

lyriqs.io

CAB432 Assignment 1

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## Introduction

### Mashup Purpose & description

The mashup *lyriqs.io* is an application to search for songs and analyse their lyrics. Users can input a song name or an arbitrary search term and receive a list of matching results. They can choose a specific song which then shows the lyrics. The cleaned text content is additionally subject to a sentiment analysis resulting in two graphs for positive, negative and neutral mood components. The predominant sentiment label is shown to inform users about the general mood of the song. The cleaned lyrics are also used to generate a word cloud to showcase the most common words used in the song. The application provides in-depth information about song lyrics to users and gives an approximate assessment of their sentiment on a single page.

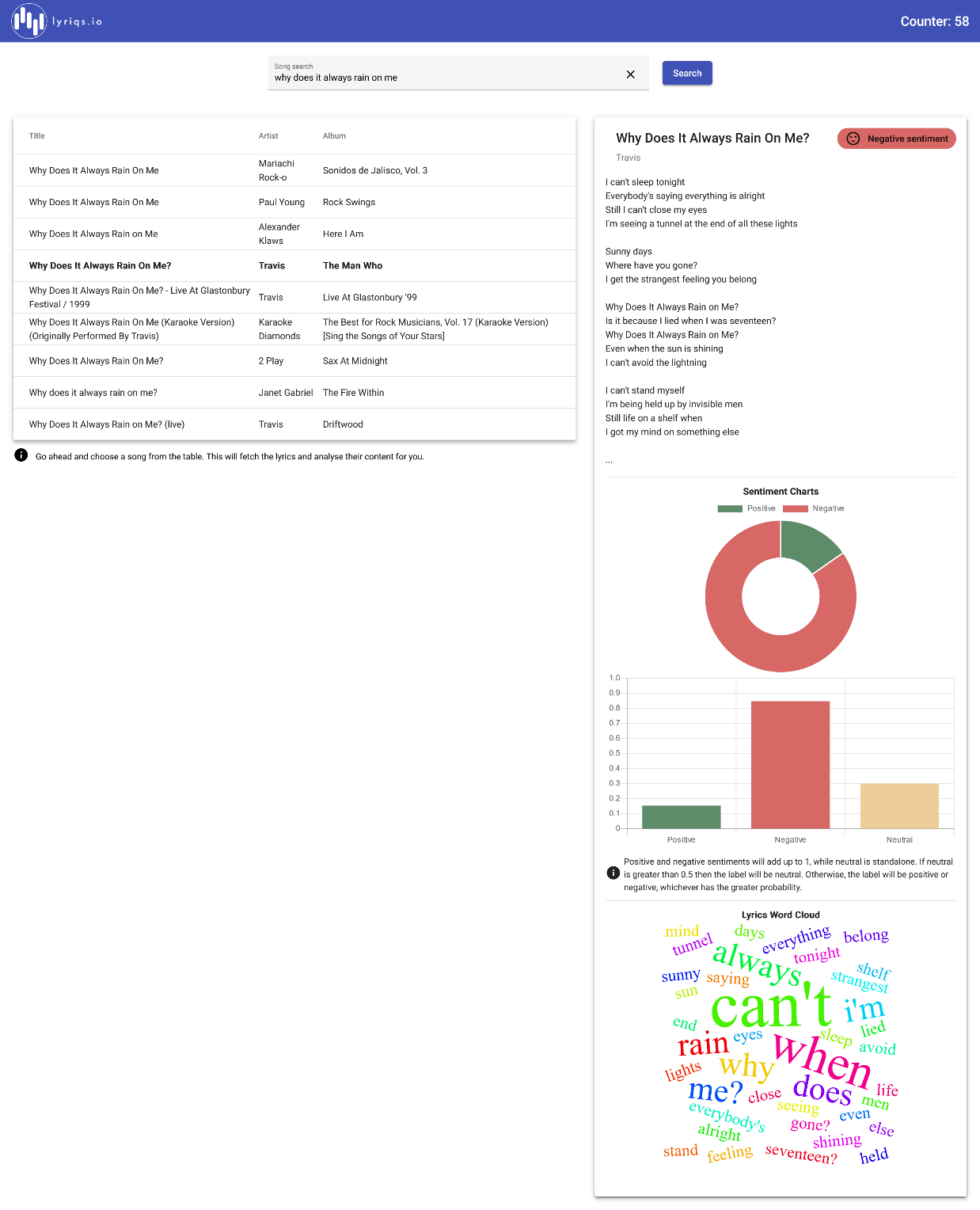


Figure : Screenshot of song search and display of lyrics, sentiment analysis results, and word cloud

### Services used

#### Musixmatch API (v.1.1)

API to search and retrieve song information and lyrics. Authentication happens via an API key retrieved after setting up an account and 2k calls per day are free. Only 30% of the lyrics are accessible with a free plan, but for the sake of the assignment this limitation was deemed acceptable (there were no objects from the tutor after sending the proposal). The API works fine and really just needs the API key to work. The information provided per song is extensive. I would have liked to additionally to the sentiment analysis display Musixmatch’s own mood analysis via the endpoint track.lyircs.mood.get, but the endpoint was only accessible with a paid plan. The mood would have been divided up into a list of fitting keywords which I would have liked to display alongside the sentiment charts.

Endpoint: GET to http://api.musixmatch.com/ws/1.1/track.search?

Returns: A JSON object containing a list of up to 10 fitting tracks with regard to the user input search term.

Docs: <https://developer.musixmatch.com/documentation/api-reference/track-search>

Endpoint: GET to http://api.musixmatch.com/ws/1.1/track.lyrics.get?

Returns: A JSON object containing the lyrics content and additional metadata.

Docs: <https://developer.musixmatch.com/documentation/api-reference/track-lyrics-get>

#### text-processing.com API (v.1.0)

Simple JSON over HTTP web service for text mining and natural language processing similar to the natural language toolkit (NLTK) known from Python. It is currently free and open for public use without authentication, but limited to 1k calls per IP per day. The API is used to analyse the sentiment of song lyrics and return the positive/negative/neutral shares of the lyrics content. The documentation is limited for this API. It took me some time to figure out how exactly the lyrics content should be passed to the endpoint as the value of the *text* parameter in the body is expected to be form-encoded. In the end, it was necessary to set the headers *Content-Type* to *multipart/form-data* and *Content-Length* to the length of the supplied lyrics string.

Endpoint: POST to http://text-processing.com/api/sentiment/

Returns: A JSON object containing the confidence values for the sentiments positive/negative/neutral and the predominant sentiment label.

Docs: <http://text-processing.com/docs/sentiment.html>

#### Quickchart Word Cloud API (v.1.4.3)

Open-source web service creating charts from Chart.js on a backend and returning them as an image. It also offers an endpoint to create a wordcloud which is used for the mashup. The lyrics are supplied as a parameter to this call and the result is a full HTML *<svg>* tag with the word cloud as an SVG image ready to be displayed on a web page. It is very simple to use and the wordcloud is cutomizable to a great extent. The API is limited to 1 chart per second and 10k charts per month per user for a free plan which is more than enough. No authentication is necessary.

Endpoint: GET to https://quickchart.io/wordcloud/?

Returns: The SVG image of the generated word cloud inside a HTML *<svg>* tag as text.

Docs: <https://quickchart.io/documentation/word-cloud-api/>

#### AWS S3

A bucket on [AWS S3](https://aws.amazon.com/s3/) contains a JSON file *page\_counter.json* with a counter entry that is updated on each visit to the site. Each reload of the client sends a request to the server on the endpoint */counter*. If the bucket does not exist yet it is created using the provided AWS credentials. If the counter object does not exist on startup it is also created with the first request and initialized with the counter set to 0. The default name used for the page counter bucket is *cab432-n11378093-lyriqs*.

