

Meetup Minder

Muzi Gao

Uni: mg3194

Email: gaomuzi@gmail.com

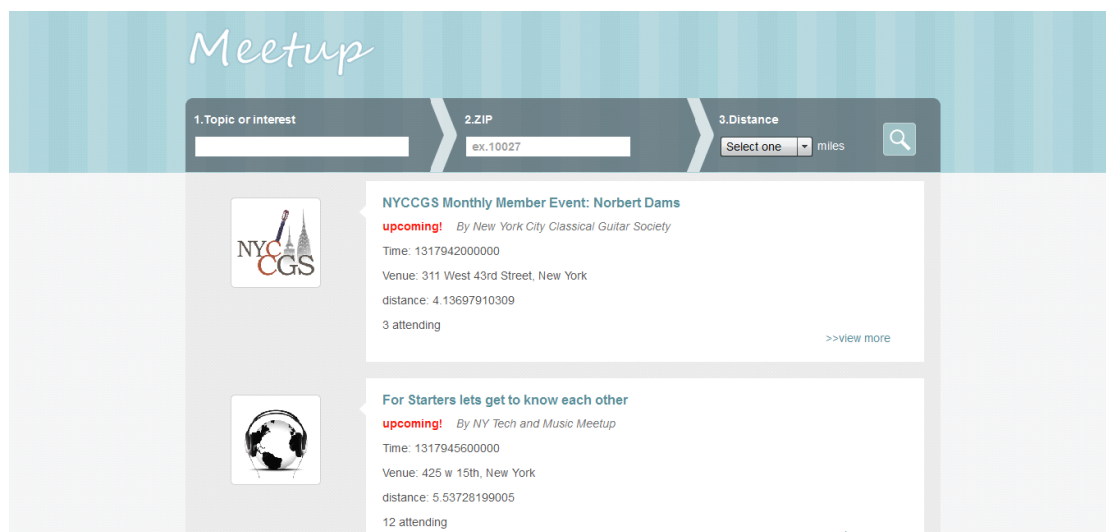
Instruction for running application:

- 1.Run the application from Flash Builder 4.5
- 2.Type certain topic or interest in the first input box. (e.g hiking)
- 3.Input your zip code. (e.g 10027)
- 4.Select range of distance from your zip code. (e.g 5.0)
- 5.Press search button
- 6.Now you may scan the searching result, and browse details of event by clicking ">>>view more" or photo for each event.

User interface design and function of application:

In this simple web-based application, users can input topic they are interested in, their zip code and select a radius around that zip to find what meetups will be held in the future.

Here is a screen shot for the searching result:



