Project Description:

Our project proposal for INFO 343’s final project is a website titled “Walk With Me”. The purpose of this website is to provide an umbrella sharing service to UW students who are in need of cover from the rain or looking to share their umbrella during a walk.

To begin, a user must first login or sign up for our website in order to create a profile that allows for some basic data such as name and contact information to be saved. Next, the user will be presented with two options : either sharing their umbrella or to search for an umbrella. Upon choosing to share an umbrella, the user will be presented with a form requiring information such as the meeting location, how long they are willing to wait, and their intended destination. After submitting the form, the user will be added as an umbrella sharer on the search map.

Upon choosing to search for an umbrella, a user will be presented with a GPS located map of their current area, and markers will be placed on the location of any umbrella sharers. Once the user has chosen an umbrella sharer to walk with, a notification will be sent to the sharer and it will be up to the pair to locate each other and decide on their walking plans. Additionally planned features such as filters for the search map (time, destination, etc.) will also be available as well as facebook profile integration. Last but not least, the app will be restricted to UW students, and will include optional GPS tracking as well as an emergency button for calling the police in regards to safety concern.

The most similar application (and only one we are aware of at the moment) is a company called “Umbrellahere” which has created a purchasable GPS product to attach to one’s umbrella and a companion app for umbrella sharing. However, the necessity of purchasing a separate product makes the service significantly less accessible. Our non-profit approach to the service and lack of any necessary third party products makes our website much easier to use for everyone. Thus, Walk With Me hopes to contribute to an inclusive campus environment by creating a fun opportunity to not only help out other UW students but also meet and socialize.