

Design Document

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This document is aimed at providing a technical overview of the PowerEnJoy System, explaining how to satisfy the various project requirements stated in the RASD.

This document will provide an exhaustive description of the system architecture, the design patterns used, and explain how the various components will interact with each other, as well as their role in the MVC pattern.

1.2 Scope

The aim of the ***PowerEnJoy*** project is to provide a *Car-Sharing* Service which implements electric-powered cars only. This system will have to interface the Cars, Charging Areas, allowing Users to reserve, unlock, drive and park Cars, finally charging them the cost of the ride. The System will keep track of Cars' position, battery level, possible damages, plugging state.

As for the User Interface, we adopted the *thin client* approach, meaning that most of the computation will be performed on a powerful, central server (*fat client*), while the application (*thin client*) will only collect, communicate and display data.

1.3 Glossary

TODO Copy-paste that of the RASD + MVC, HTTP, SSL, servlet e simili

1.4 Reference Documents

- RASD for this project

1.5 Document structure

Sort of a more detailed index. TODO Add l8r.

2 Architectural design

2.1 Overview

The System will be built according to the Model-View-Controller design pattern, being divided in three separate macrocomponents interacting with each other.

The User Application will make up the View macrocomponent. It will display data from the Model and tell the Controller the actions to perform. It would interface with the rest of the system through a Java servlet, allowing information to be transferred seamlessly over a networked connection.

The Server-Side Application will make up the Controller macrocomponent. According to the requests of the View, the various parts of the Controller will read and, in some cases, modify the data stored in the Model, then send the appropriate data back to the View, allowing the User to make further decisions. The Controller would be divided into several components, each one interfacing with a different component of the Model: a Database Controller, for instance, would access the Society Database to retrieve information about the Users and the Cars, while the Maps Controller would get data from the Maps API.

The Model macrocomponent would be made up of many different components, each representing a different subset of the data required by the application: the Controller would have access to the data stored, to display them via the View. Different data subsets would be handled differently: the Society Database, for example, will allow the Controller to change the data, but external APIs will only provide the required information.

2.2 Motivation for MVC

The Model-View-Controller design pattern is a tried and tested paradigm that has proved itself to be effective and efficient. By separating the application in three macrocomponents, it allows for full encapsulation, with all the related advantages: each component can be changed without hassle, since they only need to present a coherent interface to the other ones, and it is easy to perform integration testing even if one or more components haven't been fully implemented.

For web applications such as the ones we are developing, the MVC paradigm comes naturally, since these applications are naturally divided in three main

components: a GUI running from the user's browser or their smartphone is the View macrocomponent, the Server-side code is the Controller, while the internal SQL database (integrated, in our case, by external APIs) is the Model.

2.3 Motivation for the Server-Client approach

We mentioned above that we are using a client web application the user will interact with, while a large server will perform most of the computation. This is called *Server-Client approach*, and it is used in most web application.

There are several reasons to choose this approach over having every instance of the application fulfill the duties of both the View and Controller macrocomponents: first and foremost, the client application can be kept lightweight, allowing it to be used even on low-spec platforms like older PCs or smartphones. Since the client needs to perform close to no computation, only handling communications, the application can easily run on most platforms.

Another advantage is that if every client application processed its requests at the same time, there would be a significant chance of collision: for example, two users could reserve the same car at the same time. With a server-side application, collisions can be readily detected and resolved.

Finally, having a centralized server application allows for much quicker communication with the company database, which is necessarily centralized, possibly even located on the same machine.

2.4 Component View

TODO

2.5 Deployment View

TODO

2.6 Runtime View

TODO

2.7 Component Interfaces

TODO

2.8 Protocols

The Model, View and Controller macrocomponents communicate with each other through a number of protocols:

2.8.1 RESTful web service

The communication between the thin client making up the View and the server-side Controller application is set up according to the REpresentational State Transfer set of constraints. Data exchange is made through the HTTP protocol, using SSL to provide encryption of sensible data.

Complying with the REST constraints allowed not only for simple component design, but also for intermediate layers such as firewalls or proxies. That is because the stateless nature of the system means that every request sent by the client contains all the necessary information for processing, not relying on server-side information. Furthermore, using a RESTful service allows us to design a uniform interface, easily allowing for future scalability.

2.8.2 API queries

Part of the Model macrocomponent is made up by a database handled by the Society, which will interact with the Controller through a query language like SQL.

However, parts of the Model rely on external services: the Maps component, for instance, will send requests to an external API to obtain maps for the desired location, and in the same way the Banking component will process payment by sending requests to an external banking system's API. All communication between the APIs and the Controller will make use of the HTTP protocol.

2.9 The Spring Framework

Spring is an open-source, modular application framework generally used to build web applications on top of the Java EE platform. It provides a plethora of functionalities, from high-level servlet control to security services, that can

be used by Java-based web applications. One core feature of Spring is that it can be used on any deployment platform: therefore the development team can focus on building the application without being constrained by the target platform's specifications, and the application could be easily deployed to a different target with minimal effort.

2.10 Server Specifications

2.10.1 Tomcat

While Spring provides tool for working with servlets, they would be implemented through the Apache Tomcat container and HTTP server. An open source project, Tomcat has been extensively tested and is known for its stability, performance and scalability, also providing excellent documentation and community support. Furthermore, there is an edition focused for Java EE, called TomEE, which integrates flawlessly with Spring.

2.10.2 NGINX

In order to manage requests, allowing the server to be easily contacted by the clients is paramount. In order to do that, an easy way is introducing an intermediary called a reverse proxy, tasked with retrieving resources according to incoming requests, reducing the risk of overloading the server.

NGINX is an open source reverse proxy that can also act as an HTTP server. It can be set to integrate flawlessly with Tomcat and enables the server to manage thousands of simultaneous connections without any drop in performance. Again, NGINX has an extensive documentation and community support.

3 Algorithm Design

This is to be thought about

4 User Interface

Mockups, UX diagrams?

5 Requirements Traceability

We need the Component Diagram for that.

6 Hours of work