

Project Title: R.E.A.L.M (Real Estate Application and Listing Manager)

Team Name: The Exceptional Null Pointers

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What is the problem?

Finding a perfect place to live is already a difficult task, and with so many different sites to comb through, people to contact, and other external variables, the process is not made any easier. Clients have to spend time scrolling through pages of rental listings on multiple websites, everything from Zillow to Craigslist to Redfin, usually keeping tabs open for many potential listings, inefficiently comparing them (ranking them manually by rent, location, etc.). In turn, this process then leads to users making multiple, repetitive accounts with redundant information, filling out rental applications for each property, having to individually contact each listing for any further questions, creating a messy and unenjoyable rental application process.

How the problem is currently being solved

Currently, Zillow seems to have the most direct solution to this problem, where the user can look at a map of the nearby area and see where there are places open to rent. This generally works fine for finding which places have openings, but property managers have to register their listing on Zillow for it to show up; this reliance on a single website paints an inaccurate view of the rental market, potentially leading to missed opportunities. Listings on Zillow are also often out of date, leading to wasted time. Moreover, once a client finds a listing on Zillow, they can only message the property manager through Zillow to request to apply; it would be much more convenient to simply be able to apply in the same place, without the need to create new accounts on many different websites and then having to remember all the different places they applied to. Our project aims to solve these problems.

How we will solve the problem

We will create a web application that is essentially a one-stop shop for prospective renters. They will be able to view all available listings aggregated from multiple rental listing websites, apply to properties, filter through properties, view properties on a map overlay, and share listings with a group of roommates. Furthermore, our solution will rate various rental listings based on price, location, and offered amenities. Lastly, we will create a universal rental form to collect the most common information so that renters won't have to fill out the majority of a new form for each property that they apply to. Our application will streamline the rental process, for both renters and property managers.

Project Blueprint

Technologies

- React/CSS Frontend
- Ruby on Rails Backend
- Postgresql database

Process Model

- Weekly meetings with Appfolio
 - Perform code reviews, demonstrate features, get help with blockers
- Slack channel for asynchronous communication between the team and mentors
- Git/Github for version control
- Agile workflow, performing retrospectives with Appfolio
- [Trello](#) for Kanban Board
- [Google Drive](#) for file management

Milestones

Features

- Aggregate rental listings from various rental listing websites
- Display all aggregated rental listings on a map overlay
- Create roommate groups to:
 - Share search filters
 - Share rental listings
 - Save rental listings for viewing later
- Submit lease application
- Classify the value of a rental listing

Stretch Goals

- Algorithm to recommend rental listings based on user preferences and price point
- Roommate finder, similar to Tinder
- Develop mobile app
- Keep track of popular rental listings
- Track the status of submitted rental applications