Deliverable 0

Project Description (2-4 pages)

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Application Category: Travel planning - flight planner

Application Name: FlyAway

Application Description:

General

FlyAway (or an app of a similar name) is an attempt by Gray Matter to bring the innovations of ride-sharing and service applications such as Uber, Instacart and Airbnb to the world of General Aviation. FlyAway will allow private and commercial pilots who own small, general aviation aircraft to connect with potential customers and passengers seeking the kinds of services that only a small aircraft can provide - whether it’s a resident of Aroostook County looking to avoid a long car ride to southern New England, a forest service worker looking for a ride to a remote camp in northwest Maine, or a group of Umaine college students going on a weekend ski trip in the mountains of New Hampshire Vermont. For pilots, FlyAway offers a convenient chance to make money off their hobby or passion without going through the barriers associated with employment in (or operation of) a small airline or air service. For Private Pilots in particular, who are prohibited under federal regulations from operating their airplane on a for-profit basis, FlyAway provides an opportunity to share the operating expenses of their aircraft with somebody in need of fast and convenient transportation. This could serve as an opportunity to earn hours towards a new type rating, or simply reduce the cost of owning and operating a plane. For passengers, FlyAway will streamline the process of getting in contact with pilots willing to offer general aviation transport services - something that previously involved contracting private, opaque, and often expensive Fixed Base Operations without a substantial online presence. Most importantly, FlyAway will substantially lower the barrier of entry into general aviation for both Pilots and Passengers. General Aviation is an expensive hobby that is all too often out of reach of those without the income to accommodate the high costs of aircraft ownership. By allowing Pilots and Passengers alike to share the cost of flying, pilots of lower incomes will have more opportunities to spend time with their planes, and in addition will be given access to a wider audience of potential passengers to accommodate. The pilot version of the app (pun not intended) will only include the six states of New England and parts of Upstate New York, with the potential for the service to be expanded nationwide if it’s successful in New England.

FlyAway vs Uber

The closest existing applications to the proposed project would have to be rideshare apps such as uber. Uber is an app that allows people to call for transportation from anywhere, and will usually get their ride in under 30 minutes. While the general idea of FlyAway does bear a resemblance to Uber, there are several key differences. The first being the actual method of transportation being employed. Where cars are easy, cheap, and affordable to keep on the road and ready to pick up passengers, planes take much more effort to get off the ground. This means that the timeline of a job will have to be longer, likely stretching into the next week or two. This would give pilots the opportunity to prep their vehicle and set time aside on their schedule. Other than this some similarities would exist. The application would likely use a GPS system to find airports around the user and connect them with pilots in the area. This takes out the vast majority of the work previously involved with chartering a private flight. The app would likely have some arbitrated messaging system to allow pilots and passengers to connect with each other, without having to share personal information from either party. The final similarity that would be a good selling point for the app would be the ability to search for amusements in the area, perhaps things like ski mountains or parks in the area would be a starting point for a passenger, and then the app can set up the trip for you.

FlyAway vs Airbnb

FlyAway gives customers an easier way to contact and book flights with pilots and connects pilots with a willing market, much like Airbnb does with renting houses and rooms. The overall interaction as customer and producer on the website will be similar. Customers will similarly be able to search through listings based on the location and time availability, as well as the number of guests permitted and the price of a bookings. Customers will be able to view individual listings with pictures and a more in depth description of the experience offered. Customers will be able to read reviews and ratings of the experience as well as post their own after having taken a trip. Customers will also be able to see all listings under a single pilot by search. The point of view from the pilot would also be similar to that of a host on Airbnb. There will be a simple process of posting a listing through the website with uploading pictures and providing a description of the experience and plane. The pilot will be able to view bookings and communicate with customers. Both the Customers and pilots will be able to create an account with a username and password, much like creating an account with Airbnb as a customer or a host. The main difference between FlyAway and Airbnb is the target audience and the experience offered. FlyAway will be for travel within New England catering to those with a love of flying, instead of having locations all over the world as Airbnb does. Additionally, aspects like the narrowing search would be different. For example, instead of narrowing search through tags of amenities as it is not terribly applicable to planes as it is to property, would instead allow customers to narrow their search through tags of features the planes or experience may have.