Docs: <https://aws.amazon.com/s3/>

## Mashup Use Cases and Services

#### UC1: Carpool karaoke

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| As a | music enthusiast |
| I want | to find the lyrics of my favourite song |
| So that | my friends and I can sing along to it in the car. |

The user interface provides a text input field [1] where a music enthusiast can enter an arbitrary search term (e.g. “american pie”). Pressing the “Search” button [2] next to the text input triggers the song search. The input is sent as a query parameter from the client to the endpoint */songs/search?song=american pie* on the server which then sends a request to the /*track.search* endpoint of the Musixmatch API. This returns a list of up to 10 search results which are sent back to the client and displayed in a table [3]. The user can then choose the matching song by clicking on the respective entry in the table [4]. The Musixmatch *track\_id* of the chosen song is then used as an input to the mashup endpoint */songs/lyrics?id=12345* on the server. The server takes this ID and uses it to send a request to the */track.lyrics.get* endpoint from Musixmatch which retrieves the lyrics. The content of the lyrics is then cleaned on the server-side and returned to the client along with the other mashup data which are not relevant for this use case. The (preview of the) lyrics are then displayed next to the table [5]. These lyrics can then be sung out loud in any car. Please refer to Figure 2 to follow the process described here.

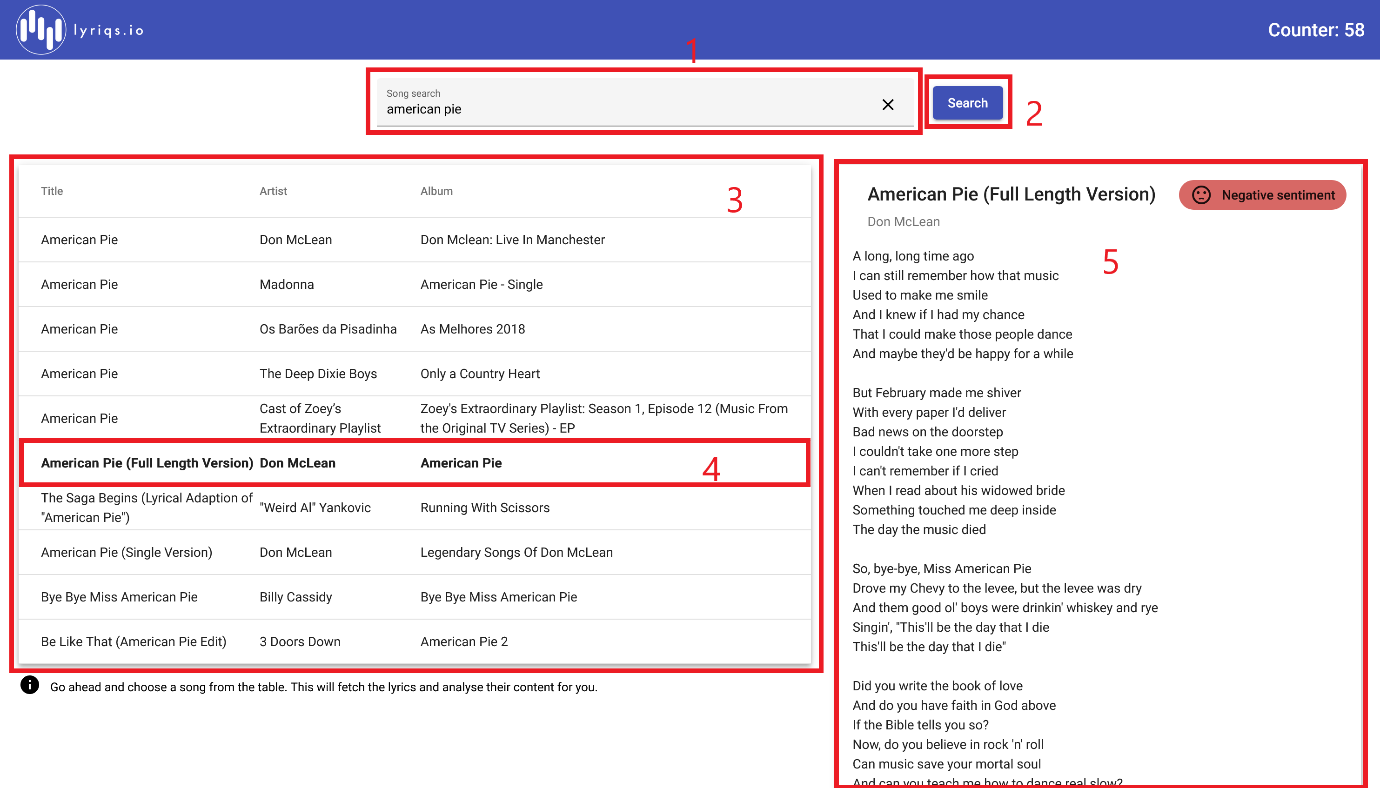


Figure : Screenshot for UC1

#### UC2: Compilation of a radio show playlist

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| As a | radio DJ |
| I want | to find out the mood of a particular song |
| So that | I can put together a playlist of songs that go well together for my radio show. |

The same process as for UC1 is followed here. The radio DJ can search for a song like “recovery” which retrieves a list of songs the DJ can choose from. They can then choose one of them (e.g. “Recovery” by Frank Turner) which again triggers a request to the server on endpoint */songs/lyrics?id=45678* corresponding to the track ID of the chosen song. The cleaned lyrics retrieved from Musixmatch are additionally used as input to the sentiment analyis of the *text-processing.com* API and the endpoint */sentiment*. The lyrics are supplied as form-encoded data in the body of the POST request. The resulting confidence levels for positive/negative/neutral sentiments and the predominant label are returned as part of the mashup response to the client. The label is displayed next to the song title [1] and the mood values are shown in two charts: a donut chart displaying positive/negative shares [2] and a bar chart additionally displaying the neutral share [3]. Also, a short info text is shown to explain the values [4]. The DJ can then decide if the song fits the rest of the playlist. Please refer to Figure 3 to follow the process described here.

