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Tech Savy Project Write up and Reflection

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Project overview:

We created an MBTA application to help us locate the nearest MBTA stop based on our location. We are using Mapquest’s APIs to provide us with information such as latitude and longitude from the our users input’s current location and imported the MBTA API to get the closest stop, address, longitude and latitude, wheelchair accessibility, URL and location name of stop. We code html to create a website form that takes the user’s inputs and the result page would post “post” the closest location that meets the user’s request. We used bootstrap to create the layout of our website on both our form and result page. We also used CSS to edit and spruce up the design of our webpage. We added a reference link to our homepage to redirect our users if they wanted to enter a new location.

Project Reflection:

Throughout the project, our team was able to support each member and work collaboratively and accordingly. From a process point of view, we were glad that each team member was able to keep up with their task and others are willing to help when one was stuck.We divided work based off of skill. Those who were uncomfortable with coding partnered with those who were well versed in coding and had previous skills from Web Tech. We created a learning environment that allowed us to work efficiently and be on time to complete the project. In regards to the possible improvements, we could actually have included a map with a destination route from the user to the train station. Overall, our project seems to be successful and well scoped, however, there were definitely roadblocks that we’ve encountered. For example, we discovered errors in trying to filter location by distance but we concluded that the this was actually an error in Mapquest’s API. we were glad we identified coding issues such as this in the earlier stage of the project, to allow us to correct them in a time efficient manner. When encountering challenges, each member did personal research in regards to how the problem could be solved, while consulting other peers and the professor for support. Before starting this course, we wished that we self-studied and reviewed potential similar materials in regards to the tools used in this course in order to better understand and get engaged with the class. Going forward, we hope to apply our knowledge learned from the Tech-Savvy course into other potential areas that might demand the use of Python and coding in general. Most importantly, we look forward in connecting and linking the lessons learned to other courses at Babson and to real life situations after graduation.

If we could add one feature to our website/application, we would like to add Mapquest’s leaflet “Routing with an Advanced Location Object” so that we can show the distance from the user’s location to the nearest station on the map. We would also like to extend the filter for the distance applied so that we could present the user with other mbta stops in the area and apply more API features such as alternate routes and Custom start and end markers. Be able to identify what type of mbta stop (train stop or bus stop) would be helpful to have for the user because some bus route and train routes differ for location as well as some bus locations may differ from train stations. Using MBTA’s API’s such as predictions could provide the users with information about predicted arrival/departure times at specific locations will help the user stay informed about public transportation in that area.

There are many ways that we want to increase our website traffic. For example, we can create a QR code with our website's url, print it out, and post it on the wall. Besides this, we can share the website and its function on our social networking accounts; we can add more keywords to the body of the html, so it increases the chance that people can find our website.

Overall, this project was fun and very informative, however if we had to create the project by ourselves then I think we would have been less successful. Teamwork makes the dream work!