

CSCI 205 Final Project

Team 02 - InspektahAPI

User Manual

The Problem

A shopper looking to buy a specific product online needs a simple user interface to search for the products they are looking for, without the distractions of ads or suggestions.

Users need an interface to use to buy items online. We provide a way for the user to search Walmart.com for their item of interest. The user can also sort by price, seller, etc.

Introduction

Let's say you want to buy an iPad on Black Friday, but don't know which one to get. You have a set budget to spend, and you want to save the most money. Where do you look? You could go to any of the major online retailer's websites, but you'll be bombarded with sponsored posts and ads trying to upsell you on a more expensive product. That is where InspektahAPI comes in. Our program allows a buyer to search for a product, unhindered by everything else. A user can sort by multiple factors, and browse through average ratings for each product. The user can then use this information to purchase their desired product without having to browse through complicated web stores.

Background

In researching the widely available e-commerce platforms of today's world, we found that all of them bombarded us with ads and sponsored product placements. If we were looking for a specific product, as we all have found ourselves doing, we couldn't easily find the best option without searching through multiple platforms and pages.

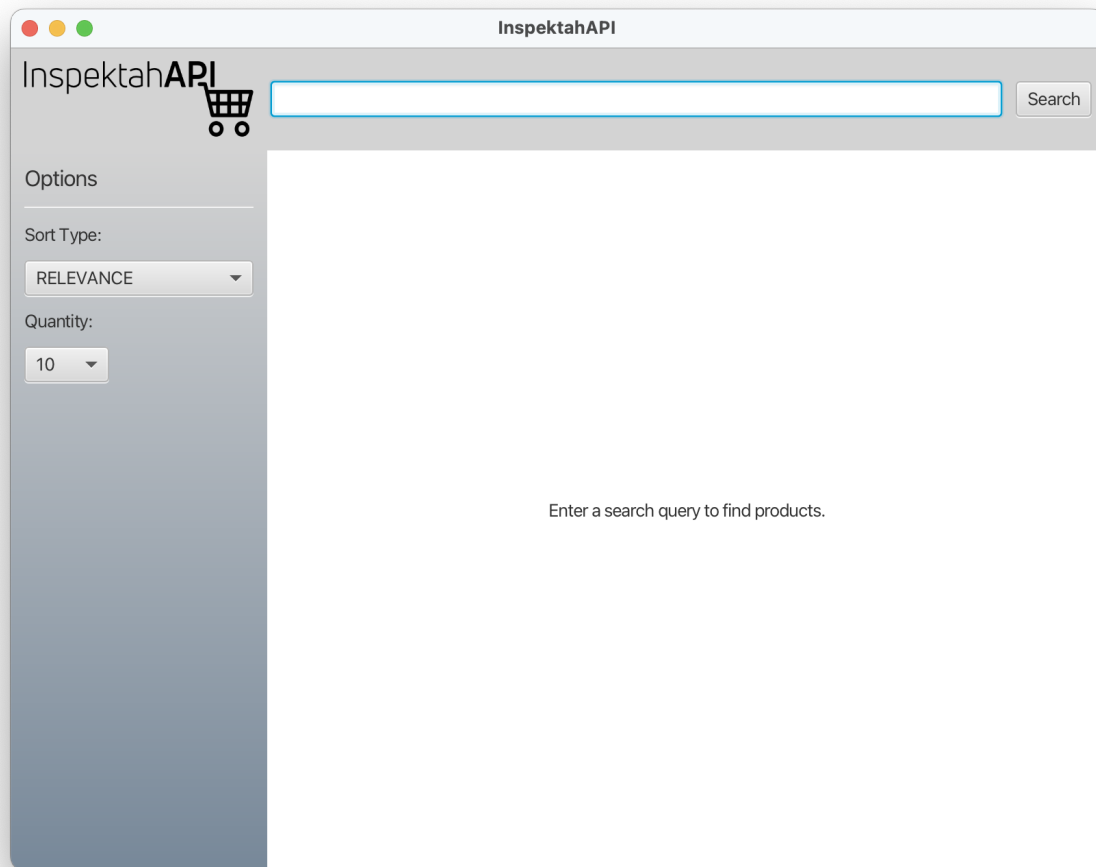
We also couldn't find an inexpensive piece of software that aggregated products from multiple sellers and platforms, however in trying to solve this portion of the problem, we ran into cost issues with the APIs provided by the largest e-commerce platforms (such as Amazon).