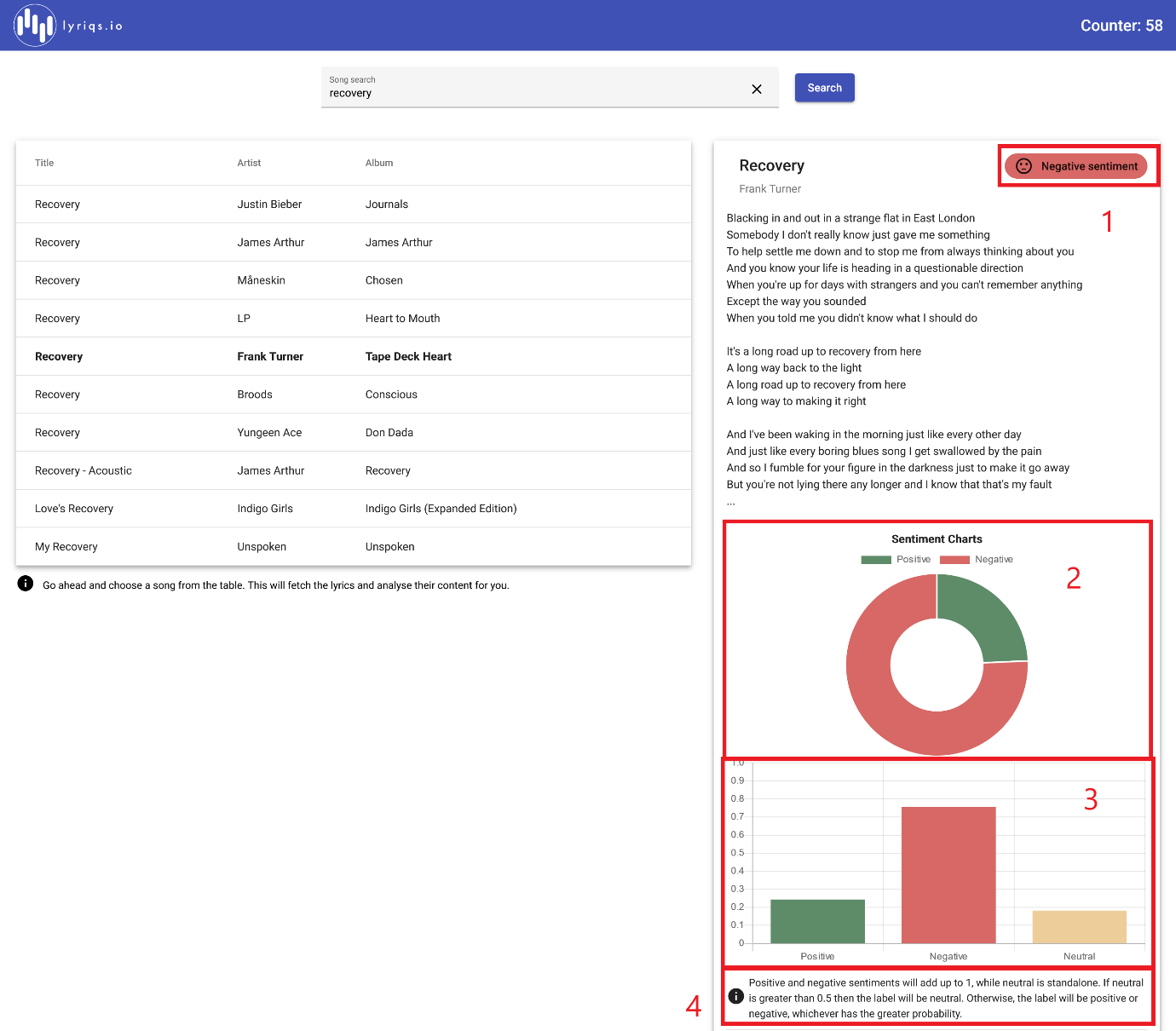


Figure : Screenshot for UC2

#### UC3: Lyrics critic

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| As a | critic of musical lyrics |
| I want | to find out the most common words in the lyrics of a particular song |
| So that | I can assess the quality of the language used in the song. |

The final part of the mashup response (apart from the cleaned lyrics content covered in UC1, the sentiment analysis results covered in UC2) is the word cloud image. The process again follows the same flow: the music critic can input a search term like “seventeen going under”, choose a particular entry from the table of search results (e.g. “Seventeen Going Under” by Sam Fender). This then sends out a request to the mashup endpoint */songs/lyrics?id=13579* which gets the lyrics from Musixmatch, uses them as input to the sentiment analysis from *text-processing.com* and finally sends a request with the lyrics to endpoint */wordcloud* of the Quickchart Word Cloud API. The resulting *<svg>* HTML tag containing the vector graphic. This is added to the mashup response and returned to the client where it is displayed below the sentiment charts [1]. The music critic can then easily make out the most frequent words used in the lyrics and judge the quality of the language used in the song. Please refer to Figure 4 to follow the process described here.

Ein Bild, das Text enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Figure : Screenshot for UC3

## Technical breakdown

### Architecture and Data Flow

Explain how your system operates, making it clear how data flows around the system through requests and responses. You are describing the overall architecture of your application at a source code level. The description above tells us something of the application’s use. Now we want to see how that maps to the code organization – show us how your code is organized and tell us how you have split the responsibilities. We should get some sense of how the application works and how the data and control flows around. You may also find it helpful to show us screen grabs of code if that makes your points clearer. Tell us anything you think we need to know about how you have structured the application and made it work, but there also a section below to describe problems.

Please note that the architecture description is largely taken from the README files part of the GitHub repository for this project.

I decided to follow a more real-life approach and divided frontend (*lyriqs-*client) and backend (*lyriqs-server*) into separate sub-projects which can be dockerized independently. This also accounts for separation of concerns, encapsulation, abstraction and several other principles of software architecture. I chose Angular as a frontend framework as I already had experience with this tech stack and wanted to take the opportunity of the assignment to freshen up my knowledge with respect to the dockerization of a SPA. Dockerization happens in principle with *docker compose* to minimize the effort required to run the project from scratch.

lyriqs-client

The client-side project is an Angular single-page web application served on a NGINX web server in production mode responsible for proxying requests to the server. The client provides a user interface to search for songs, displays the results and allows users to choose a song. The UI displays (a preview of) the content, a mood label as well as the result of the underlying sentiment analysis, and a wordcloud of the lyrics. The client is a SPA created with the frontend framework Angular version 14.1.3. The client is responsible for providing an entrypoint for users, process input and allow interaction with results. The user input is sent to the corresponding endpoints of the server API. Each reload of the application will send a GET request to increment and return the page counter value at endpoint */counter*. All other API requests are triggered by user action.

lyriqs-server

The server provides an API to search for songs, fetch their lyrics and perform an analysis of the lyrics content (sentiment, word cloud). The server is written using [TypeScript](https://www.typescriptlang.org/) and consists of a basic [Express](https://expressjs.com/en/starter/installing.html) backend served on a [Node.js](https://nodejs.org/en/) server. The API of the server exposes three endpoints: /counter, /songs/search, and /songs/lyrics.

1. /counter

A GET call to this endpoint increments and returns the new value of the number of page views with regard to a page counter hosted on AWS S3. The raw number of the page views is returned as text.

1. /songs/search

A GET call to this endpoint returns a list of search results for a specific search term supplied as a query parameter song. A full request would look like */songs/search?song=Yesterday*. The server sends a request to the song search endpoint of the Musixmatch API to retrieve the results and then returns the track list as a JSON. The list contains obects of type track from Musixmatch (details can be found at the [API documentation](https://developer.musixmatch.com/documentation/api-reference/track)).

1. /songs/lyrics

This is the actual mashup endpoint. A GET call with query parameter id, which contains the *track\_id* of a Musixmatch song entry, will perform several API calls from the server and compile a mashup response object that is returned once all internal calls have concluded. First, the lyrics for the track ID are fetched from Musixmatch. The lyrics are then cleaned and used as the input to calls to the text-processing.com and Quickchart Word Cloud APIs which perform the sentiment analysis and wordcloud generation, respectively. The mashup response is an object of type *models/lyrics.interface.ts*. A full request to the mashup endpoint would look like */songs/lyrics?id=15953433*.

The server route code of the mashup endpoint is shown in Appendix A 1 for reference. Log statements have been removed for clarity.

### Deployment and the Use of Docker

The application can be dockerized using *docker compose up* from the project root. The *docker-compose.yml* file is shown in Appendix A 2. This creates the images and containers for the server and client, connects and starts them. It is necessary to set AWS and API keys as environment variables and source them from the same shell as the docker compose command is executed before actually running the project. The following variables need to be set:

* MUSIXMATCH\_API\_KEY: API key for the Musixmatch service
* AWS\_ACCESS\_KEY\_ID: key ID for AWS
* AWS\_SECRET\_ACCESS\_KEY: access key for AWS
* AWS\_SESSION\_TOKEN: session token for AWS

If the images have already been created and you want to run the containers, it is recommended to execute the following commands to facilitate communication between frontend and backend, as well as set environment variables explicitly:



Docker compose executes the Dockerfiles for both subprojects *lyriqs-client* and *lyriqs-server.* The Dockerfile for the client is shown in Appendix A 3. The Dockerfile of the client uses a multi-stage build. The first stage builds the Angular application and copies the artifacts. The second stage serves the app on a lightweight [NGINX](https://nginx.org/en/docs/beginners_guide.html) web server. This server also acts as a reverse proxy to redirect requests between client and server in any environment. This setup follows best-practise guidelines for serving Angular applications in a production environment and reduces the size of the Docker image heavily to around 25 MB (serving the app on the development server would have resulted in >2 GB). The configuration of the server was a major challenge. The Dockerfile of the server is trivial and therefore not shown in the Appendix.

Please note that the images are distinguished only by tag server or client. This is due to a limitation on DockerHub allowing only a single private repository. It was necessary to keep the project private for the submission of the assignment. Otherwise the two images would have been pushed to separate repositories.

