**CMPE 131 Foodies Unite**

**ABSTRACT**

*Project Overview*

Foodies Unite is a food review web application, where users can share their food reviews and opinions from different restaurants and vendors in California. With this, users will be able to search for restaurants, read reviews of restaurants, write reviews, post pictures, comment, and report a review for unfair judgement (ie. racist, sexist, entitlement). One of the major goals of this website is not only to help users find places to eat and to share their opinions, but also to maintain a happy and welcoming environment. Users are required to only post reviews solely based on food or service. If a post is reported and does contain inappropriate content after administration review, it will be removed.

*Legacy System*

This web application is similar to Yelp, but focusing only on food; it will also fix several problems that Yelp currently has with users posting reviews and users posting biased, false reviews.

One of Yelp’s main problems is that not all posts stay on the page. When going through reviews, Yelp will evaluate them by considering the status of the user, such as whether or not they are a first-time reviewer, as well as the number of positive reviews posted. If a user posts too many positive reviews, Yelp will filter them and remove these reviews from the page. Through this filtering process, Yelp’s automated filter removes fake reviews, but at the same time, they are also filtering genuine, positive reviews.

In addition, although Yelp is a place for users to post reviews on products and services of different locations, one problem that has continuously appeared on Yelp is that users post reviews that are directed towards a certain employee, where they base their review on an employee’s appearance or personality. Some customers may write negative reviews in hope that the business owners will reach out for a compromise, such as free food. Others may visit a place hoping to find something negative, possibly false, about the business, in order to gain attention online (when people look at Yelp reviews, they tend to stop and read the lower ratings). When customers visit the business with that mindset, they could be a potential disruption to service by spending their time taking pictures and analyzing each detail, thus, taking longer than expected.

*Current System*

To combat the problems mentioned above, in Foodies Unite, users will have the freedom to post their experience at different restaurants, without having to worry about whether or not it will be removed. Instead of using a filter to remove false reviews, there will be commenting system in each post, allowing other users to agree and disagree with postings through their posted comments. Viewers can use this to their judgement of whether or not to believe the review. Currently, on Yelp, users can only vote for “Useful, Funny, and Cool” on posts. This may not be necessarily helpful for viewers as there is not a set definition for these descriptions. Browsing through the posts and its comments to determine its validity will be much more definite. Also, users will be required to rate solely using a business’ food, prices, and service. If other users see a post where a restaurant is rated based on factors other than the food, such as the decor or the appearance of an employee, it may be reported. The web application’s administrators will then look over the reported reviews or comments and take them down if they violate the policy.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

*Functional Requirements*

1. Creating reviews
2. Upload a picture with each review
3. Search capability
4. Categorize reviews using tags
5. Comment on reviews

*Non-functional Requirements*

1. Program implemented using PHP and MySQL
2. Reported reviews will be removed when administrators review the report (Ethical requirement)
3. All inputs are required. If one is missing, a message prompting the user to enter the field will appear.
4. Security of user information