Project Assignment #2

Team Name:
HiddenCampers

Team Members:
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Problem:

One of the biggest problems with backpackers is that they are often riddled with finding the perfect spot to camp. A lot of the times, travelers prefer to just spend a night or two in the woods without wanting to go through the entire hassle of carrying a tent and/or other equipment. Since all the camp locations are in the wild, there aren't many ways to discover the right sites, ones that have been well reviewed by other travelers and offer the best experience and exposure to nature and related activities. Our web app aims at providing users with the best camping whereabouts all across the world. Every camp site has a location that can be viewed on a map, an associated price per night and reviews by travelers that have visited before.

User Analysis:

We have identified two stakeholders for our project :

- Primary : The travelers looking to seek campsites to camp or share with other fellow campers.
  - A traveler can be anyone who wishes to get away from their daily mundane activities. They are interested in exploring places and often venture with a backpack to set out on adventures. They prefer to be away from the city life, and like to be in the woods or anywhere near nature.

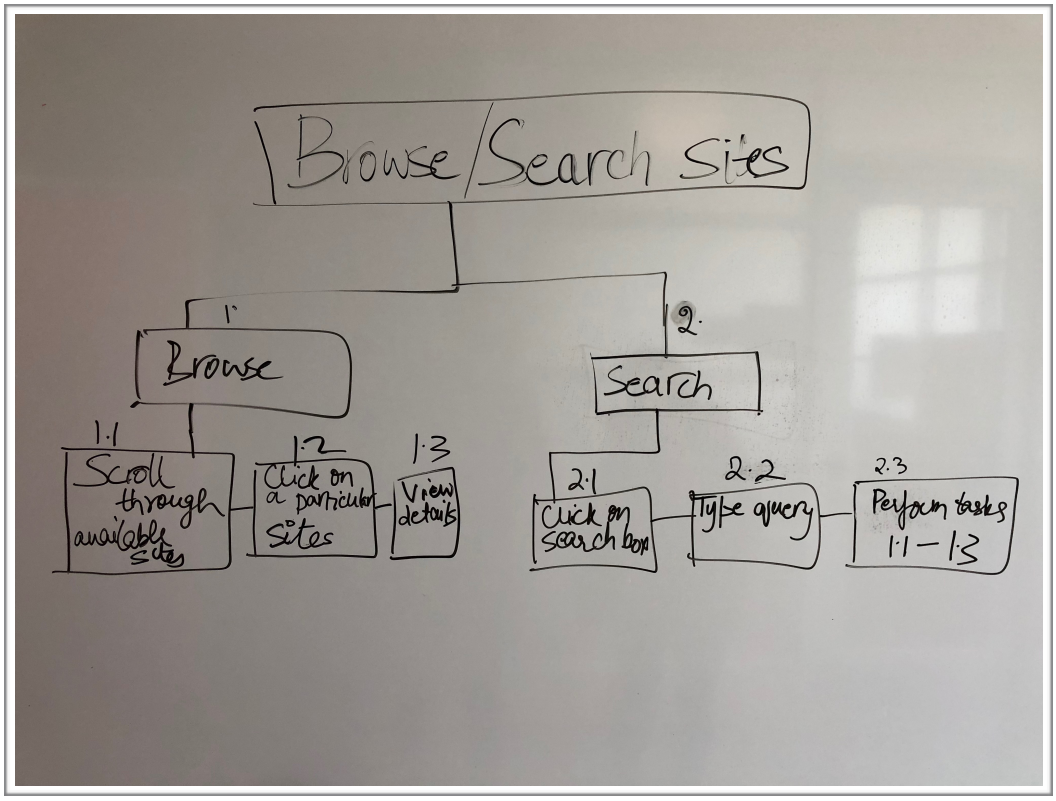
- Facilitating : The administrator who manages users(i.e. travelers) on the website and has complete access to all resources.
- An administrator knows how to use softwares and is well experienced with being responsible and other management aspects. They ensure that they keep track of user activity on a regular basis.

