

Criterion A

Problem Statement

Jessica Costa (the client) wants to plan a trip to the beach, but needs an easy way to get summaries of resort information pertaining to a location of her choosing.

Description of Scenario

Jessica Costa has lived in Thailand for the last five years, along with three other family members. She would like to travel to a beach before leaving the country permanently, which will occur in the coming months. She would like the trip to be a family event, but with two children in school and a husband who travels for work, any potential trip would have to be organized in a very short amount of time. As she did not grow up with the same modern technology most people now take for granted, her technological skills on the computer are not the same as many teenagers and young adults, and therefore she has not been able to come up with an efficient and quick way to organize a potential outing.

Rationale for the Proposed Product

Why is a computer program a good approach toward a solution to the problem? And maybe also, why is a GUI application a good solution, and why is Java a good language to be using?

For this problem, a computer program is the perfect solution, as it offers real time results, with quick and easy access for the user. Specifically, since the client (Jessica Costa) needs a solution which is not overly complicated, a GUI interface offers a simple and elegant solution to her problem, as information can be presented and organized in a logical and controlled manner. While the program could be created using a number of different programming languages, the language being used for this program is Java. The choice of Java is based upon multiple factors, with the main being that it offers cross-platform compatibility. This means that whether the client has a Mac, Windows, or even a Linux device, she will be able to run the program without hassle. This is further enforced by prior knowledge of the client's situation; she uses a MacBook Pro (Confirmed in interview, "I have a Mac." "... MacBook Pro"), which runs on the Mac OS X operating system, and comes preinstalled with the Java runtime, allowing for instant execution of the program without any further downloads or requirements. Java also allows the program access to many features, such as internet access, which is needed to pull results from the web for display. This is needed for grabbing information required by the client, such as pricing information, location data, and weather. This is based on the client's response of "I would enjoy the convenience of the pricing information there with each result" when asked about additional information being displayed for per result.

Criteria for Success

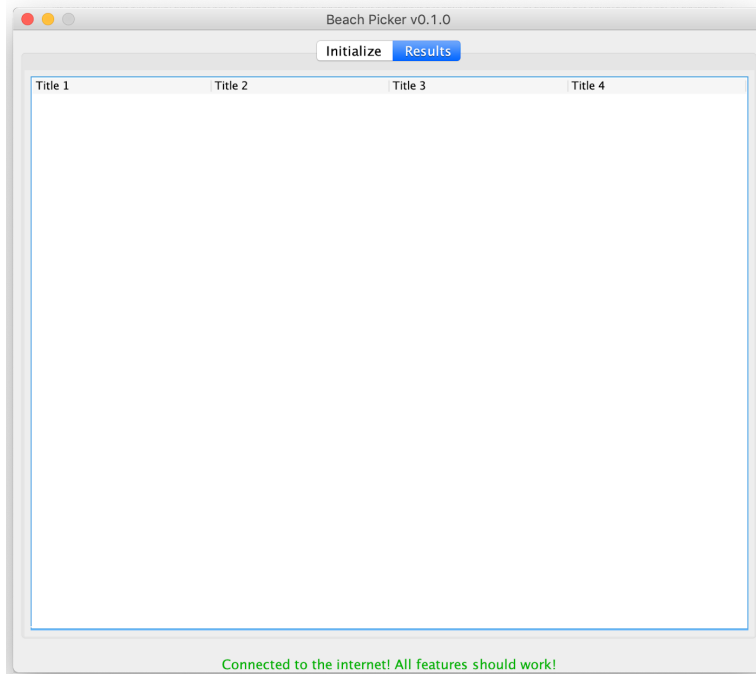
- Can pull data from the internet for summarization and display
- Link to websites for further information
- Process and display proper results based on user address or coordinate input
- Display proper errors
- Keep a simple and understandable interface without being cramped
- Allow the user to sort results based on preferences such as:
 - Current weather
 - rating/reviews
 - Distance from set location

Prototype of the Product

The screenshot shows a web application window titled "Beach Picker v0.1.0". At the top, there are two buttons: "Initialize" (highlighted in blue) and "Results". Below this, a question asks "How would you like to choose your location?". There are two options: "Coordinates" and "Address" (highlighted in blue). Under the "Address" option, there is a text input field with the placeholder text "Type the address or place name below" and a "Verify Location" button below it. Further down, a section titled "Rank the following categories in terms of priority" contains a list of four categories, each with a dropdown menu:

1. Most Popular
2. Best Reviews
3. Shortest Distance
4. Best Weather Forecast

Below the list is a "Set Priorities" button. At the bottom of the window, a green status message reads "Connected to the internet! All features should work!".



Word Count: 523

INTERVIEW - DOES NOT COUNT IN WORD COUNT

Me: Okay, so first, why do you want to go to the beach?

Jessica: Why do I want to go to the beach?

Me: Yes.

Jessica: Well, I love the sight and sound of the ocean. I enjoy everything about it. Walking in the sand, going in the water. Hearing waves come in. The whole idea; it's relaxation, it's peaceful, calming. The last time I was at the beach was a few years ago. Our family would rest in the hammocks, watch the stars, and enjoy the sand. I enjoyed the sound of the waves coming in.

Me: How often would you like to go on these trips to the beach?

Jessica: I want to go to the beach once a month.

Me: Would you want to go to the beaches once you're in the U.S.?

Jessica: Probably not.

Me: How often would you want to go to the beach?

Jessica: When the seasons are the best, so around June - September.

Me: What about the trip will be most important to you?

Jessica: Being calm and peaceful.

Me: Would these trips include the entire family, or would it just be you, or just the parents?

Jessica: I'd like to have a trip with the whole family. I would enjoy a trip with my husband, and also by myself.

Me: To what extent should the trip be managed? For example, would you want almost every detail / destination of the trip planned, or would you like more of an "as you go" type of trip?

Jessica: I think I would want all of that planned beforehand, since I'm not as familiar in the country compared to the states. Especially how to get there, places to stay, places to eat. I wouldn't want to travel around much once I'm there, I'd like to stay wherever I am for a few days. I'd want to get there in either a car or taxi.

Me: So if the program were to list results about beaches, should it include pricing information, or just the general info, with links to external sites for more information and booking?

Jessica: I would enjoy the convenience of the pricing information there with each result. I would hope that for each beach, there is somewhere nice I could stay.

Me: And what computer do you use most of the time?

Jessica: I have a Mac.

Me: Do you know what type of Mac?

Jessica: It's a laptop. I believe it's a MacBook Pro.

Me: Okay, well thank you for your time!

Jessica: Thank you!