Film Sharing Platform

Team Information:

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Overview:

There are several film classes offered at Princeton. Furthermore, there are many independent student and faculty filmmakers on campus. These films are screened on campus at most once per semester. If people miss the screening day, they cannot find the films again. We intend to build a web app to host the films made by independent filmmakers on campus so that all the people with a Princeton account can access these films anytime. This intends to facilitate the distribution of these films and to help these films to make a larger impact.

Requirement and Target Audiences:

Our system will solve the difficulty encountered by the individual filmmakers on campus in distributing their films. The intended users are independent filmmakers on campus who lack the time and resources to distribute their films to a larger audience. Our system will help them bring their films to the entire Princeton University community. As far as we are aware, there is no such app on campus.

Functionality

This app allows the filmmakers to upload their films. It allows the filmmakers to write a short description for the films they upload (we might make this mandatory because people

typically want to have an approximate idea regarding what a film is about before they watch it). It allows the filmmakers to create a profile for themselves (i.e. their name, their personal website, and etc.). It allows the users to watch the films online. It also allows the users to give a rating to a film they have watched. This app will have a search function where the users can search for a specific film. If time permitting, we also want to create different filters for the films, such as genres, length. If we do so, we will require the filmmakers to create tags for their films when they upload it so that we can categorize the films. We will also create some ranking functionality, by length and by rating. We are unsure whether we will allow comments since some people might leave very rude an inappropriate comments. If time permitting, we also intend to allow the users to create their own lists of favorite films. If so, we want the filmmakers to make announcements about their specific films. For example, if one of the films is going to be screened at some location, the filmmakers can put an announcement associated with that film, and the users who have put that film in their list of favorite films will receive a notification.

Design

The website will be written using the Django platform. As a web application, the pages will be built from HTML (generated through Django's template system). The data will initially be hosted on the storage space provided by OIT. However, as more people start to use our system, we might have to move to AWS or Google Cloud platform.

The data will most likely to be organized using MangoDB. The search function will mostly likely to be run by Sphinx. The upload functionality will most likely to be implemented using a Python Script. The interaction between the front end and the server will be implemented using JavaScript.

Timeline

March 18th

Design Document Completed

March 26th

Server Running

Versioning (Git) Running

Django Project Initialized

April 2nd:

Website Allows uploading files

Users are able to watch the videos

April 9th:

Build a basic front end

Build the search function

April 14th:

Product Prototype:

Allow the filmmaker to add description to their film

April 21st:

Allow the users to rate films

Allow the filmmakers to tag their films

April 28th:

Alpha test:

Test by uploading multiple videos at the same

Try to search for films

Try to filter films

May 5th:

Beta Test:

Ask Princeton film class students to upload their films to the app

May 12th:

Add more features if time, such as allowing the users and filmmakers to create profiles, allowing users to make their lists of favorite films

May 14th:

Project Due

Risk and Outcomes:

We might not be able to get sufficient online storage space and bandwidth once more people start to use our app. If this happens, we might have to limit this app to one class until we can get enough funding to get a larger storage space on AWS or Google Cloud Platform.