Delivery Food Order Coordinator for Cheaper Delivery Fees and Minumum Order Fulfillment

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College campuses tend to have many restaurants around them that offer delivery services; students tend to utilize these, as seen on websites like Grubhub that allow users to search for nearby restaurants by college campuses (1). However, because of delivery fees, an item that seemed like a reasonable expenditure can become much more, and some places have minimum delivery fees that are more than the price of one meal (2). This can leave a list of food options very small and/or more expensive than anticipated. In this project, we propose an application for coordinating delivery food orders – listing a place someone wants to eat, then another user adding his/her desired food to that order – around college campuses using web browser technologies (HTML5, Javascript) so the site will be conveniently accessible from both desktop/laptop web browsers and mobile devices.

This solution seems not to have been implemented in a dedicated fashion (3) – only performed casually on general group sites (4), so this will be the first specific attempt at this. Group sites like Facebook are usually difficult to communicate time-specific things with, because group pages and newsfeeds can get cluttered (5), thereby making it easy to miss delivery coordination posts. By providing a means of saving and stacking money to fulfill minimum delivery charges, our system promises to make the process of getting food delivered more frugal, convenient, and therefore more feasible for those on tight budgets in populations with high proportions of those hungry and unable/unwilling to cook (e.g. college campuses, though we will only test on one for convenience). We will poll users throughout the process, beginning with paper prototyping and ending with on-device/on-computer tests by willing users, limited to the UMD campus for easy testing.

References

(1). "Order Delivery Online from Nearby Restaurants." *GrubHub.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Sept. 2013. <https://www.grubhub.com/>.

(2) My attempts to order Krazi Kebob alone and an Italian place that has a 25 dollar minimum order.

(3) A Google search turns up nothing.

(4) Facebook group posts on the dorm floor page are the medium of choice, based on personal experience.

(5) Facebook group notifications stack so it is easy to miss the content of the post from clicking on the notification symbol.