FlyAway vs Instacart

The main difference between Flyaway and Instacart is there will be a way for customers to directly contact the producer, in this case the pilot. This will allow the customer to easily attain additional information if need be. Additionally transactions will be made separately with each listing, so there won’t be a need for something akin to what Instacart calls the personal cart. This is due to the difference in the product/service provided. Instacart also lends itself well to multiple listings, while FlyAway does not. FlyAway will similarly allow for login to a customer’s account and additionally a pilot’s accounts for user security, ease of interacting between customer and pilot and ease of keeping track of bookings or listings of interest. Customers will similarly be able to search and filter listings to tailor their view of listings toward what they are looking for. Filtering may include this such as location, time availability, numbers of passengers allowed, price, features of the plane, etc. FlyAway will similarly be able to view individual listings separately with a more in depth description that may include pictures, pricing, key features and other descriptive elements conveniently displayed. And, as mentioned previously, FlyAway will also use location as a key element in listing search.

Updated User Stories with corresponding ID numbers

2. As a user I want to be able to create an account on FlyAway so that I can utilize the application.

4. As a pilot, I want to be able to enter information about my aircraft so that potential passengers can see that information.

5. As a pilot, I want to be able to enter my professional qualifications/type ratings so that I can accurately represent my experience.

7. As an account holder, I want to be able to log into my account using my username and password so that I can securely view details of my booked flight(s)

8. As an account holder, I want to be able to enter my contact information so that I don’t have to enter it every time I book a flight.

9. As a potential passenger, I want to allow my location to be tracked so that I can view listings at airports near me.

10. As a potential passenger, I want to be able to see which pilots are based at the airports near me so that I can see all my possible options nearby.

11. As a potential passenger, I want to be able to view a map that shows listings so that I can see the available pilots at different airports.

12. As a potential passenger, I want the ability to search using multiple parameters so that I can find listings that best match what I am looking for.

13. As a potential passenger, I want to be able to contact the pilot so that I can ask questions or negotiate the price before the trip takes place.

14. As a potential passenger, I want to be able to see how many seats are currently available so that I can book a flight with available seating.

15. As a pilot, I want to be able to view my upcoming trips with a schedule planner so that I can plan when to be at an airport.

16. As a recent passenger, I want to be able to write a review of the experience after the trip so that future passengers can get a sense of the quality of ride expected.

17. As a passenger account holder, I want to be able to view reviews regarding the service from other passengers so that I can accurately decide if I am interested in a specific service.

18. As a pilot account holder, I want to be able to receive reviews regarding the service so that I can better the experience for future passengers.

21. As a pilot, I want to be able to post not only my home airport, but where I frequently go/ where I can go so that my listing reaches a wider audience of potential passengers.

22. As a potential passenger, I want to be able to have easy access to pricing information so that I can quickly determine if a listing is within my budget.

24. As a pilot I want to be able to contact the passengers so that I can answer questions, negotiate or give advice before a trip takes place.

26. As a passenger I would like to see the most popular rated destinations by other passengers so that I can take that into consideration when making my decision.

28. As a pilot, I would like to view my flight price in a flight history so that I don’t have to track it myself.

29. As a pilot, I would like to view my flight date in a flight history so that I don’t have to track it myself.

30. As a pilot, I would like to view my passengers in a flight history so that I don’t have to track it myself.

32. As a passenger I want to be able to make direct payments to a pilot account that I have scheduled a booking with so that I can cover the costs of the trip.

33. As a passenger I want to be able to schedule a booking so that I can keep track of the date, time, fare, aircraft, and route.

34. As a passenger, I would like to be able to cancel my trip within a 1 week notice and get fully refunded so that I don’t waste my money.

36. As a pilot, I would like to view my flight path in a flight history so that I don’t have to track it myself.