

Yaxi

Because everyone is a stranger somewhere

Kwatz Cab

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Executive Summary

Travelers often find themselves needing transportation in new places and businesses such as taxi services and car rental agencies have developed to serve them. However, the traveler is often tired, alone, and in an unfamiliar place, so the transportation venues that operate from long-distance travel terminuses enjoy a significant information imbalance over the traveler. The options offered usually favor the transportation provider over the traveler. Furthermore, the transportation companies rarely allow environmental considerations to outweigh financial incentives.

Yaxi gives people a way to contact others in long-distance travel terminuses to share rides and information. It addresses the information imbalance allowing travelers to pool expertise and it provides the simple service of introducing them to each other when they most need introductions.

Yaxi allows users to input information about themselves into a database. They enter their location information and any note they want to post when they arrive at a long-distance travel terminus and are given a list of other people who have entered that they have arrived. They are directed to a location to meet others.

Use Case 1: The last mile

Mary, a sales person for a software company arrives in the Mumbai Airport from Frankfurt Airport at 9:00 PM on a Wednesday. She has a meeting downtown the next day with a client. She has arranged a hotel, but has not arranged a driver. She is tired after the long flight, so she hires a taxi. The price is not high, but she feels a little guilty using a cab for the hour-long trip downtown by herself. She also thinks it would be nice to have someone to talk to during the long drive since she finds it difficult to understand the driver because German is her primary language.

Using Yaxi, Mary enters her location using Wi-Fi when she arrives at the Mumbai airport. Nadine, who has been flying in the same plane 15 seats in front of her, also

enters her location. Nadine notes that she would like to share a cab into Mumbai. Mary sends her a message and they are told to meet a carousel 8 in Baggage Claim.

Use Case 2: Saving the environment

Anil, an environmental entrepreneur on holiday in Goa, arrives at the train station. He plans to hire a shack when he reaches the beach, but he finds that the train station is quite a distance from the beach. He hires a taxi, but feels uncomfortable use the fossil fuel on a taxi ride for one person to go on holiday.

Using Yaxi, Swraj enters location information using his cell phone as he pulls into the Goa station noting that he would like to share a cab. Ramesh, three cars back, notices his note and replies that he would like to share a cab. The application directs them to meet at the taxi stand and to hold up their cell phones, which display a distinctive pattern.

Use Case 3: Stranded in the airport

Archana, a software engineer from Delhi is flying to Chennai for a project. Her plane experiences engine trouble; it has to land in Hyderabad. Rather than wait until the next morning to catch the next flight, she decides to rent a car. She would like to share the expense with another person stranded by the same engine trouble.

Using Yaxi, Archana posts that she is looking for someone to share a rental car to Chennai. Jyotsna, who is also stranded and waiting for the plane, notices the note and decides that sharing a car is better than waiting the night in the airport. Sunil and Mohan also notice the message and the four decide to split the car four ways.

Required Technology

1. Server Side Framework: Apache OFBiz for Java Web Development
2. Database: MySQL to manage user data
3. Ajax: To allow multiple simultaneous conversations
4. Web Service: Google Maps to help people find each other.
5. Multimedia: Upload images to show other users
6. Make an API: Provide an API for additional cell phone and tablet vendors
7. Design and Evaluate: User centered design; Alpha-Beta testing
8. Accessibility: Screen-reader friendly
9. Go Mobile: Available on smart phones and tablets
10. Server-Side Processing: Processing of nearby users as soon as location information is available to improve response.