**Coursera Capstone Course**

**Week 4**

**Foursquare Report**

**Using Foursquare to Assist First Responders After An Earthquake**



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**11 November 2018**

**Introduction**

This project is intended to provide first responders with location data related to the number of people at populated locations near the epicenter of an earthquake. This project will help first responders to plan resources effectively and be proactive in the event of an emergency, rather than waiting or searching for phone calls or door-to-door search and rescue for people needing assistance. While this project will not eliminate the need for phone calls and door-to-door searches due to lack of use by all of the check-in features of the application, it is intended to provide the best available data to the administrations to make the best use of limited resources during disasters.

**Data**

Foursquare is a mobile application that provides search results for users based on users’ “previous browsing history, purchases, or check-in history”. (Wikipedia, n.d.) This project will make use of Foursquare’s API, or application programming interface. Specifically, making use of the “trending” end point of the API in relation to the latitude and longitude of the earthquake, the information returned will provide venues with the most users checked in at that time. Foursquare’s Trending end point “returns a list of venues near the current location with **the most people currently checked in**.” (Foursquare, n.d.)

In addition to the Foursquare data, the initial project will provide real-time earthquake data from California Institute of Technology’s (CalTech) Southern California Earthquake Data Center website, namely <http://service.scedc.caltech.edu/eq-catalogs/date_mag_loc.php>. This website provides real-time earthquake data that includes datetime, magnitude, latitude and longitude, and depth information.

**References**

Wikipedia. (n.d.) Retrieved from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foursquare>

Foursquare. (n.d.) Retrieved from: <https://developer.foursquare.com/docs/api/venues/trending>