### Test plan

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Expected Outcome** | **Result** | **Screenshot (Appendix B)** |
| Search for song | loading bar shows during request; table with search results is shown | PASS | 1 |
| Select a song from the result table | selected song is highlighted in the table; loading bar shows during request; lyrics + sentiment charts + word cloud are shown | PASS | 2 |
| Clear search input | search input field is empty again; clear button not visible | PASS | 3 |
| Select different song from same result table | only loading bar shows during request; lyircs + sentiment charts + word cloud change once request returns | PASS | 4, 5 |
| Search for new song with result table already present | loading bar and logo graphic show during request; table changes once request returns; lyrics + sentiment charts + word cloud are not shown as selection is cleared (see task 1) | PASS | 6 |
| Display exact sentiment values by hovering over chart parts (Donut chart) | exact confidence values are shown for both positive and negative shares | PASS | hovering behaviour not visible in screenshots |
| Display exact sentiment values by hovering over chart parts (Bar chart) | exact confidence values are shown for positive, negative, and neutral values | PASS | hovering behaviour not visible in screeshots |
| Empty input disables search button | search button cannot be clicked and search cannot be triggered | PASS | 3 |
| Searching for nonsense term | request without search results shows large logo graphic and info text that no search results are available | PASS | 7 |
| Page counter | page counter value is visible | PASS | 8 |
| Page counter update | after a reload the page counter is incremented | PASS | 9 |
| Initial state of page | logo graphic and info text that no search results are available are shown; focus is in search input | PASS | 8, 9 |

Please refer to the images provided in Appendix B to confirm the passing of the test cases. Some are hard to prove with a simple screenshot. I will be happy to show that these work in the demo.

Difficulties / Exclusions / Reflexion

Apart from the general struggles with CSS (“how do I center a div again?”), there were no real issues during the development of the application regarding programming/scripting. The real issues occurred when I tried to connect the Angular app with the Express server with docker compose. The dockerization of the server was very straightforward and worked from scratch. I then read into the dockerization of an Angular application which is not as easy. The development server created with the *ng serve* directive is very bulky and should not be used in a production environment. Much rather, the lightweight web server NGINX should be used to serve a single-page application. In principal, this can easily be achieved in a two-stage Docker build where the second stage takes the build artifacts of the first stage and serves them on the NGINX server. However, this requires the server being set up as a reverse proxy so that the requests between frontend and backend are sent to the correct address. The configuration of this proxy turned out to be difficult.

I chose a tech stack that is largely out of scope of the general specification of assignment 1 and therefore knew that I could not count on guidance from the tutors for this problem and was on my own. I easily spent just as much time with the dockerization, web server proxy set up and configuration and communication linking between the containers as with the actual development of the project. In the end, I was able to figure out how to configure NGINX to serve the SPA and redirect the requests to the server endpoints correctly. I definitely feel like I learned a lot, especially about Docker and the advantages and potential pitfalls of containerization.

The only differences between my proposal and final project was the chart API. I decided to use Chart.js instead of D3.js as I felt more comfortable with it. I also spent a few hours on designing and generating the logo graphics for the project and styling of UI components, which definitely was not necessary for the assignment (but it was fun).

I would also like to improve the error handling in further steps. Mainly, I would like to display the errors as Snackbars from Material Design instead of showing the same graphic witht the information reading that there are no search results available. This would greatly improve initial debugging and the user experience in general. I had no issues with the API usages apart from the necessary headers and encoding of the body of the POST request to the *text-processing.com* NLP API. The rest worked as expected.

## Extensions

I would have liked to additionally to the sentiment analysis display Musixmatch’s own mood analysis via the endpoint *track.lyircs.mood.get*, but the endpoint was only accessible with a paid plan. The mood would have been divided up into a list of fitting keywords which I would have liked to display alongside the sentiment charts.

Additionally, the limitation of the Musixmatch API to display only 30% of the lyrics on a free plan was OK for an assignment showcasing an API mashup, but it would not be viable for a production-ready application. I would have to either change to a paid plan or choose a different API to search for songs and retrieve the lyrics. Genius.com has a decent API but required OAuth which is why I did not choose it for the assignment. It also provides song interpretations which could also extend the analysis component of *lyriqs.io*. However, most of these analysis features are hidden behind a paywall anyway, so investing to a certain degree seems unavoidable.

A redesign of the UI might also be a good step with the addition of new features. Using a translation API for the lyrics might be interesting. Additional natural language processing steps could also be worth adding.

## User guide

As already explained, the UI offers a single search input field which can be used to search for songs. Enter a song name and press “Enter” or the “Search” button next to the input. You can then choose a song from the search result table which will load its lyrics, display the sentiment analysis label and charts, and the word cloud. You can also see the page counter in the top right corner in the toolbar. Hover over the sentiment charts to examine the confidence values.

For visual guidance, please refer to Figure 2 where the UI components are explained. For a guide on how to run the Docker containers, please refer to the README file(s) in the repository or section “Architecture and Data Flow”.

## Analysis

### Question 1: Vendor Lock-in

*Looking at your mashup as it stands, how dependent are you on the people who provide the services that you use? In a commercial context, the APIs, the data and the cloud services all matter to you. How hard would it be to change?*

* *How hard would it be to replace the APIs that you are working with? Could you easily replace them if they were shut down suddenly or their terms of service changed? Consider each of them in turn and explore the domain of the API and tell us about obvious competitors or their absence.*

*(4 marks)*

Every API in use for *lyriqs.io* is easily replacable – to a certain degree. The mashup can be divided into several tasks which can be carried out by numerous services: song search, lyrics retrieval, sentiment analysis, and word cloud generation. From a technological point of view, the application does not heavily rely on a single service, as the calls have been modularized, responses have been abstracted and the input used to the various requests is kept to a minimum (only inputs from APIs used are the song ID and the lyrics).

The only entangling issue that currently exists is that the tasks song search and lyrics retrieval are carried out by the same API. The proprietary ID from Musixmatch for the chosen song obtained during the song search is used as the input to the lyrics retrieval from an endpoint of the same API. These services could be still be replaced, but it would require adaptations to the expected input of the lyrics retrieval. For instance, the [Genius API](https://docs.genius.com/#/getting-started-h1) could be used for both tasks, but the internal IDs used are different of course. Also, the API is not as simple to use as it would require OAuth2. This technical limitation means that it almost seems necessary to handle both the song search and lyrics retrieval task with the same API. It is necessary to use a song ID of some sort as the input for the lyrics retrieval as a song title as input would by no means be distinct enough. Other APIs like [powerlyrics](https://rapidapi.com/acoolindividual/api/powerlyrics/details) are easy to use but do not fit the current setup of the application where the song search and lyrics display are separated.

The major issue for a change in service would be the willingness to pay for an API. This already poses an issue for the current state of the application as the Musixmatch API has limitations with regard to the the results obtainable from various endpoints (e.g. only 10 tracks for a song search, only 30% of the lyrics, some endpoints are disabled completely). There are good alternatives for the sentiment analysis like [Twinword](https://www.twinword.com/blog/subscribe-consume-twinword-text-analysis-apis/), [AssemblyAI](https://www.assemblyai.com/docs?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Sentiment_Analysis&utm_term=sentiment%20analysis%20api) or [Google NLP API](https://cloud.google.com/natural-language/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=japac-AU-all-en-dr-skws-all-all-trial-e-dr-1009882&utm_content=text-ad-none-none-DEV_c-CRE_424357396283-ADGP_Hybrid%20%7C%20SKWS%20-%20EXA%20%7C%20Txt%20~%20AI%20%26%20ML%20~%20Cloud%20Natural%20Language_Language-Sentiment%20Analysis-KWID_43700030803754791-kwd-316511594040&userloc_9069129-network_g&utm_term=KW_sentiment%20analysis%20api&gclid=Cj0KCQjwvZCZBhCiARIsAPXbajvGTzlYuU0_jvct3gU-ZoRnDrG4cfhqZ9-g8DOdW4dPvrxFSSkZJAcaAicPEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds) but all of these require at least a paid plan setup. The same can be said for the word cloud API. Both the word cloud generation and the sentiment analysis only require the lyrics as input. The origin of the lyrics does not matter proving that there is no dependency between these tasks.