Task Analysis:

After brainstorming, we narrowed down three tasks :

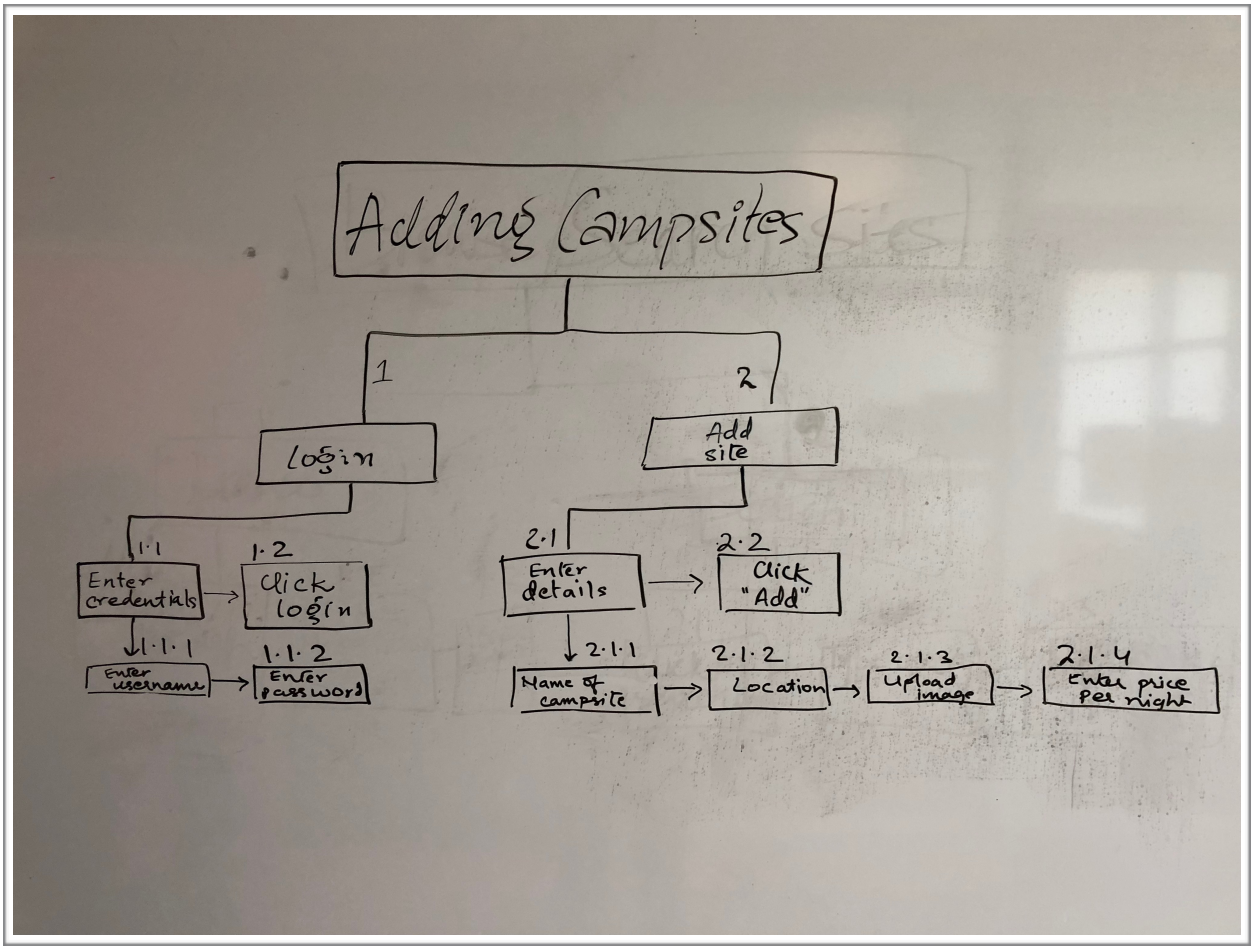
1. Browse/Search Campsites

   A user will be able to browse and search various sites by navigating intuitively.



