

TweetedTrips Mashup Analysis

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A Mashup analysis of the website TweetedTrips which allows for the geo-mapping of roadtrips onto a map (provided by Google Maps API) by overlaying your Tweets (Twitter API) onto the Google provided Map.

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TweetedTrips -- General Description

TweetedTrips is a webapp that allows users to share their roadtrips in the online social space. There has been a general societal shift over the past 5 years to integrate our “real” lives and our online “social” lives. Throughout this shift companies like Facebook and Twitter have been able to gain massive market shares (Facebook has over 1 billion users) and integrate themselves into people’s daily lives. TweetedTrips is also trying to get in on this shift by allowing people to share their roadtrips in the social space. It links to people’s Twitter account and is given their Tweets over a certain amount of time (the road trip) and displays them geo-graphically over a map of the area they travelled.

Data Sources/API's Used

TweetedTrips primarily uses Twitter and Google Maps’ APIs. The user logs into TweetedTrips and links their account with Twitter in order to leverage their Tweets from the roadtrip. The site then uses the Twitter API to get the locational data about these Tweets and then overlays them onto a Google Maps interactive map.

Data Integration

TweetedTrips uses a few different aspects of each API’s functionality. It uses the Google Maps API to create and integrate onto their site an interactive map that allows a user to zoom, rotate, and shift the map around the Tweet Locations. In order to overlay these locations the app uses Twitter API’s location queries to get the actual GPS coordinates for the Tweets, and then obviously fetches the Tweets as well to display the text body of the Tweet.



Technologies Used

When looking at the source code for the homepage, it is clear that some of it was generated using PHP or some other server-side programming language. This is so obvious because there is one overflowing line that extends over 100 lines, and is effectively illegible. This app also includes the jQuery source code and in turn uses JavaScript (jQuery is a JavaScript framework). Finally it appears that a JavaScript resource by the name of Myriad Pro 700 Font is included as well. This is most likely a font library.

Evaluation

Overall this is a very cool Mashup, it combines the best of Twitter with the best of Google Maps and does so without any hiccups. The sites UI is easy to use, very smooth and works without a hitch. I also think that this is a great app to use, the social space is huge at the moment and a promising field. And I am a firm believer that web apps that try to mimic or replace something people already do in the real world are destined for success. People will always go on holidays and want to share pictures and experience with their friends. But instead of using “vacation slides” they can do so in a nicer more efficient experience, TweetedTrips.