CS 4720 - F17 - Final Project Report

Device Name: Bulbasaur   Platform: Android

Name: Peter Farkas   Computing ID: pjf3av

Name: Yusuf Ahmed   Computing ID: ysa3bb

App Name: RepsNow

Platform Justification:

Developed on Android platform due to both members have more experience with Java and Android Studio.

Project Description:

RepsNow is an Android app with the purpose of aiding Americans to become better connected with their elected representatives and government officials, while also providing information about upcoming elections. The goal is for the app to be a one-stop-shop for all things related to elected officials in the government. For the first half of the app's functionality, information about local, state, and federal level incumbent government officials can be researched. Provided information will include things such as phone number, email address, office location, job description, party alignment, voting history, etc. For the second half of the app's functionality, relevant voting information during election cycles is provided. Users will be able to view their list of candidates for each office, information on candidates, platform of candidates, early vote locations, voting deadlines, etc. Through this app, we hope to shrink the often wide communication gap between constituents and elected officials and also provide election information for a better educated public.

The app does the following:

- The system allows the user to specify location manually or automatically;
- The system allows the user to scroll through elected officials and view an information page about them, containing information about them;
- The system reads responses from Google's Civic Information API to attain all information such as office(s) held, party, phone number, email address, voting history, etc.;
- The system gives users the opportunity to communicate with their elected officials via phone number and email address;
- The system provides users information about upcoming elections;

- The system shall allow users to take notes pertaining to any elected official or candidate, which then show up on their information page;

We incorporated the following option features:

- GPS - Users will have the option to search for their incumbent elected officials based on their current location.
- Consume a pre-built web service - We will be using Google's Civic Information API to provide all of the information on government officials, candidates, and elections.
- SharedPreferences - The app saves some basic user data such as political party preference and jurisdiction so the user doesn't have to re-enter the information every time.
- Open shared activity / features - On the information page for an elected official, users will have the option to send an email to their email address or to call their office's phone number.
- SQLite - The app will allow users to take notes on politicians and candidates in elections, which will be stored in a database table.

Testing Methodologies:
Testing was done by Asserting a response body existed when retrofitting the JSON web service. Rest of testing were robust tests by touching icons and links on android devices.

Lessons Learned :
This project taught us about the full design process of a mobile application, specifically Android. Going from the initial proposal, to wireframe, to android layout, and then java code gave us a full frame picture of mobile application development.