* *How hard would it be to change the persistence service you have used to one supplied by another vendor? Identify equivalent alternatives and discuss briefly how that might affect your approach.*

*(2 marks)*

The architecture is currently semi-dependent on AWS S3 as a persistence service. The client is completely abstracted and only expects to retrieve the number of page views as text so there are no changes necessary if it were to be replaced. However, the server side is set up specifically to authenticate to AWS, create or access a bucket and set and retrieve the number from it. A significant amount of code would therefore need to be changed. In general, it would not be a problem. Viable alternatives would be a simple MySQL, MongoDB or DynamoDB server or a different kind of database in form of a Docker container. My database of choice would be a MongoDB instance which would turn the architecture into a full-on MEAN stack (MongoDB + Express + Angular + Node). This is an industry-proven standard and easy to use. The actual change would require some changes in the dockerization and the server code, but the client would be unaffected.

### Question 2: Container Deployment

*Scenario: more substantial application with external services, user management, security, persistence services, etc. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the container-based deployment?*

* *Assuming that we have access to a service to manage container deployment and communication, are there any disadvantages to a container-based deployment for this application? Would we consider deployment of the application directly to a virtual machine i.e. one instance of the application for each instance of the EC2 or Azure Linux VM?*

*(2 marks)*

I personally do not see any striking disadvantages of a container-based deployment for the application presented here.

A major advantage is the abstraction of services and encapsulation. It is possible to create a specific container for every process in an application which allows for easy exchange of services, rapid deployment and simple interoperability. Due to this separation, security is also increased as the containers run in isolation and do not interfere with each other. Most processes are also easy to dockerize. The Dockerfile of an Express app, for instance, is only a few lines long and does not require special configuration in most cases. This holds also for scale as a much larger server app would still not require more adaptations. Additionally, Docker containers can be intergated into a continuous integration (CI) pipeline. Deployment is easy with the tagging function. Consistency allows for the container to work on any system regardless of the configuration which is also important for large-scale applications.

However, not *all* processes are easy to dockerize. One example is the serving of an Angular app. While the configuration of the NGINX reverse proxy is not related to Docker, the multi-stage build still was not easy to achieve. I imagine this being the case for several different architectures. Also, backup and recovery in case of breakdown might become an issue for a larger application with some sort of user management service and additional persistence layers. The major downside of Docker that I have experienced myself is the paradigm-shift its adoption entails and the learning curve associated with it.

* *Drawing upon the discussions of cloud architectures in the early lectures and the material on persistence from week 5 onwards, what persistence options would you consider if the application were to be deployed at scale using a collection of software containers? You may consider more than one level.*

*(2 marks)*

A caching layer using Redis could make sense here to a certain degree. The most frequently searched (i.e. most popular) songs and lyrics could be cached to allow for faster retrieval. Also, additional persistence services providing redundancy are important especially for a system handling user data. If the application were to be supplied at scale, some form of load balancing would be required to redirect requests to the server instances.

