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Vision Statement
Team Foo-Tang Clan

easyRent is a tenant-facing mobile application that lets users pay their rent, report maintenance issues and communicate with neighbors (among other features). We intend to build the application using cross platform HTML5, leveraging Appfolio's backend infrastructure that they already have in place.

Property Management companies (including existing Appfolio Property Manager clients)

will be able to distribute our application to all of their renters and maintenance workers.

Tenants will be able to request maintenance services as well as complete rental payments, while maintenance workers will be able to schedule and locate various work orders from the management company all through this streamlined web application.

Advantages--

1. Will be built using HTML5/CSS and JavaScript for increased portability across various devices.
2. Provides a centralized interface for the core features that a property renter needs to use.
3. Allows maintenance workers to access their work queue and provides one-click directions to each of their destinations with Google maps integration.
4. Makes it easier to communicate with other tenants to organize events by using a common message board for each property.
5. Ability to integrate management announcements with calendars and notifications.
6. Creates an interface for tenants to communicate with property management live through an instant messaging client.

Users include both tenants and maintenance workers. Tenants will benefit by having one location where they can easily manage their rental payments, maintenance requests and even communicate with both property management and other renters in their building. Tenants will also benefit from the reminders system by ensuring that they never forget about upcoming deadlines regarding rent for example.

Maintenance workers will benefit from the ability to view their entire queue of jobs on-the-go with accurate route information as well. This mobile access will allow maintenance workers to complete maintenance requests much quicker, as they do not need to return to their computers to update their current list of jobs.

Implementation Platform:

The web-application will be built in HTML5/CSS and Javascript and use Ruby on Rails to communicate with Appfolio's backend. The application will interact with a Mongo database. To aid with the implementation of our web application, we will be utilizing a third-party framework such as Backbone.js or Ember.

Goals

The primary goal behind the creation of easyRent is to develop a widely-used application for property renters and maintenance workers that streamlines their interactions with their respective property management companies. A secondary goal of easyRent is to familiarize ourselves with web application technologies like HTML5/CSS and JavaScript and the third-party frameworks that are available to facilitate working with these technologies.