

Conclusions

Prioritized features

Although there are many features we would like to include within our system, it was crucial that we fully understood the needs of the consumer compared to those of the proprietor. Once we were able to see what was high priority for both parties, we focused on those features and began to search for the technology to accomplish this set of features.

Created packages

After consulting with multiple proprietors and doing research on the different types of garages in the market, it became evident that every garage has unique needs. This inspired us to create packages of our system where a garage proprietor can choose the features they want to implement.

Industry interest in smartphones

Smartphone applications are becoming very popular and are readily available to a large population. We could utilize the integrated sensors and polished user interface without investing in technology to distribute to our customers. Garage proprietors, such as Standard Parking, have been very enthused about the possibilities offered by smartphones.

RFID's are effective but may not be the optimal choice

RFID's can accomplish a majority of the tasks needed in our system design, but unfortunately it may be financially infeasible. Therefore our team began looking at alternative technologies to be potentially used.

Moving Forward

Market research based on garage proprietor feedback

Throughout the semester, our business and sponsorship team has met with several garage proprietors in the hopes of finding sponsorship. Although we have not reached our goal of gaining a sponsor, we have gained valuable insight from these companies about the market. A top priority now is to look more closely at the financial success of competing systems to verify the profitability of the venture.

Parking feedback

The feedback received from our survey was not enough to be statistically significant, but did show promising results. We will continue to distribute this survey for further justification of the need for our system from the customers perspective.

Continue relationships with vendors and proprietors

It is extremely beneficial for us to continue our relationship with vendors and proprietors because they provide a direct connection to the parking garage market. Vendors are able to work with us and help us find the technology that best suits our needs. Proprietors are our main target, and their feedback helps give our team direction.

Explore smartphone feasibility

Smartphones are a hot topic with proprietors, as they are very interested in joining the app market. Our next steps are to further research the technical integration of smartphones into our system.

Trusted payment system

One of our major features is creating a network of parking garages. Unfortunately, one of the main obstacles in reaching this goal is finding a single clearing house to manage the payment system that the customer and the proprietor trust.

Prototyping

In order for our project to keep moving forward, we need to start testing the different technologies.