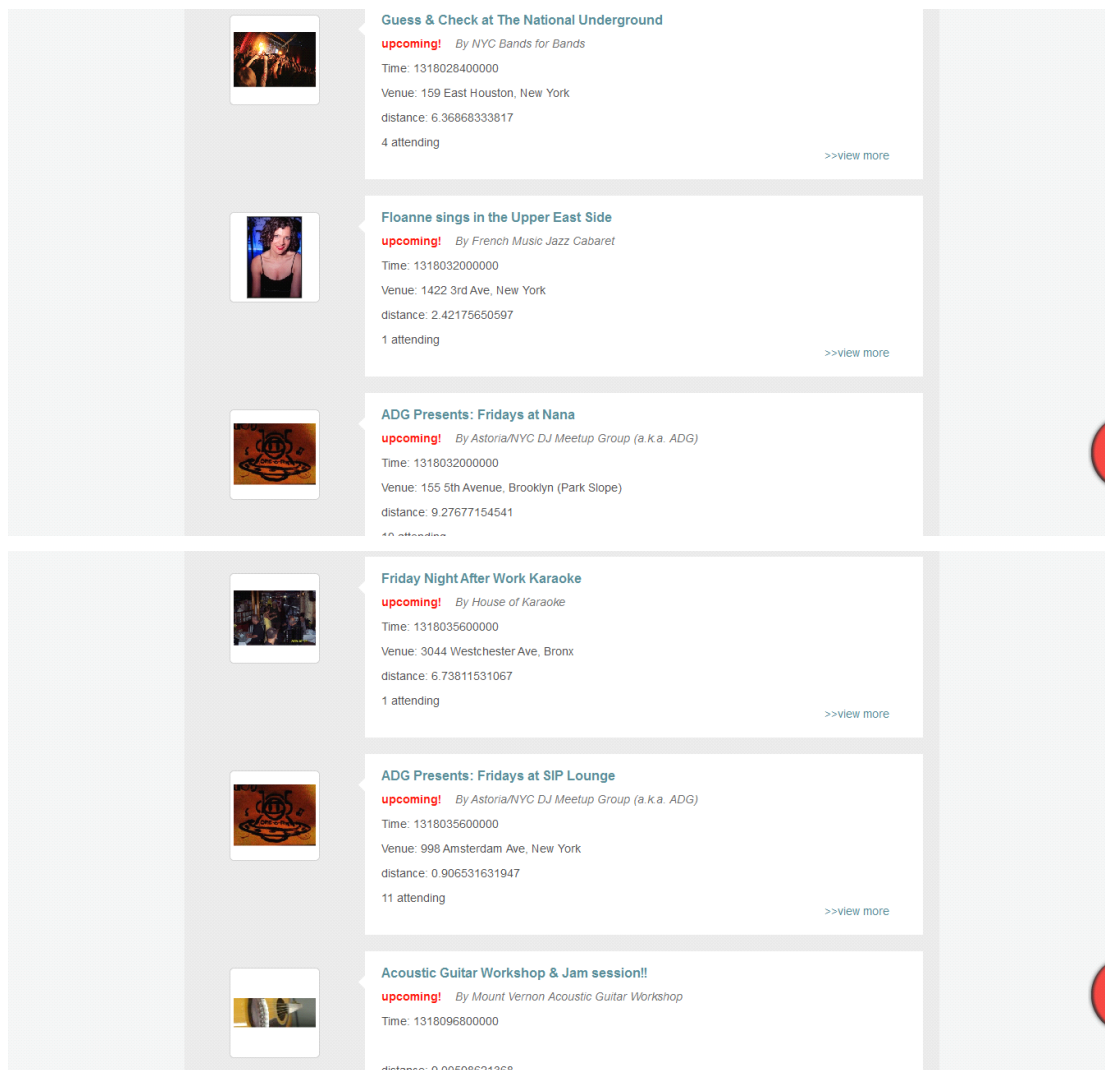


Image 1

Considering it is a really simple application, and I have not added some feature of safe input, I provide some instructions to help users search their meetups. For example, there is an arrow-shaped background image under the input area (see image 2), and clear number "1" "2" "3" in front of each explained words, indicating that users may follow that steps to complete searching.

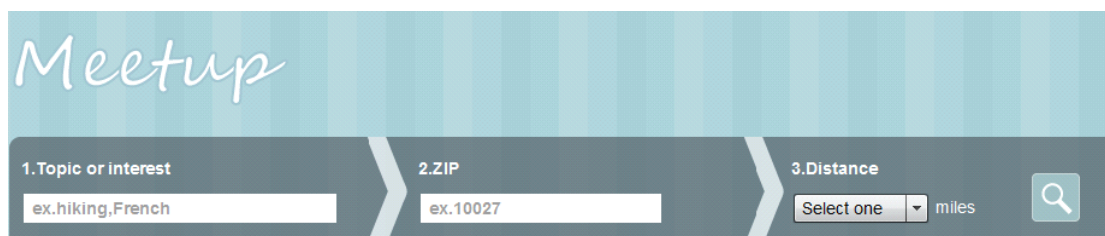


Image 2

There are two types of tips in this area to help users eliminate input errors. Those title words like "topic or interest", "zip" and "distance" explain what the input box are used for, while grey lines

showed inside the input boxes provide example of input words. If those two input boxes are focused in, the example words will be invisible in order not to interrupt user's input. (see image 3).

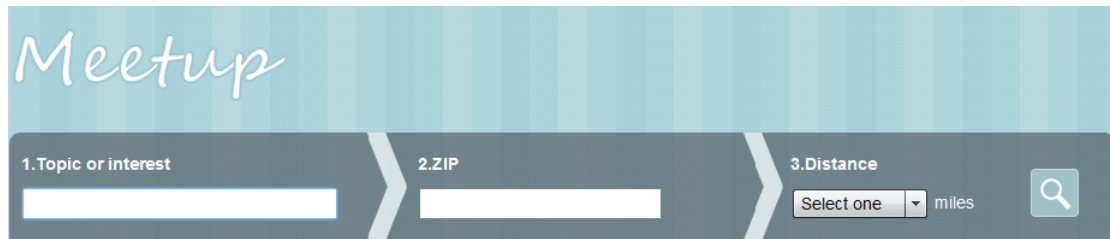
The image shows a search interface for Meetup. At the top, the word "Meetup" is written in a white, cursive font on a blue background. Below this, there is a dark grey search bar with three sections. The first section is labeled "1. Topic or interest" and contains a white input box. The second section is labeled "2. ZIP" and contains a white input box. The third section is labeled "3. Distance" and contains a dropdown menu with "Select one" and a "miles" label. To the right of the search bar is a magnifying glass icon.

Image 3

Besides, I choose dropdown list rather than input box for distance input because I hope to prevent possible errors when typing radius around certain zip code. For example, some users may feel confused about typing 5, 5.0 or five when they actually mean 5 miles. In this simple application, I don't take various possible inputs into consideration, so I use dropdown list.

The search button is an image of magnifier, which is really common in representing the meaning of "search" and "I have completed typing, and it's time for the system".

