

**Description:**

UMaine Connect is an application that integrates with Google Maps in order to schedule events on a map for other users to see. UMaine Connect is intended to bring students and locals together by allowing them to view, create, and plan activities, events, and gatherings. Features of UMaine Connect will include: creating events on a map, seeing who is attending events, signing up for events, being able to create a personal profile, seeing event history, and adding other users as friends. Some use cases of our application may be: planning a birthday party, seeing what other people around you are doing when you have nothing to do, scheduling a study session, as well as just getting together with someone.

**Similar Services:****Facebook Events**

Facebook Events allows you to post events publicly that people can then join or say they are interested in attending, these features would be very similar to how UMaine Connect handles events. The main difference in how the events are interacted with is how users would search for the events. Instead of typing in a location for the event, the user would scroll around the map to find a location. You will also have the ability to filter your results based on the type of activity, for instance, if someone created an event for a pickup soccer game, it would have the “sports” tag attributed to it.

**Snapchat**

Snapchat has a feature where you can see people you are friends with on a map, as well as public posts. These public posts are organized in the form of a heat map, where the more activity in a specific area, the “hotter” that area gets. This is only one feature of Snapchat, which primarily serves as a tool to send images to people that disappear after being viewed. Our application is not based around sending images to others, but rather as an app to help with coordinating “get togethers”. Our “Git Together” feature is focused on implementing a map, but instead of updating the locations of users, we are simply going to allow for a location to be indicated, with the ability to add the name of an activity and show participants. This feature is unique to our program, as Snapchat does not have any form of “planning ahead” feature, nor does it have the ability to mark/designate a location. The heat map feature of snapchat is somewhat similar to the idea that we will be able to mark a specific location, however the location marked is based upon the popularity of public posts, as opposed to direct user input. A similar feature that both Snapchat and Umaine Connect share is the marking of local businesses and different places on the map in order to allow for navigation and orientation.

**Google Calendar**

Within Google Calendar you can create events and then invite people to these events. With UMaine Connect, all events will be publicly viewable on the map and people will be able to invite themselves to these events. Both of these applications provide a way to manage events, however the main difference is the public nature of UMaine Connect versus the closed nature of a Google Calendar event. The way the users interact with the joining process would primarily be by viewing the integrated Google Map and seeing what people are doing in a specific area.