Project Scope Statement

Open Data Syracuse - Housing Code Violation History Search System (Web App)

Consultants: Hit Wonders team

Project Overview:

The client of the project is the “iNNOVATION TEAM” in Syracuse. The board members are Chief Data Officer, Sam Edelstein and Chief Innovation Officer, Adria Finch. The agency is the local government with jurisdiction over the City of Syracuse, serving more than 145,000 residents as well as those who work and visit. The team that is working on this project is Hit Wonders team, including two members, Daniel Zezheng Jiang and Zequn Che from the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. Hit Wonders aims to increase the web accessibility and functionality for the client’s web application.

Project Objective:

The objective of this web system is to increase the accessibility of the website. The usability, the design, the functions will be improved. After the project, the web application should be more user-friendly, reliable to the business.

Firstly, the web app needs to update the internal database via application programming interface(API). The web app will have latest information from the Syracuse Open Data instead of downloading the data base file repeatedly.

Secondly, the address searching bar needs an auto-fill function. When a user inputs a street name with a number, the search bar should have suggestions of addresses from database to speed the navigation. Like Google, when you input an incomplete address, it will give suggestions of address that near your IP address, or it will return the completed address in the search result page.

Thirdly, the design of the website could be improved. For instance, the pictures could be replaced with high-resolution photos. In addition, the search bar could be located in the center of the web application interface rather than at the bottom of the page.

Description of the Product:

The system helps the public to check the house code violation history by inputting a specific address. The online tool could help renter or house buyer to evaluate the housing value.

The project aims to develop the unfinished web app of housing Syracuse and create new functions. The website and user interface should be more user-friendly. The search bar should have the automatic association function which could help the user to input their address quickly. The search function should fix the wrong spelling so that the search engine can return the rigt address. The data should come from the API which makes the data update automatically from each search instead of redownloading data files.

Project Boundaries:

The web app development will make the website works in basic functions with clean interfaces.

Project Requirements:

The requirements for this project include:

* Web interface model - Decided as “Rentlogic”:
  + https://rentlogic.com
* Raw data from API Connection/Address:
  + http://data.syrgov.net/datasets/code-violations/geoservice
  + Data.syrgov.net (other datasets)
* Programming Software - VS Code
* Graphic Design Software - Photoshop

Key Project Deliverables:

* Scope Statement
* Change Plan Draft
  + API Connection between Syracuse Open Data and the project
  + Search Bar Autofill feature
  + Web Design/Interface Improvement
* Web Update Bi-weekly

Major Project Assumptions:

* All staff has an understanding of information technology
* All deliverables defined in the scope is done within time and technology constraints
* Constant communication between staff members and iNNOVATION TEAM

Defined Risks:

There are no major risks of data breaches as the housing violation history information is supposed to be  public.

Key Schedule Milestones:

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| Project Start | February 6th, 2019 |
| Meeting with Sam and Adria | February 12th, 2019 |
| Begin Scope for City of Syracuse Open Data | February 12th, 2019 |
| Scope Statement Due Date | Feb 25th, 2019 |
| Change Plan Due Date | March 1st, 2019 |
| Web Redesign Draft Due Date | March 15th, 2019 |
| API Functionality Enabled Due Date | March 22nd, 2019 |
| Search Bar with Autofill Implementation Due Date | March 29th, 2019 |
| Web Redesign Finalization Due Date | April 15th, 2019 |
| Website Submit | April  22nd, 2019 |
| Project End | April 25th, 2019 |