Considering what to choose after getting events information, I select several pieces of information, which I think would be more important for users, rather than listing all items I get from meetup api. Imagine that someone is searching for interesting meetup events, what's important for him or her? The first one is the theme or name of the event, which explains what the event is going to be. Secondly, the user may consider when and where the event will be held, which will help he or she make schedule. Thirdly, the user may hope to find events held by certain group for some reasons like he or she has been participated in an interesting event held by the same group. Besides, since users may always scan rather than read the results of searching, short and clear list will be much helpful than long detailed information. But users still need a method to link to details. As a result, I list the name, time, place and distance of each event, name and image of group, the number of people who will attend it and a link to event page on meetup web site. (see image 4)

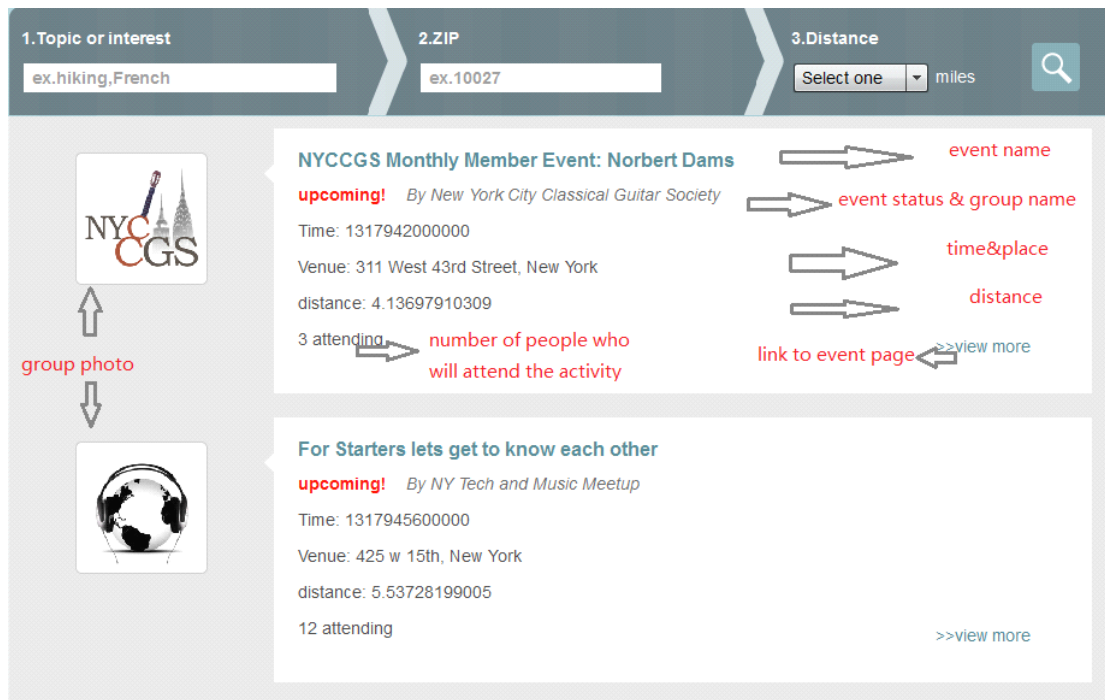


Image 4

In addition, users can have access to event page by clicking the image. There is a tooltip for users. (see image 5)

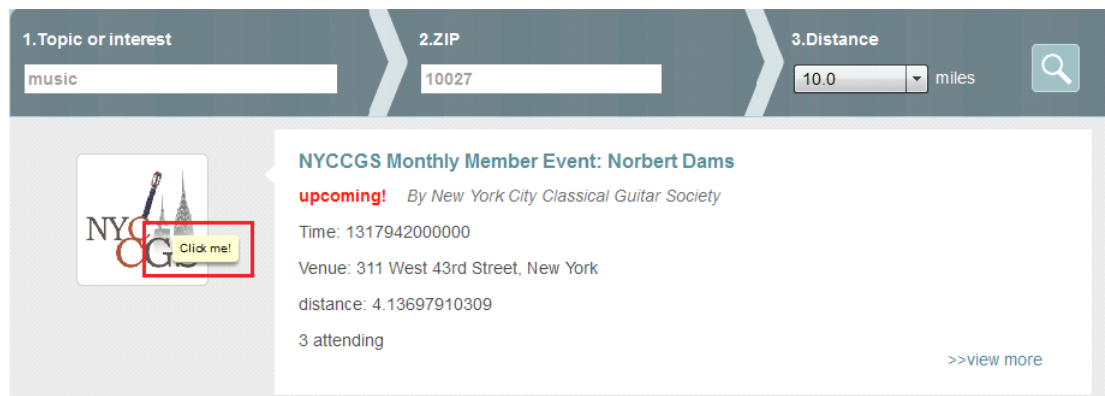


Image 5