

Info Parks USA Project Summary Report

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Product Overview

Info Parks USA is a mobile application designed to help National Park visitors plan a trip and get information about the parks.

The application will help users with what to bring for their trip by providing a tailored packing list. It will provide very useful information like maps of the park, weather, visitors centers and main attractions.

Info Parks USA makes heavy use of the phone's GPS location and integrates with Google maps API and web services.

Using these services when in the park grounds, the user is able to find the closest camping grounds when in need of a place to rest.

Any park explorer from the novice to the expert will find this application useful, didactic and interactive for their trip.

Project Deliverables

By the end of this project, there is a fully working Android Application for people that may want to go to National parks or are already there and would like more information. It provides multiple features that help the user get the best experience on their trip; whether they are planning for it or are there.

When they are planning for it, they have the option to use a packing list which will keep track of all the items that they are going to need to take. In addition to that, they will be requested to mention which month they are travelling and based on the month, they are going to be given a different suggested packing list based on the weather that month. So for example, in the Summer, there will be a suggested packing list with items such as shorts, etc. and in the winter there will be a packing list with items like a winter coat, etc.

Another feature was the Maps and Website feature. Once a user selected a specific National Park, they had the option to navigate there through the Google Maps application. InfoParks would automatically know which park they selected and pull up that information for that park in Google Maps.

Last but not least was the Camping Ground feature which allows users to see different campsites that are close to their location. The application would automatically pick up their location and give them their different options on where to stay.

Along with these features, there was a setup for users in their own database since in the initial project description, it was mentioned that users must have to login or create an account to be able to use the features.

Testing

In general, the main focus on our testing criteria was focused on the functionality of the park options screen. This includes tests ranging from park map, park website, park packing list based on date of travel, etc. These are key features of the app that ensures the user gains valuable information from using our application rather than looking up information online separately.

Another key test was ensuring the packing list worked as well. This is also a crucial functionality of the application as the user can use the app to prepare a packing list for the trip, testing the add and removal feature from the list is necessary for the app to be working properly.

Along with those features, we also tested the capabilities of the user database. This ensured that only users that have registered before can log in and everybody else would have to create a new account to log in and use the features of the application.

Inspection

We focused on ensuring the functionality is proper similar to the test cases run. Some items that were to be inspected included the functionality of the packing list, the different packing lists coming up based on the weather conditions (month of travel), the ability to pick up accurate location of the weather, etc. Some other inspections included providing the correct google maps/website link for the park selected by the user and not allowing entry into the application until an account is made or the user logs in.

The procedures for this were similar in the testing section as it included testing each of these functionalities. For example, the camping ground feature included ensuring the users location is being picked up accurately and the app switches to google maps. The result of this inspection was a pass as the map of the park showed up on command and showed areas where camping and hiking were taking place.

Project Retrospective

In general, the two most important things that have to be taken into consideration are communication and organization. Since everything will be online for the foreseeable future, ensuring that everybody is on the same page is of utmost importance. The meetings need to cover what each member is going to do and what should be done by the next time the group meets. This will ensure accountability and everything is accomplished well before the time that it is due.

The other important aspect is organization which will cover all of the important aspects required in the project as a whole. Some aspects that should be discussed are meeting minutes, uploading documents/code to Github online, starting sprints on Jira, etc. Since that are so many different aspects of both the development and coding project it is helpful to make sure everything is accounted for.