

Criterion A - Planning Document

Defining the Problem:

During the winter break, I took a trip to visit my sister in New York. As a newcomer to the city and a current NYU master's student, she expressed her desire to make the most of her weekends and breaks by exploring the city and discovering new nearby locations. To assist her in this endeavor, I proposed the idea of creating an application that would provide recommendations for nearby places to visit. This would enable her to easily choose from a curated list of suggestions of things to do, allowing her to fully enjoy her free time and save countless hours searching for the perfect spot to unwind.

The Rationale for the Solution:

The primary rationale behind developing this solution was to create an application that streamlines the process of discovering new places and activities for users, like my client, who are new to a city. Also, addressing a key challenge my client faced: keeping track of the places she wanted to visit and the details associated with them. She found it cumbersome to create a list of places to visit each time and then search for the necessary information, such as distance and travel time. This app aims to provide a comprehensive solution by serving as a one-stop destination for all her preferred locations. Not only will the app store her desired destinations, but it will also allow her to search for new places of interest and add them to her list for future exploration. By consolidating all relevant information within the application, users and my client can effortlessly manage their travel plans and make the most of their leisure time.

Describing the Solution:

- ❖ **Offer a variety of categories/activities to choose from:** The application would present users with various categories of places to visit and things to do, catering to diverse interests and preferences.
- ❖ **Enable tailored searches:** If users have specific interests or requirements, they could search for those within the app, ensuring they find activities that align with their desires.
- ❖ **Provide map visualization:** Upon selecting an activity or place, the app would redirect users to a map page displaying all nearby locations related to the chosen category. This feature would allow users to easily navigate and plan their visits.
- ❖ **Curate personalized lists:** Users could add specific locations or activities they find appealing to their personalized list within the app, enabling them to keep track of their must-visit spots.

So, the user flow will be as follows:

1. The client should be able to sign up by entering their email and setting a password. This will save all the information related to their account in our database as well.
2. After logging in the client will be directed to an explore page which would have a search bar for tailored searches and a list of recommendations that include locations and things to do nearby.
3. After searching for a specific thing to do or location; or by clicking on any of the recommendations the user will then be redirected to a maps page with all the locations nearby related to that particular activity or type of location.
4. By simply clicking on the red pop-up location symbol users can see the exact address of the location and click on the “Add to list” button to add it to their list of places to visit.
5. If any user would like to have a look at their lists they can access the my account button on the bottom navigation bar where they would have the information related to all the locations in their list and also a button to log out.

By offering these functionalities, the app would save users time and effort while making their exploration experience more enjoyable and efficient.

Client and Advisor

The inspiration behind this application arose from a discussion with my sister, who had been struggling to discover new places to visit and things to do. Recognizing the potential to resolve this issue, my sister, who possesses expertise in coding and app development through the use of Android Studio, will serve as both the client and advisor for this project. Her input will be extremely valuable in ensuring the app meets her needs and provides a seamless and intuitive user experience.

The rationale for IDE: Android Studio

- ❖ Android Studio offers a wide range of plugins, libraries, and support for app development, making it more efficient and convenient for developers.
- ❖ Android Studio has a well-structured interface and user-friendly design, allowing for an easier and faster coding experience.
- ❖ Android Studio supports all Android platforms, giving the developer the freedom to create apps for any Android device.
- ❖ Android Studio has robust debugging features, allowing for faster resolution of issues and a better overall development experience.
- ❖ Android Studio has integrated support for Google Play Store, allowing for easy publishing and distribution of the app.

Success Criterion:

1. **Successful Sign-Up:** Users should be able to register with a valid email address to complete the sign-up process.
2. **Successful Login:** Users should be able to log in using the email and password they provided during sign-up.
3. **Recommendations:** The app should display a set of locations/things to do or categories of locations that the user can choose from.
4. **Location Access and Display:**
 - Upon being directed to the maps page, users should receive a pop-up requesting permission to access their device's location from the settings.
 - After granting permission, the app should accurately display the user's location on the map.
5. **Location Information and Addition:** After clicking on the red pin location symbol should display the exact location and name of the place, along with an option to add it to the user's list of saved locations.
6. **Account Management:** Users should be able to access their account by clicking the "My Account" button, accessing their list of saved locations.
7. **Logout:** After clicking the "My Account" button, the application should display a button for logging out and the list of saved locations, the user should be able to log out successfully.