During this semester, we did several web assignments related to CSCI 5980 course. Truly, it was very helpful to me because I had a chance to explore the new features in HTML5 related to geolocation. I previously did some work using Google maps but this is the first time I go deeper by getting user location and the small demo actually worked on my mobile phone which is impressive. This inspired me to do my course project using Javascript after I realized it is more powerful than I thought.

I believe that exposing the students to the map APIs as well as HTML5 Geolocation APIs is a good idea to motivate us using them in our projects. I think they were well planned with each assignment focusing on a certain point. The first assignment introduces the maps API and shows how easy it is to include an interactive map in a web page. The second assignment gives more insight about customizing a map and displaying more information on it. The third assignment introduces the geolocation API added in HTML5 and shows how it can be easily used with web applications on smart phones. The fourth assignment takes a step further by showing other ways to display information on a map with a few easy steps.

The directions posted with every assignment are greatly helpful and greatly help us understanding the assignment and focusing on the new points we should learn in that assignment. This makes those assignment enjoyable as we can focus more on applying the technology rather than reading lots of boring documents about it.

Suggestions

I think that some assignments were too easy. For example, the assignment that records a user trajectory (Web 3), was super easy because everything is written and all we need to do is to change a small part of the code to display the data. This could be integrated with Web 4 which displays this trajectory using Google Fusion. It could be also possible to add an assignment that records a user trajectory and displays it on a map. I found that many projects were using trajectories as their data sets. This assignment could help them by giving an initial step by recording and
displaying a user path.

Comments

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