Approach of building the tourist mobile application "Shkodra"

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Abstract

The idea for this project came from an experience related with tourism and event planning. It was clear that information about the city could not be found in a digital way, so the mobile application named "Shkodra" is a connection between the tourist information centers and the online community.

Another tourism issue was the fact that the notifications about the events in Shkodra city, like theatre plays, cultural events or other meetings were arranged only by posters. This created the idea of a mobile application that has all the information about what is happening around the city, which will be able to communicate with its citizens by letting them know what is happening around the city. It will also be informative and help tourists get by the city.

The mobile application "Shkodra" is developed and it is currently available in the Play Store. The app contains all the related information about the city, like events, cultural sites, tour guides, tours, beaches and landscapes, restaurants and accommodation and information about public transport.

The information is simple, and it also contains the corresponding location for each entry.

As mentioned above the application is only available in the Play Store. This would not be great since not everyone uses Android and not everyone may want to access this information through phone. This problem is technically solved using the React Native framework [1], which provides the same code for different devices.

The app is ready for both Android and iOS and it will be available also in web version. Most of the categories inside the app like events and restaurants must be dynamic since this information can change over time.

The app works under a Node JS application with database connectivity [2] , which provides the dynamic update of the app, without having to publish the same code with changes every time on the different app stores.

Keywords: mobile application, tourism, React, Node JS

References

[1] Banks, A & Procello, E.: Learning React: Functional Web Development with React and Redux, O'Reilly, 2017

[2] Cantelon, M., Harter, M., Holowaychuk, T.J. & Rajlich, N.: Node.js in Action, 2013, Manning Publications.