## Appendices

### Appendix A



Appendix A : Server route for the mashup call at endpoint /songs/lyrics

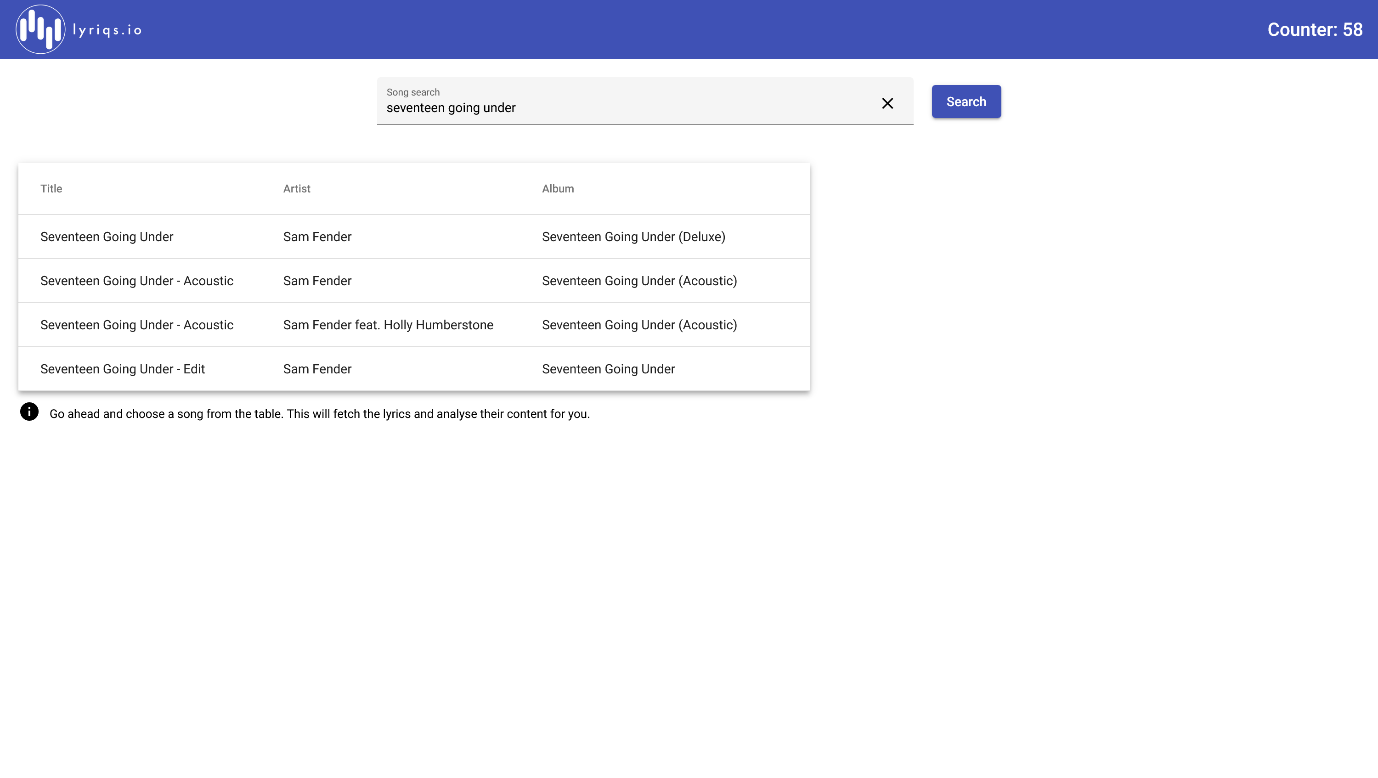


Appendix A : docker-compose.yml for the root project

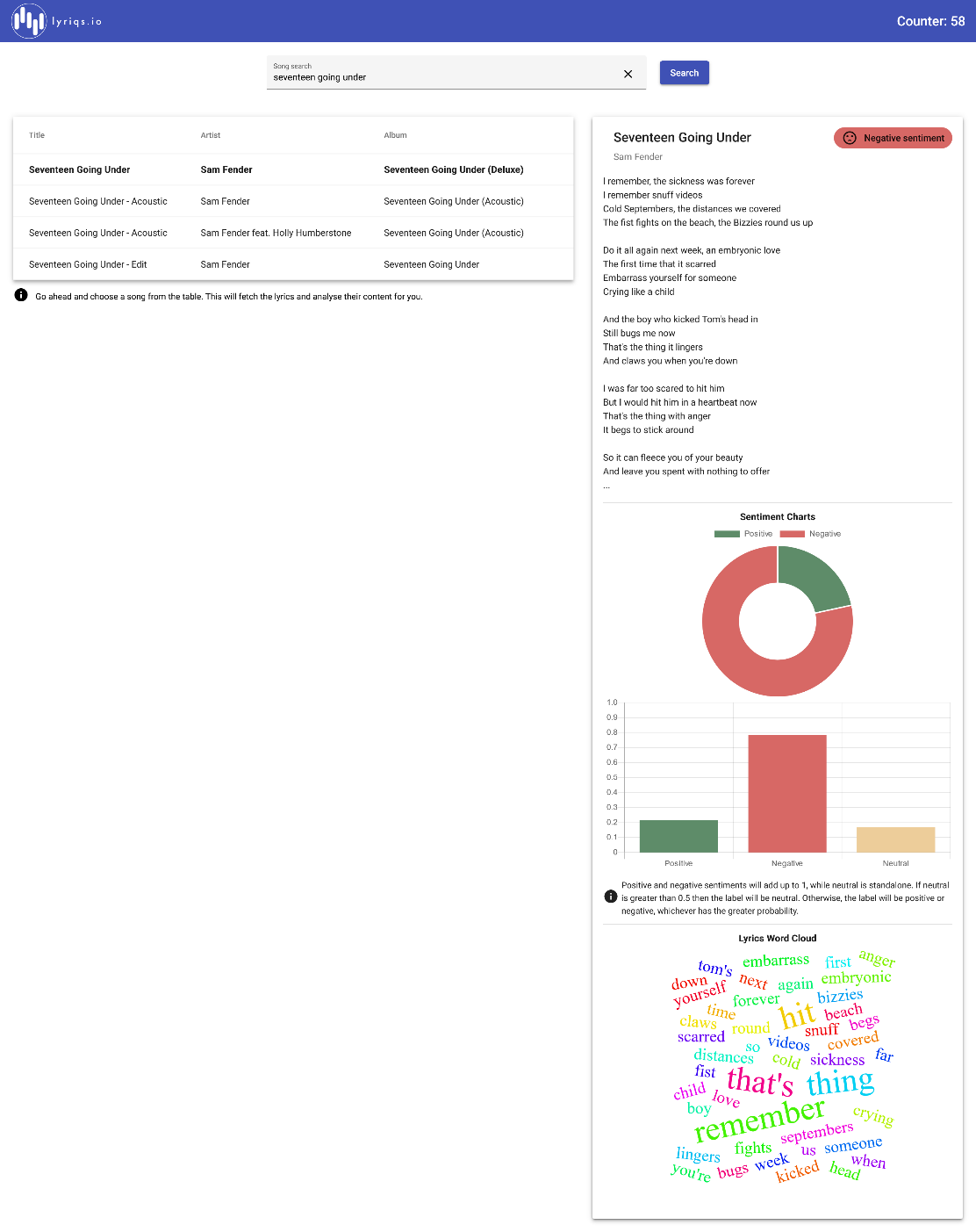


Appendix A : Dockerfile for lyriqs-client

### Appendix B



Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 1 – search for a song without selection

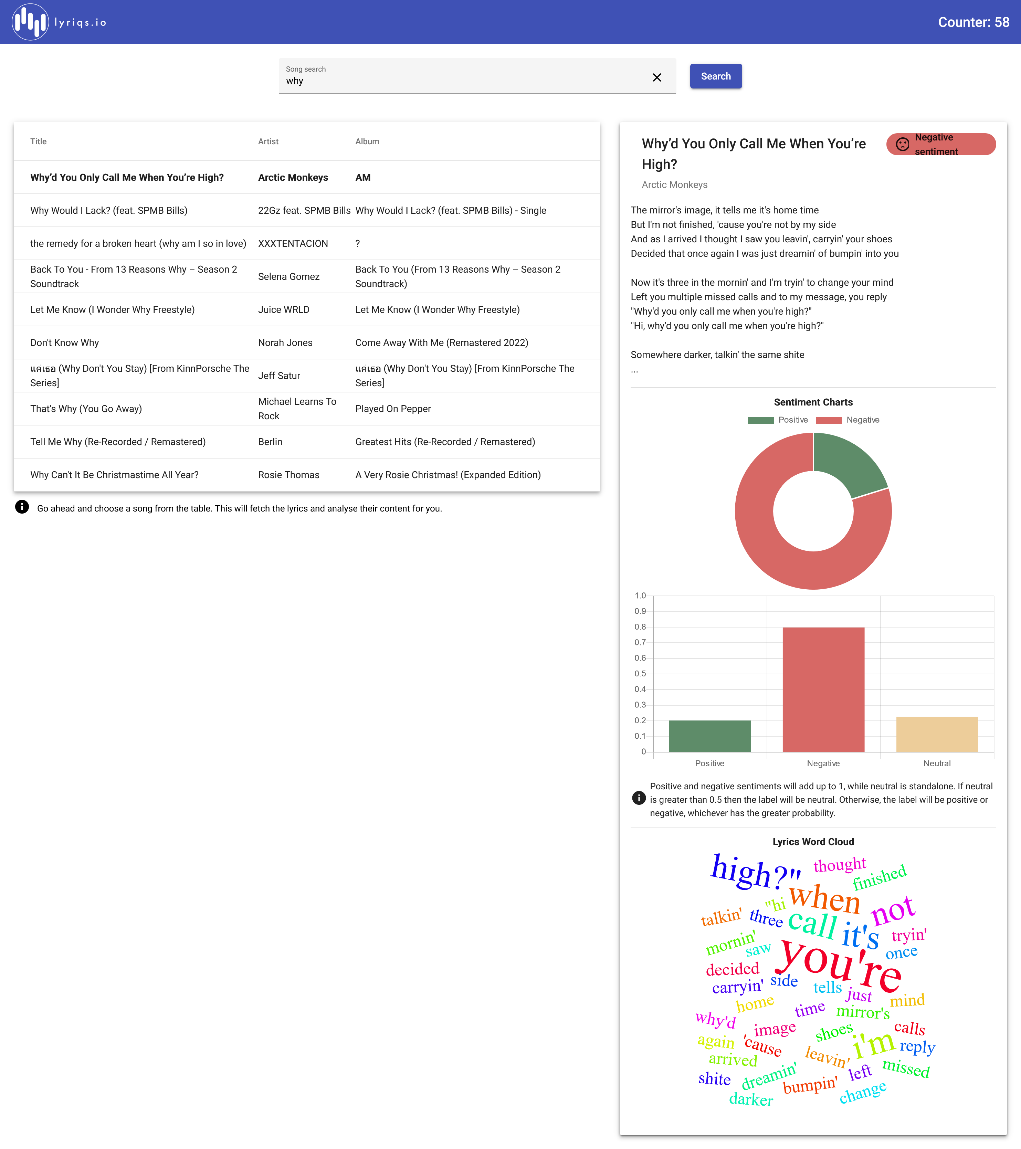


Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 2 – selection of song from table

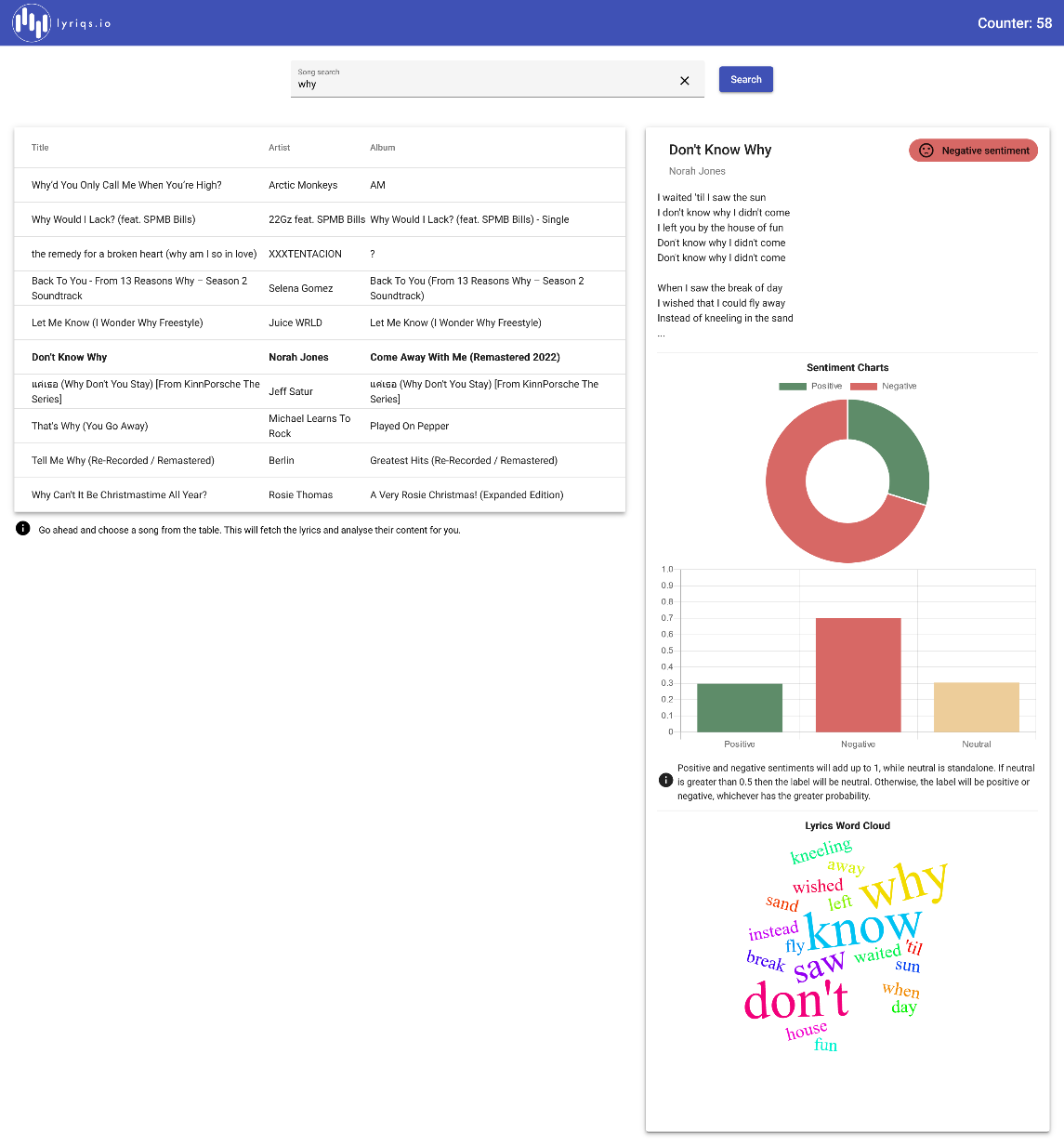
Ein Bild, das Text enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

