

703128 PS/2 Web Services

Project Final Report

Team Name	Team Travelcounsellor.eu	
Members	Matrikel Nr.	Name
1	01316807	Tobias Folie
2	01418658	Etienne Bertin
3	01237572	Michael Allram
4	01217583	Alexander Klement
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Project Pitch

Define the idea of your project in one sentence.

Travel Counsellor provides a fast and easy way to plan a trip to various points of interest.

Project Detailed Description

Define in detail your project idea, settings, and technical usage restrictions, limitations (they can be listed using bullet points, provide sufficient details).

The idea is to combine different services to find and display points of interest (e.g. a restaurant). The ideal setting is planning an evening in a city: Start with a restaurant, go to an ATM while on the way to an amusement park, and, finally, let the evening play out in a bar. Ratings, distance from the starting point, and current weather help you decide which place you want to visit. Finally, everything can be displayed in Google Maps.

The project is hosted on a dedicated server with "Plesk" as hosting platform. According to the system requirements for Plesk, a number of more than 10 unique visitors per seconds is no problem. Our software is designed so that there is a good balance between server and client workload.

As for restrictions and limitations:

Google Places API initially only allows 1000 calls per day.

Google Maps API allows 2500 calls per day.

Yahoo Weather API has no restrictions.

OpenStreetMap has a fair-use policy, so multiple requests per second are not allowed.

Included Services

List and describe all external services you have currently included in your project and for each service, describe the following aspects:

1. What technologies do you currently use to communicate with the service (e.g. HTTP, SOAP, REST)
2. What data format do you currently use to communicate with the service (e.g. XML, JSON)
3. Which programming libraries do you currently use to send requests and analyze the received responses from the service, please be specific (e.g. Jersey, Spring Social, PHP, SOAP)

No.	Service Name	Description (e.g. technical details, its use, technologies involved, other remarks).
1	Google Places	HTTP GET- Request, JSON Response (API key needed)
2	Google Maps	HTTP GET-Request, hyperlinked
3	Yahoo Weather	HTTP Request with YQL Query, JSON Response
4	OpenStreetMap	HTTP GET-Request, JSON Response

Result

Describe your final implementation status, including the project's user and machine to machine interfaces (put screenshots if necessary). Also, provide an URI to the resulting service and/or the project code if published online, e.g. as source code.

Travel Counsellor can be found at
<https://travelcounsellor.eu/>

We managed to implement everything we set out to do.
The user's location or a given starting point can be used to find places that match specific categories. Together with the current weather, they are displayed in a list ordered by distance and rating. These places can be added to a "personal list," which is stored in a DB based on cookies. This personal list can be displayed in a map on an extra page, where the order can be rearranged, or on google maps.

Potential Further Societal and Economic Impacts

Describe your opinions on the added values of your project from the societal and economic standpoints. For example, how the project can help to create a new business (e.g. startup or a new service in an established company) and what would be necessary for it.

From a societal standpoint, it could be said that travelcounsellor provides a solution to finding new places to go to, even in unknown cities, that is less cumbersome than other as it does not require any sign-up processes etc.

It should be possible to turn travelcounsellor into a proper business; everything from paid subscriptions with extended services to advertisement funding is possible.

Potential Future Work

Describe how you would progress with and/or improve your project, if you are to continue working on it.

Numerous additions to the display or functionality of our service could be possible. We could add a way to display extra details or a location on-click while perusing the list of places, to give an example.

The information we store based on people's personal lists could be used to suggest especially popular places or ready-made itineraries of cities. It would also be possible to provide access to these data as a web service for KYC (Know your customer) functionality etc.