Motivation

Our motivation for this project was twofold; we wanted to work on something that was practical, specifically not a game, as we wanted real-world experience we could apply outside of this class. We hoped to be able to publish this project on our GitHubs for future interviewers or employers to see. In addition, we wanted to solve a problem that many of us had faced, in regards to finding products.

Using the Program

Upon launching the InspektahAPI program, you will be greeted with this screen.



There are three main segments to this view- the sidebar, search bar, and product pane.

Sidebar

- Allows the user to change what aspect of the products determines sort placement, including relevance, price, title, customer rating, or product release date.
- Allows the user to change the amount of products returned per search query.

Search Box

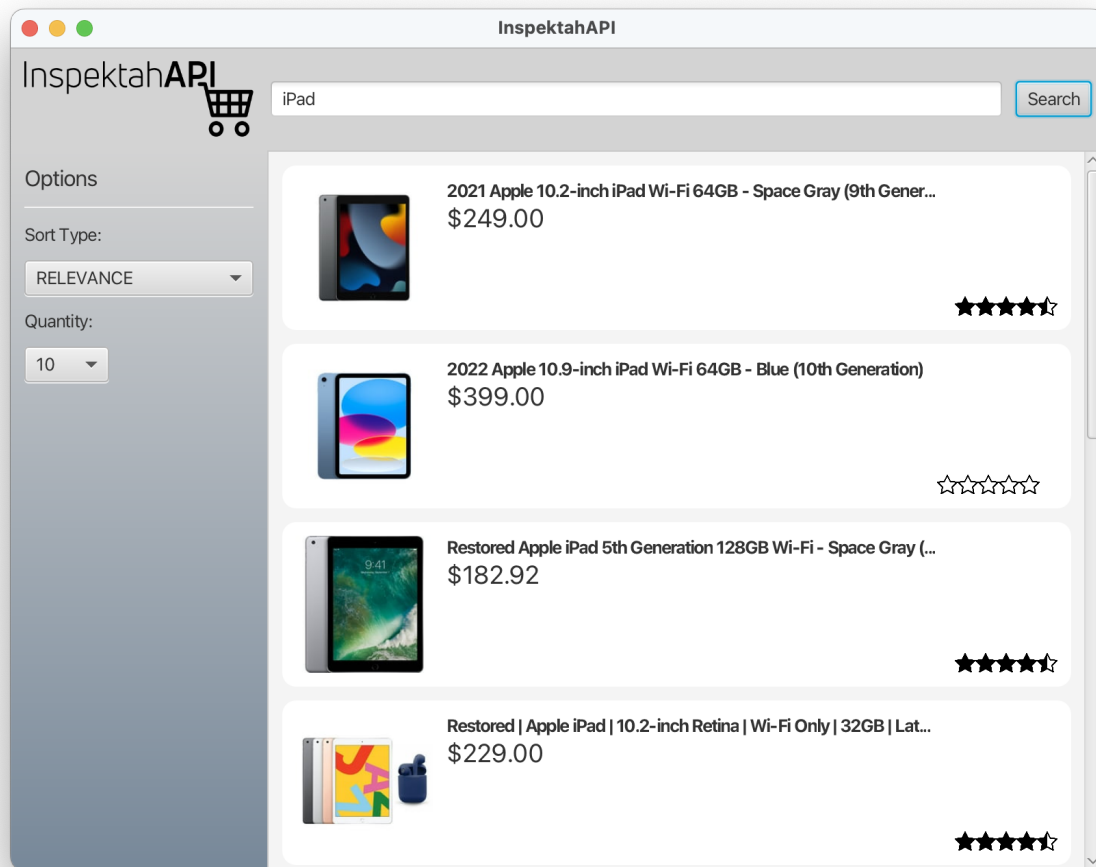
- Is the place where the user enters a query, which is sent to the backend API along with the sorting and quantity information in order to get the desired product listings.

Product Pane

- Currently empty, will show products after a search query is processed.

Searching for Products

Here's an example of a product search.



In this example, we've sorted the products by relevance. This can be changed using the sidebar. This provides us with a simple and easy way to find products- as the cheapest new condition iPad is shown as the first result, with a slightly higher-end model following, and two refurbished products after that. We see the product's prices and ratings, and can scroll through to see even more listings.

A Note on Input:

When performing a search, the user clicks into the search box, and enters their query. The search process can be triggered either through pressing the enter key, or clicking the search button.

Product Use Cases

Here is a UML Use Case diagram, depicting the possible use cases of the program.

