



Universal Donation Platform

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Introduction

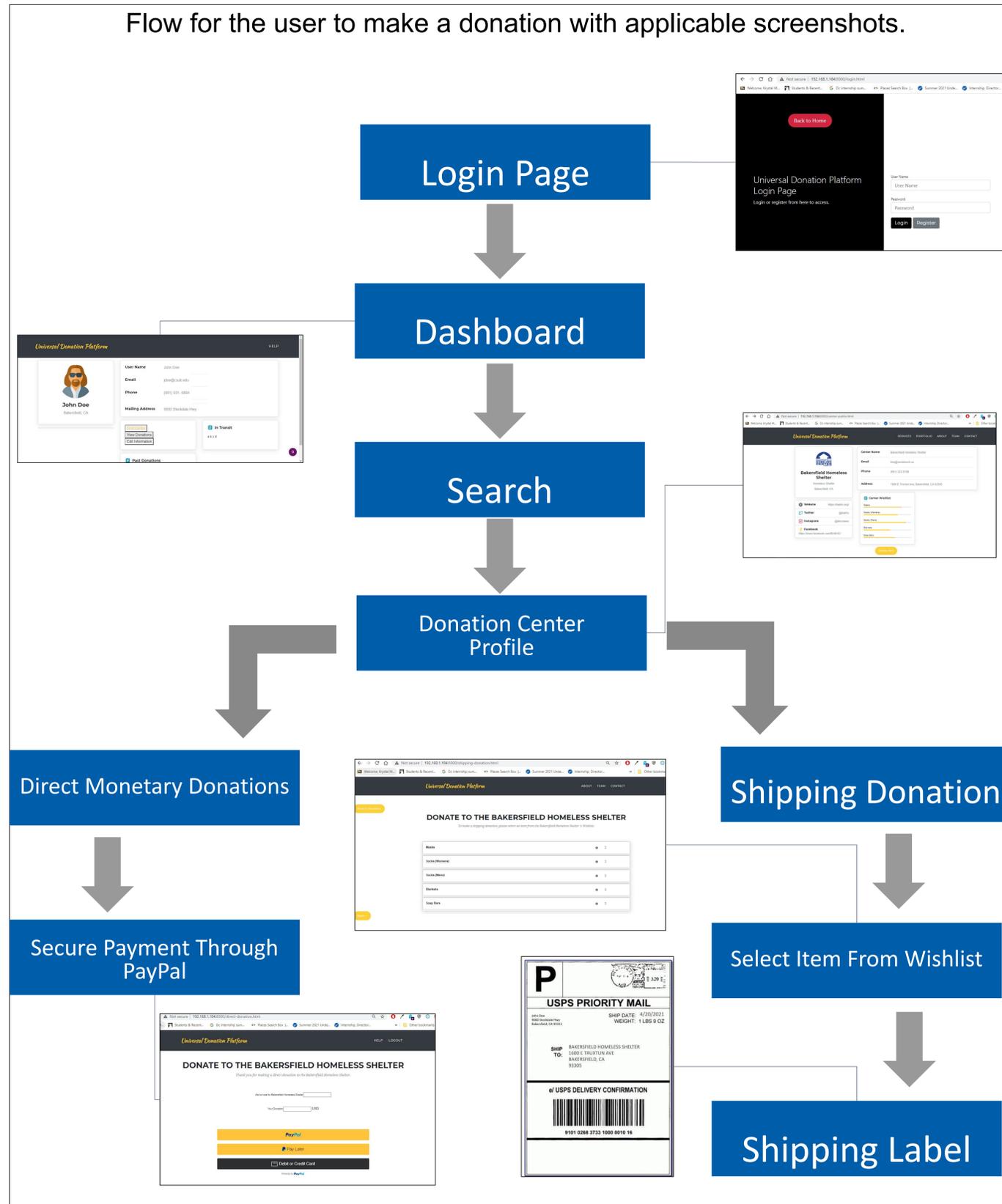
In 2017, 25 million Americans were affected by natural disasters. Federal Emergency Management Agency is “ill equipped for disasters” FEMA “urges communities in harm’s way not to count so heavily on FEMA in a future crisis.” So who’s on the front lines helping Americans in a crisis? Ordinary citizens want to help their neighbors! Over a fifth of U.S. households donated to disaster aid efforts in 2017-2018 and 18% of these donors regularly supported disaster aid efforts or considered disaster giving as part of their annual charitable budgets. However, America’s donation market is huge with little oversight. Fraud, donation waste, and donor exhaustion are common issues that Americans face when trying to help others in a crisis.

Proposed Solution

Universal Donation Platform is the best way for anyone to donate to their favorite emergency housing, animal rescue, or disaster relief facility. If you know what facility you’re looking for or not just use our search feature to find facilities. You can search by name or keywords such as “big cat rescues” or “homeless shelters”. After finding a facility that you want to help out all you have to do is click on the items that you want to send their way. Universal Donation Platform will go ahead and create a shipping label for you. Just pack up your stuff, tape your shipping label to the package and send it off in the mail. It’s super simple and easy anyone can donate. It helps the facilities achieve their goals of working for their community. Don’t have any items to donate to your favorite facility? That is just fine. We also have options for monetary donations.

Please visit our site today and start helping your favorite relief facility!

Flow for the user to make a donation with applicable screenshots.



Timeline of Project Development

The initial idea was of a Universal donation platform. A gantt chart was made and the steps were followed for the most part. A plan was to set up AWS credentials for every group member, but through research, we realized that Digital Ocean would be a better approach based on the usage of postgresql and Nodejs for backend. Resources made securely were a login page with a front end portion and other pages, a backend to connect with the front end, and a messaging application. The connection from the backend to the frontend was not able to be fully achieved, but mostly completed. Scrum meetings on Thursdays at 4:00 pm made it possible to achieve this project.

Software Development and Project Management

As a team, we implemented an Agile methodology which is essentially a set of frameworks and values that focus on continuous improvement in developing a product or service. In order to take on this incremental and iterative approach, we implemented a work plan, user stories, sprints, and weekly scrum meetings. The combination of our work plan and user stories helped actualize our project vision. Planning and organizing sprints allowed for adaptation to any adjustments within our project. Weekly scrum meetings gave us the opportunity to reflect, improve, and adapt. This also promoted growth within our problem solving skills as a team.

Results

Disclaimer: Not all features have been fully implemented or work as intended. DON'T enter personal information into a monetary donations page. It will take your money and we're not responsible for what happens to your funds.