Wayfarer

“Not all who wander are lost”

Last Revised: September 23, 2020

# Introduction

There is a community of people who enjoy the challenge of visiting every town in a particular state or region. The intent is primarily for recreation. Specifically: individuals, couples, friends, or families might seek new experiences by visiting towns to see sights, shop, eat at restaurants, attend events, or just to say they have been there. For the sake of simplicity, we will call the people (individuals or groups) who do this “visitors.”

Typically, visitors want to record information about their visits. At the bare minimum, they want to keep track of which towns they have visited to be sure they haven’t missed any. However, visitors also usually want to record other artifacts of their visit such as pictures, written comments, and maybe other things. Since a visitor might visit a town multiple times, it is also important to properly date-stamp the recorded artifacts. Visitors might also wish to share the information they record with friends or with the public, as well as view shared information from others. Wayfarer is a system that allows these things to be done.

In addition to recording and sharing visits, Wayfarer might also be useful for trip planning purposes. To that end it could include current events, sights of interest, historic information, restaurant and lodging information, and maps for each town. Wayfarer itself might not directly hold this additional information, but instead it might reference or link to sources of this information in some natural and convenient way.

To increase the sense of adventure, Wayfarer might also contain a geocaching-like feature whereby some of the information shared by other users for a particular town would only be “unlocked” once a visitor arrives at that town. The visitor could then add additional information about his/her visit to the cache, but only so long as the visitor remains in the town.

The rest of this document describes the meta-requirements of the Wayfarer system. Detailed requirements are deferred to the individual teams building the system. Note that we use the name Wayfarer to refer to the entire Wayfarer system. Depending on the architecture selected, the system might include a client application (mobile, web, desktop), a server application for back-end activities, an administrative application (mobile, web, desktop), or some combination of these things. The name “Wayfarer” might be seen by the user as just the name of the client, but during development we apply the name more broadly.

# Meta-Requirements

* **Meta-Name**. The name of the system and its components shall be freely chosen by each development team. The name “Wayfarer” used here is only for convenience in this specification. It may be used, but it does not need to be used.
* **Meta-Architecture**. Wayfarer may be implemented using an architecture of each team’s choosing. It is understood that different architectures will support somewhat different system requirements. Possible architectures include (but are not limited to):
  + Mobile application with or without a back-end server for data storage.
  + Web application using back-end server for data storage.
  + Desktop application with or without back-end server for data storage.
* **Meta-Platform**. For the sake of practicality in the time allotted, only a single platform need be implemented. For example, with an architecture that includes a mobile application only one of the big two mobile platforms (Android, iOS) needs to be supported. Web applications may target a single browser, and desktop applications may target a single operating system.
* **Meta-Visitor-Actions**. Visitors should be able to at least record information (artifacts) about their visits to various towns. The precise nature of that information is left to the specific requirements. Visitors *may* be able to perform other actions such as share artifacts with other visitors, view events or points of interest in each town, etc. The details are left to the specific requirements.
* **Meta-Multi-State**. A decision needs to be made about if Wayfarer will support only one state (e. g., Vermont) or multiple states. Details are left to the specific requirements.
* **Meta-Third-Party**. A decision needs to be made about if Wayfarer can be used stand-alone, (i. e., by users not affiliated with any other organization), or only by users who *are* affiliated with an official group such as the 251 Club of Vermont.