given contact details and is not handled within the application.

- **User authentication** to limit the users are exposed to when getting food from strangers. Perhaps requiring the upload of a police check and or driver's license.

Question 4

URL to your git repository:

Ans.

The link for our Github repository is as follows: https://github.com/masonhsieh/Web-Info

Question 5

Agree with your teammates on a meeting schedule for the semester. Write on the space below the dates, times, and places of the meetings. There should be at least one meeting per week. The meetings may not be physical, they can be over videoconferencing, so note down if that is the case.

Ans.

The decided times for the meeting is as follows:

1. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM every Tuesday
2. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM every Friday

The above meetings will take place usually take place in person, in one of the libraries. In case physically meeting is not possible, the meetings would take place online over Facebook Messenger or Skype.