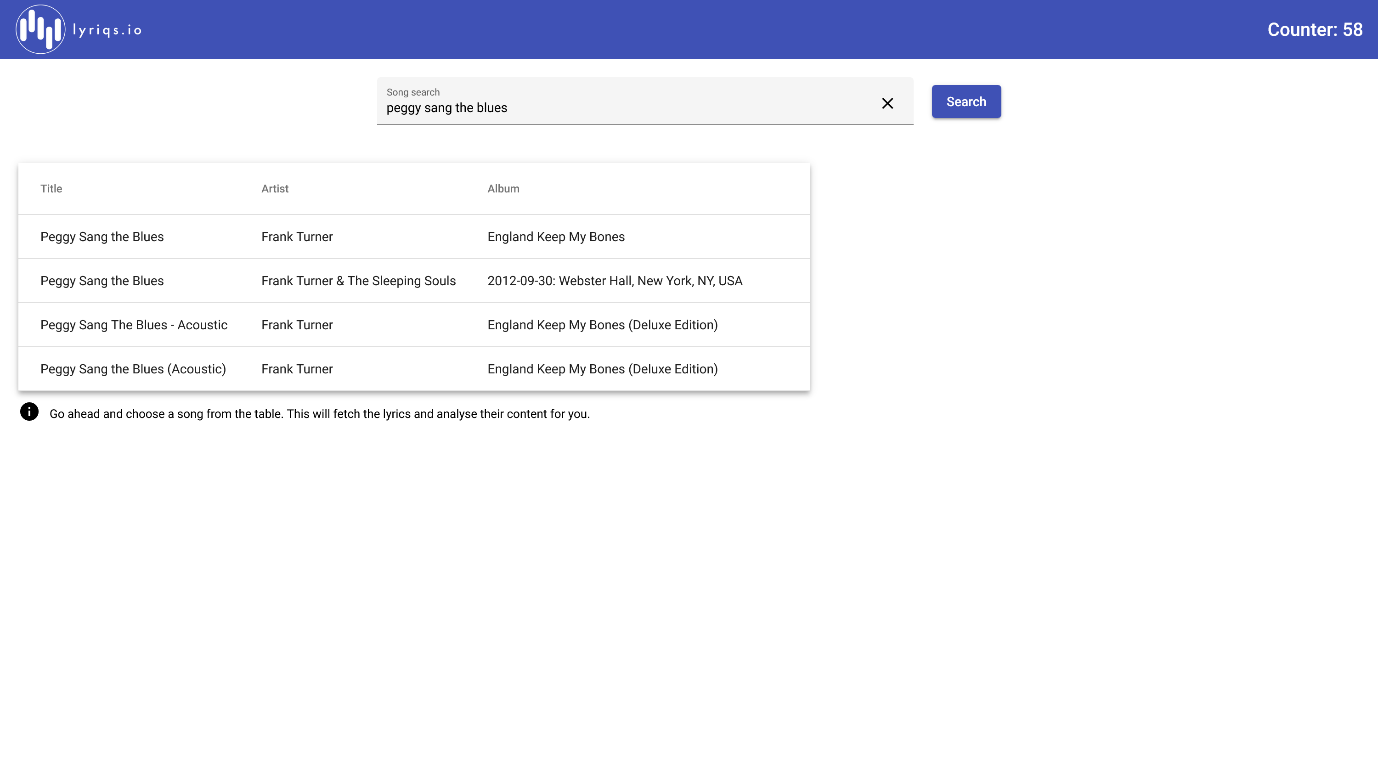
Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 3 and 8 – clearing search input and disabling search button with empty input



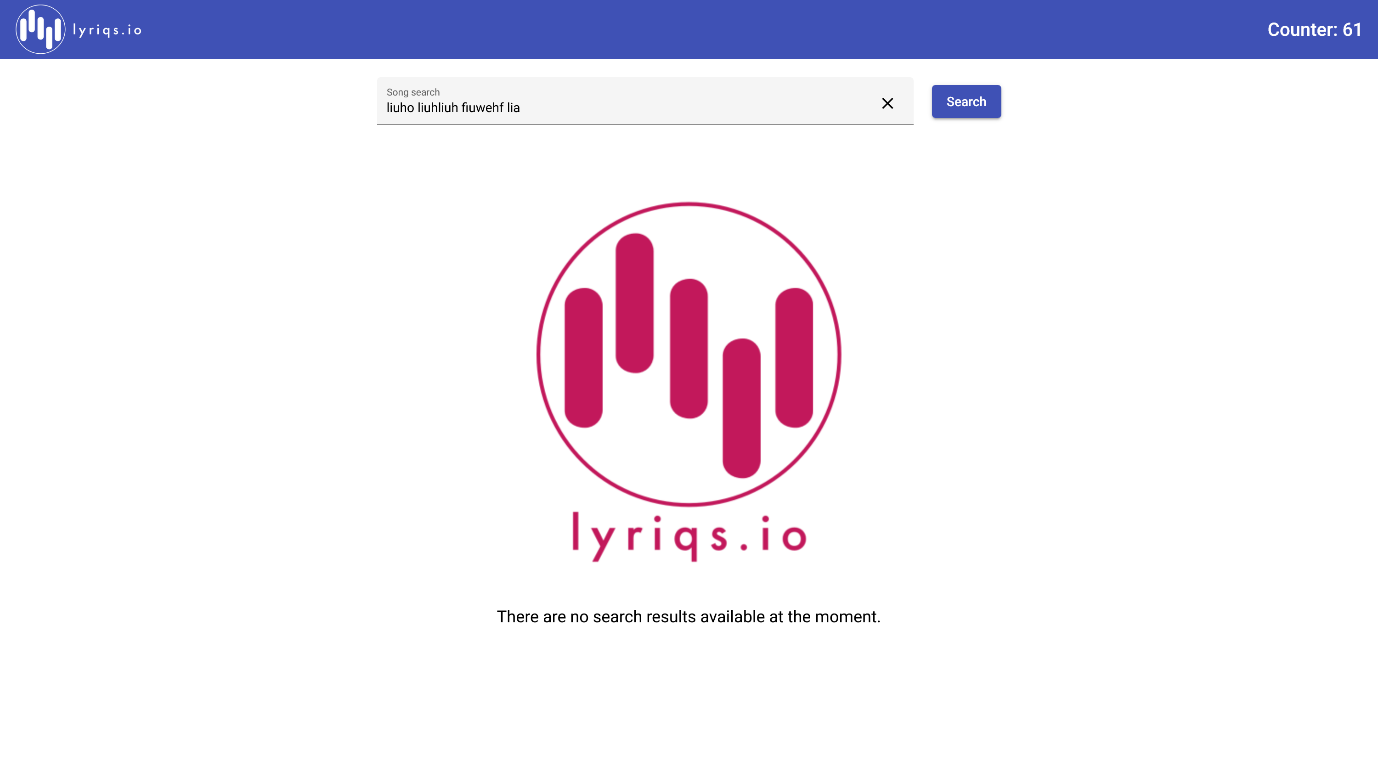
Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 4 – selection of song from result table



