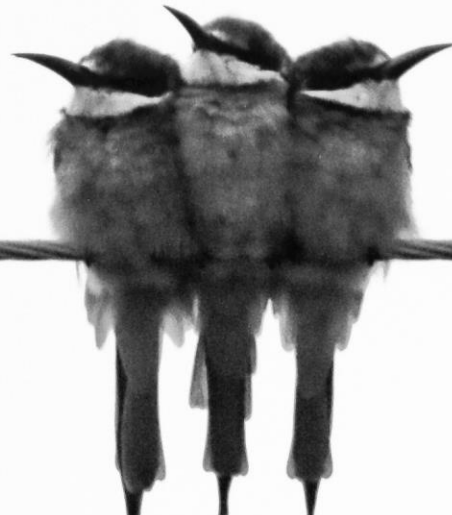# 'Plan My Trip' app meant to alleviate travel stress and reduce pre-travel anxiety

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Why?
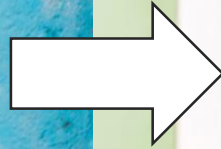
51%

U. S. vacationers are more stressed today than a year ago

37%

cancel or delay their trip

48%

said having a ready-made vacation itinerary would reduce stress

The 2017 'Vacation Ready' survey was conducted online from April 19 to 21, 2017 by APCO Insight on behalf of Wyndham Vacation Rentals.

Similar Systems

tripadvisor

❌ No personalised calendar.

❌ Information overload.

inspirock™

❌ No mobile app.

❌ Simplified activity preferences.

Research

For "**some** people and in **some** contexts, travel for its own sake is valued due to one or more… character traits or desires" Salomon and Mokhtarian (1998)
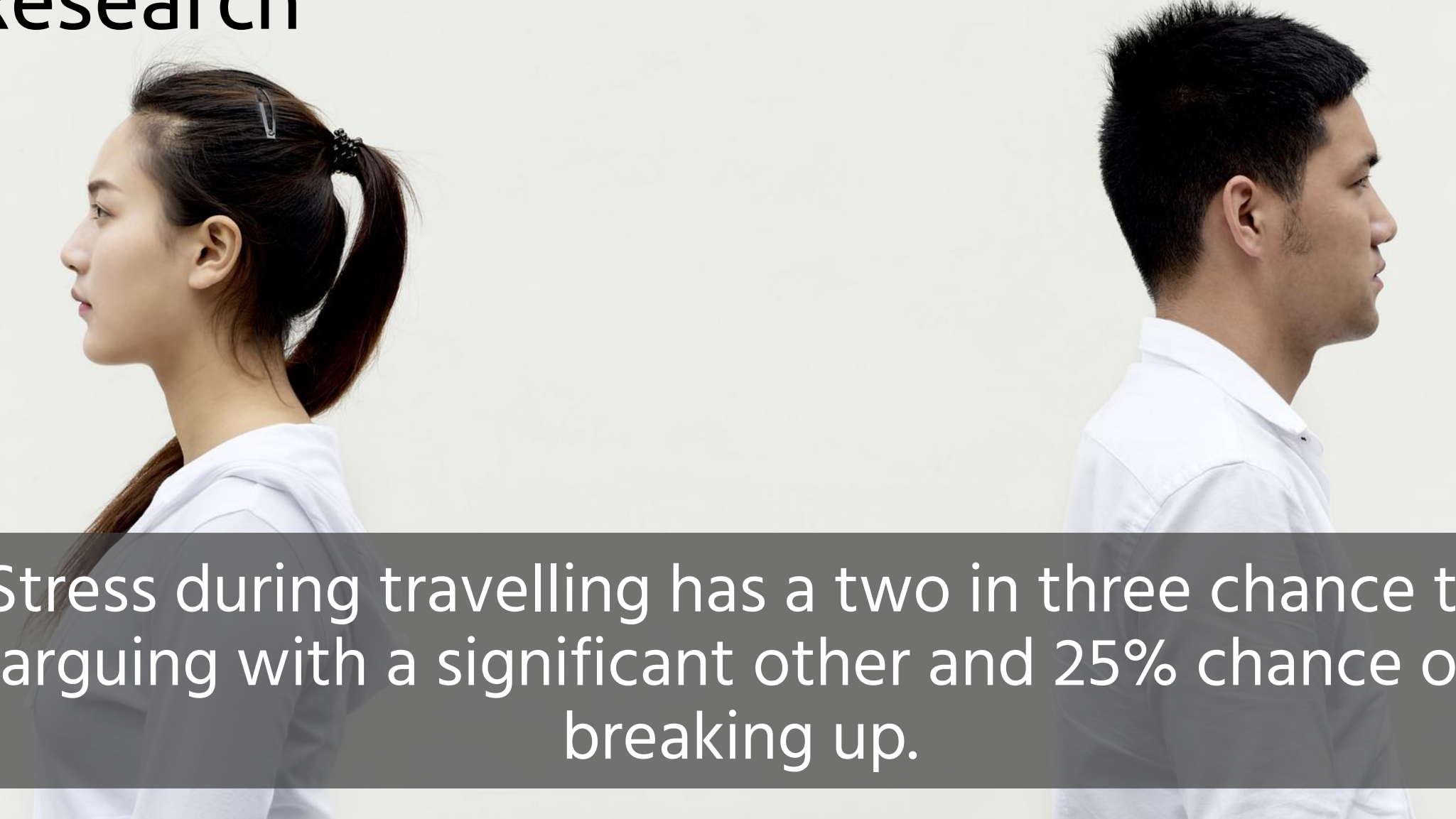
Research

Pre-travel anxiety relating to various preparations ruins the trip altogether.

