E – FOODCOURT ANDROID APPLICATION FOR ORDERING FOOD AT A MALL'S FOOD COURT

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Abstract

In a world where technological advancement is the key to success, android applications have paved the way to achieve it. E – FoodCourt is an android application that will help the customers to order meals from their favorite food hub by using their smartphones. Since fast food served at the malls are the latest fad amongst the crowd, this application is specifically developed for them. E – FoodCourt uses GPS to locate the customer's current location and suggest nearby malls. The customer could then place the order on the go following simple steps as directed. E – FoodCourt saves the customer's time and effort for food ordering at a mall by compiling various activities in one single android application.

Keywords: E – FoodCourt, Android Application, GPS, Malls, Food Ordering.

I. INTRODUCTION

A number of android applications are available on the market for the users to order food online. However none of them are developed to order food at a mall's food court. This very particular application will save the user from wasting time standing in queues for placing an order and then waiting for the order to be processed. The use of GPS makes it easier to locate nearby malls. Users are directed throughout with the help of simple and easy to use interface. For using the application, it is mandatory to register online by entering their credentials. These credentials would provide authenticity to the user. Online payment is necessary to avoid fraudulent orders being placed. Though one could simply have a look at the number of Food franchises open at a particular mall and also check out the complete menu. Overall this application would provide a very user friendly experience to effectively order food on the run.

II. TECHNOLOGY USED

1.   ANDROID STUDIO:

Android Studio is a freely available open source Integrated Development Environment released by Google under Apache License 2.0 for developing android applications. It has been used by developers to explore new features which were not provided by the Eclipse IDE. This is the core technological component of our project where all the development. The version of Android Studio used is 1.3.2 which has features such as

- Gradle build system.
- Drag and drop UI elements.
- Google Cloud Platform support.

2.   XAMPP:

XAMPP stands for Cross Platform(X), Apache(A), MariaDB Database/MySQL(M), PHP(P) and Perl(P). It is a free and open source software used for creating local web servers and testing them without the need of internet. The version of XAMPP used in development is 3.2.1.

3.   NOTEPAD++:

Notepad++ is one of the most popular source code editors available for free. Its features such as Multi-tabbed view and editing, syntax highlighting makes it an efficient editing tool. It supports a variety of more than 50 programming, markup and scripting languages.

III. WORKING OF THE APPLICATION

The entities involved in this project are

- Users
- Vendors
- Application
- Administrator

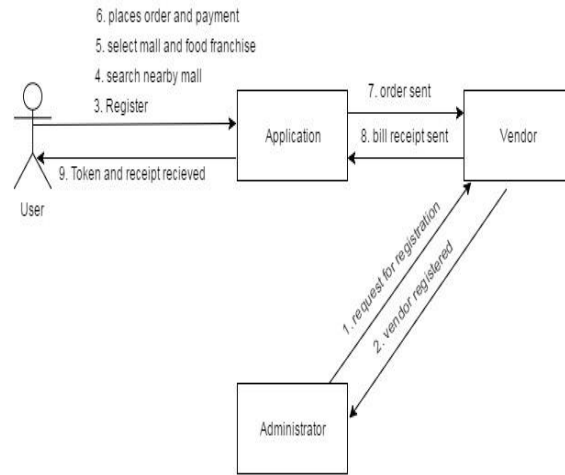The above block diagram gives a gist of the working of the application.

Figure 1. Block Diagram

The application follows a sequence of steps which the user needs to perform for successfully placing the order. Given below is the Sequence Diagram that describes the flow of how the users and vendors interact with the E – FoodCourt android application

The sequence given in the diagram is as follows:
- Vendors will be registered by the administrator based on business deal.

- The users need to first download the application for free and install it on their smartphones.
- Users are then required to register themselves by entering their credentials which shall be validated
- Once registered and logged in, users will be prompted
  User can then select a Mall from the prompted list and a list of food franchises present at the mall will be displayed.
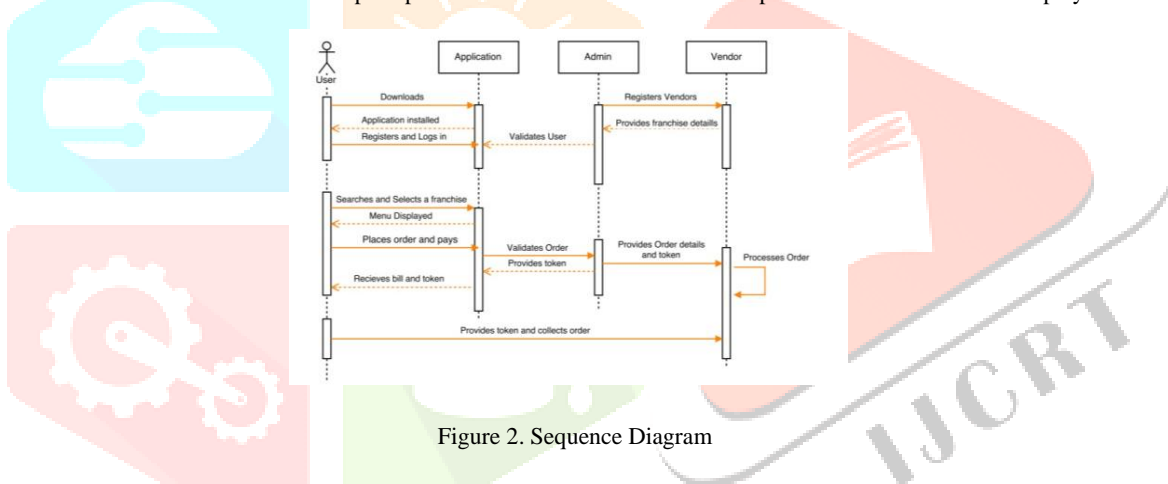

Figure 2. Sequence Diagram

- After selecting a food franchise, a complete menu of the same will provided from which the user can select and place the order.
- For successfully placing the order, online payment is mandatory.
- The order will be passed on to the food franchise and also a bill receipt will be provided to the user with a unique token number.
- The user will just have to show the receipt details at the food counter on arrival to collect the order.

I. BENEFITS

- Majority of the smartphones are powered by android and so it will be available to all for free.
- Saves time which might be wasted standing in ueues and waiting for order to be processed
- User friendly application with simple steps to order food on the go.
- Real time location with a variety of food ptions
- Helps user to browse through the food franchises present in different malls.

II. FUTURE SCOPE

E – FoodCourt is an ongoing project and hence it has a lot of future scope which shall enhance its efficiency. These are a follows.
- Attractive user interface with GPS navigation to the mall and enhancement in the flow of the order placement.
- Web portal for access to those not having the application installed.
- Expansion of business by covering all the malls in Mumbai and later to other states.
- Development of application for Apple iOS, Windows OS, etc.

IV. CONCLUSION

The android application we are developing will provide new business opportunities to the food hubs at the malls and at the same time will be beneficial for the food lovers by saving some of their precious time. The software used in this project are Android Studio, Xampp and Notepad++ which are freely available for development. Hence the cost for development of this project would be very low. Owing to the growing demand for android applications being developed for every aspect of the real world, E - FoodCourt would uncloak this face of the flourishing trend of malls.

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