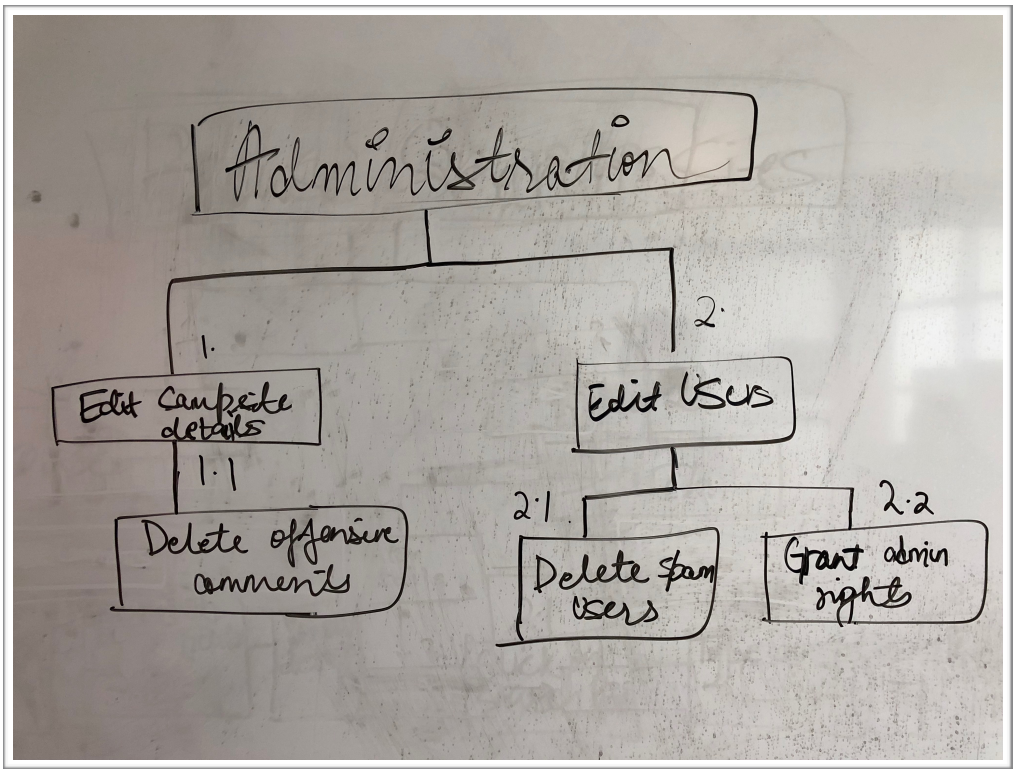
2. Add Campsites

A registered user will be able to add campsites.



3. Administration

An admin will be able to perform tasks with complete privileges.



Problem Scenario Analysis:

Task 1: Browse/Search Campsites

Clay is a 70 year old man who grew up in the 80s. He loves to travel and has gone for a lot of hikes in his life. However, he does not have a lot of experience with computers and every-time he tries to look for places online, he gets confused with all the extra information thrown at him regarding available campsites. Clay tried to go to a campsite which he discovered from a website but was extremely disappointed with the lack of accuracy and authenticity of the photos. He was also let down because he spent hours on the website trying to figure things out and the end result didn't turn out quite like he expected.

Task 2: Add Campsites

Veronica is a 20-something year old girl who is extremely passionate about traveling. She loves going to various places and likes discovering the unconventional hidden spots that stand out in comparison to other camping locations. She is very social and likes to share her experiences with other people. However, she tried to add her favorite campsites on a traveling website but she couldn't get them approved as most of the websites were for hotels and bed-n-breakfast postings which left her disenchanted.

Task 3 : Administration

Drake is a sub-admin at his workplace. His task is to keep track of user activity on his company's website and report any spam occurrences to his superior. He does not have administrative privileges and is often frustrated with how he does most of the admin work but does not get to execute any actions, while his superior takes credit for most stuff.

Usability Requirements:

We plan to test our usability by the following two metrics :

1. Is our system uniform across different devices? *(Nielsen's Heuristic for Consistency)*
2. How simple and intuitive is the UI and if it pertains to every person who wishes to use our system's functionality?

Previous Work:

We tried to look for academic literature on our project but couldn't come across any. But we did definitely encounter a few existing systems which offer somewhat similar functionalities and the issues with them.
Most of these systems like reserveamerica.com, hipcamp.com, gocampingamerica.com and freecampsites.net are extremely commercialized and customers complain about not getting what they signed up for as the images aren't usually a true representation of what they expected. These systems also trouble users with extra money they spend on bookings and changing reservations, in case such scenario arises.
Our website offers actual images of the camps at their respective location. These pictures have been taken by people who have already visited the site and reviewed it, thereby adding authenticity and also making this to be a social platform for fellow travelers.
Our system enables users to not have to to carry their own camping equipment should they choose not to. The campsites are real tents/cabins which may or may not be acquired by other travelers. This would enable people to share camping gear and also network based on similar interests.