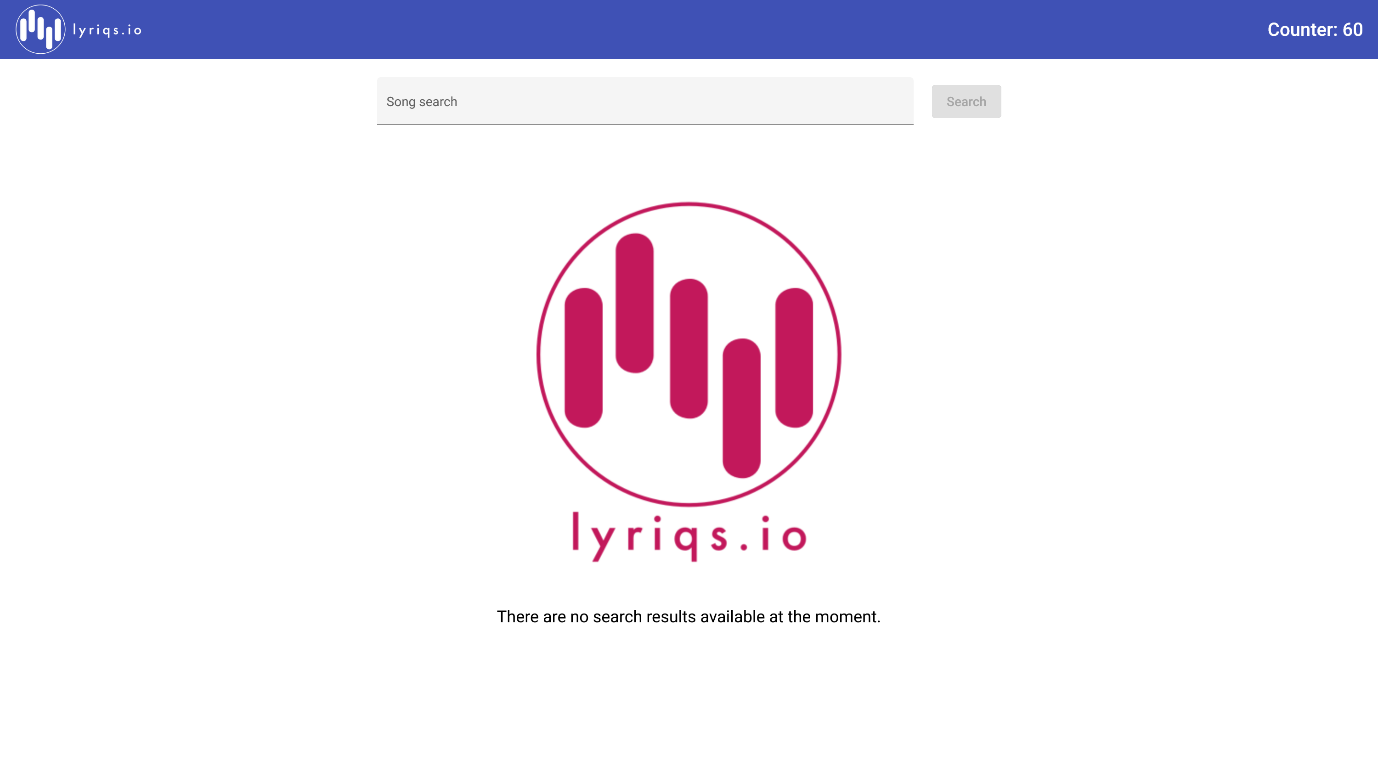
Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 4 – selection of different song from same result table



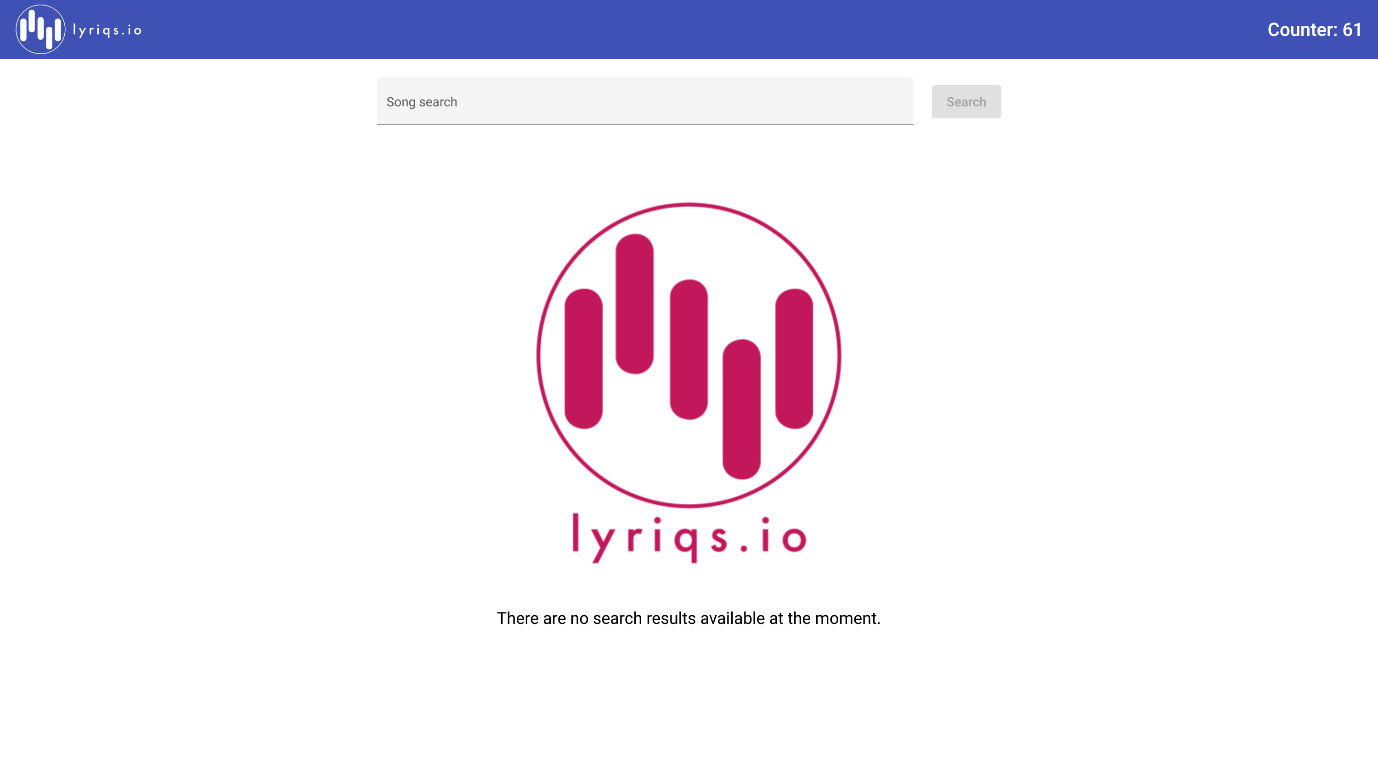
Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 5 – search for new song after initial search



Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 9 – search for nonsense term leading to empty result shows logo and info text



Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 10 – page counter visible in top right corner



Appendix B : Screenshot for test task 11 – update of page counter after reload