Research

Stress during travelling has a two in three chance to arguing with a significant other and 25% chance of breaking up.

Aim

Build a mobile app allowing users to create custom day-by-day vacation itineraries to improve their travel experience, reduce stress and pre-travel anxiety.

Objectives

- **Research current travel planning apps/tools** and evaluate their flaws, probability to induce pre-travel stress.

- **Conduct market research** through anonymous questionnaires to determine demand and necessary features.

- **Build a mobile app** allowing the user to randomise/build an all-inclusive travel itinerary according to custom, painstaking filtering process.

- **Utilise machine learning** to suggest alternative activities if the user is not following the travel itinerary.

- **Organise a user group** to test and determine the usefulness of the implemented model.

Technology

- **Android Studio** (for the App)

- **Kotlin** (for the App)

- **Google API** (for the App) and
APIs of relevant travel sites (i.e. TripAdvisor API)

- **FireBase** and **Room DB** (for the App)

- **Agantty, Any.do** (for planning, scheduling)

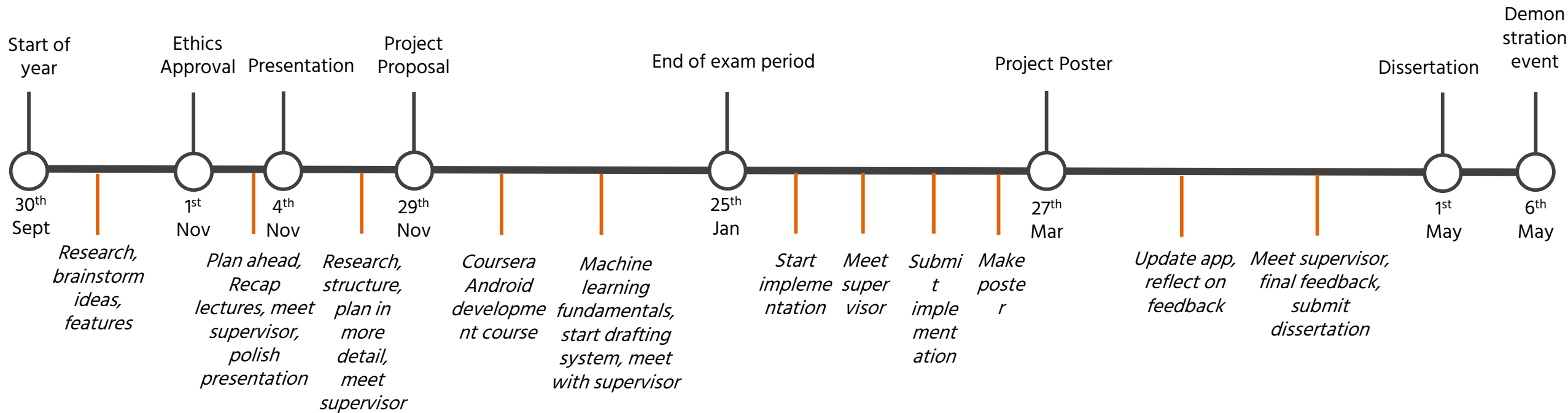- **Survey Monkey** (for market research)

Technology Risks

- **Slow development speed** due to Android Studio running slowly on personal laptop (hardware limitations).

- **APIs might collect** more **customer data** than thought (careful with Terms of Service).

- Bad coding can lead to **API security breaches**.

- Improperly secured **databases can lead to exposure of sensitive customer data**.

Timeline

Start of year — 30th Sept

Ethics Approval — 1st Nov

Presentation — 4th Nov

Project Proposal — 29th Nov

End of exam period — 25th Jan

Project Poster — 27th Mar

Dissertation — 1st May

Demonstration event — 6th May

Research, brainstorm ideas, features

Plan ahead, Recap lectures, meet supervisor, polish presentation

Research, structure, plan in more detail, meet supervisor

Coursera Android development course

Machine learning fundamentals, start drafting system, meet with supervisor

Start implementation

Meet supervisor

Submit implementation

Make poster

Update app, reflect on feedback

Meet supervisor, final feedback, submit dissertation

Timeline Risks

- **Minimal experience** with mobile app development might make it difficult to meet all the objectives on time.

- Working with multiple APIs can prove to be a very time intensive task and I **might not be able to implement the full functionality** of the app.

- Have **no experience in context-aware computing**, which some features will depend on.

- **Other coursework/deadlines** set simultaneously that **might be compromised** due to dissertation or vice versa.

Workflow

Agile approach

✓ Minimise feedback loops.

✓ Regularly review and check progress/deadlines.

✓ Incremental delivery.

Summary

- Pre-travel anxiety and stress causes failed relationships and horrible travel experiences.

- Build a mobile app allowing users to create custom day-by-day vacation itineraries.

- Agile methodology.

- Technology used might have security risks.

- Risk of failing to deliver features due to

  inexperience.

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