

403 Project Proposal
Troy Schuring, Colleen Ross, Justin Numata

Colleen's uw/cse netid: ccross59
Justin's uw/cse netid: jmnumata
Troy's uw netid: troyschu
Troy's cs netid: schuring

What is it?

This is an Android app for anyone who has ever run into the following situation: out with some friends/family/coworkers/etc, and someone says "where should we eat?" You think that there was that one place you were told you have to try, but can't remember the name. Or that there's that one place you went to that one time, but where exactly is it? Our software will maintain an editable, personal, categorizable list of your personal "to dos". You can pick categories like "restaurants", "movies", "stores", "TV shows", etc, and a color for each. You can also pick categories like "to visit/watch/do", "like", "hate", "to go with Jane", etc. The lists will generate custom pins that will be color coded and loaded into google maps.

Who is the competition?

At the moment there do not appear to be any apps of this type on the android market. The following services each touch on a portion of what we would like our advanced version to offer.

- Yelp has a mobile app that allows bookmarking certain restaurants and mapping only them. This is unsatisfying to many Yelp users who are looking to do more with a mobile version of the service, and is not customizable/color codeable.
- Urbanspoon has an app that allows for a restaurants favorites list, but it is not customizable or mappable.
- Jybe is an iPhone app that was released this past Tuesday that emphasizes custom recommendations. It has new users enter their likes and makes restaurant and movie suggestions based on these entries. The negative side to Jybe is that its suggestions are machine generated and limited by its user base. Without a large number of users, it is not very effective. As of now, Jybe is only available for the iPhone.

The product we are proposing can be extended to include some of the positive features of Jybe such as its capabilities of viewing menus, making reservations, and movie availabilities from one app. With our product, we're striving to bring the positive features of various services to Android - a categorizable, mappable list of recommendations from your trusted friends and family. Time permitting, it can be extended to integrate with social media, or other services to enhance its capabilities.

Can it be done?

This project is very easy to scale up or down. A basic version includes only an editable list view and a view using the google maps api built on the Android platform (using Java in Eclipse,

XML, and SQLite). Storing recommendation information in Android's SQLite database allows searching and sorting by different attributes easy. An advanced version adds integration with Yelp, Facebook, Foursquare, other social networking sites, and existing phone resources such as the contacts list, GPS, phone, and internet browser. This is a project that can take advantage of many different aspects of mobile devices & software, but can be accomplished without the use of all of them.

What are the risks?

The most serious challenge in developing the product on schedule will likely be learning how to integrate with other applications in a useful way. To mitigate this risk we will not overexert ourselves, and will start learning the APIs early and focus on a limited core group of functions. The goal is to complete the basic version before adding additional features. Planning ahead for these extras and designing the project to be easily extended allows the opportunity to include extras if time permits.