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Assignment 3 Writeup and Reflection

The MBTA web app is designed to help Babson students and potentially Massachusetts residents that use the MBTA to find the MBTA station closest to their designated area and determine whether it is wheelchair accessible. The app starts by determining and returning the latitude and longitude of the inputted place by using the get_json and get_lat_long functions and then uses those coordinates to return a list of all stops nearby using the get_nearest_station and find_stop_near functions. Then I defined the meanings of the wheelchair accessibility: '2' means the station is accessible, '1' means it is not, and '0' means that there is no information available. The web app has a simple interface, with a home page with the title "amazing app to help you find the nearest MBTA station." Users just have to enter their location, and the app will return the name of the nearest stop and whether it is wheelchair accessible.

Overall, the project went well because the hard part of the code was already given to us besides the flask part. The flask part was definitely the most difficult part. The program could possibly have been improved if I could possibly extend the distance so that Babson College has a nearest MBTA stop. Also finding the nearest stop should only have one stop not a list of all possible stops. Also the program could have been improved to deal with internal server errors better.

I ran into some difficulty designing the website that would host the MBTA web app. For instance, we ran into "method not allowed" and "internal server error" due to issues with the mbta_helper.py and the index.html files. I used different external sources such as stackoverflow to supplement the information in the API documentation and gave me ideas of how to debug my program.