



## **School Digital Champion eCommerce: Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Shopping**

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### **Describe the project?**

- ▶ Our idea was to create an app that would encourage supporting local businesses, while also providing users with options for produce that would be environmentally friendly. However, while we were confident in our idea, Covid-19 restrictions alongside our limited knowledge of app development meant that we were unable to make our project reality, at least as of yet.

### **What is the project called?**

- ▶ Our project's name is eCommerce, which both reflects the local trade aspect of the idea, alongside how we are aiming to additionally make the application beneficial for our environment.

### **What software did the team use, if any?**

- ▶ As we have not begun technical development on our project, we have no software to name that we have actually used. Hypothetically however, the application would run on Android, and would be downloadable for free, from the Google Play Store.
- ▶ Since the app would be designed for Android operating systems, we would most likely be using Java as our primary programming language.

### **What are the aims and objectives of the project?**

- ▶ The primary objective of our project was to create incentives for purchasing from local businesses, which could potentially help stabilise local economies across Ireland. Through this action, we were also hoping to reduce the amount of people shopping at supermarkets, which are slowly but surely eradicating the need for smaller, more niche markets in communities.
- ▶ Secondly, we wanted to make sure that users of the application would be making the best choices regarding environmentally friendly produce, so we decided that the app would work based off the three following factors; reputation, proximity, and pricing, in that order of descending priority.

### How was the project undertaken?

- ▶ Since we didn't have the resources to begin development of our app, and also considering that our team size was limited, much if not all of the project was done in a purely written format, and was majorly dedicated towards expanding upon our initial idea.
- ▶ Much of this time we spent brainstorming, coming up with ways in which the project could realistically be enacted, and how the app could gather data in order to make sure the user receives the optimum results, perhaps sourcing reviews of an establishment online, as well as having a review function built in to the application.

### What were the results of the project?

- ▶ Our desired results for this project would be for it to positively impact local communities in Ireland, as well as reducing our country's carbon footprint in the process.

### How can you make the project sustainable?

- ▶ I think that if the project were to be properly enacted and set up, then all it would require would be bug fixes, quality of life improvements, and some work on the search engine to make it give the best results possible for the user.

### What was the key learning from the project?

- ▶ One important thing we took away from this project was definitely how crucial time management is, as I think if we had done things slightly differently regarding the pandemic, we could at least have a first version of the application available for demonstration.
- ▶ We also learned about the importance of co-ordination and teamwork, as once we both started putting our own input into the project and delegated tasks to one another, we found that progress was much quicker.

### What supports were the most beneficial?

- ▶ I would say support given by the school faculty was very beneficial, especially the aid given by our year head, Ms. Hartigan, and our IT teacher, Ms. Kearney. Other help came from separate Digital Champions groups in our year, whose members were always willing to share ideas and look at our project.

## What advice can you give to future School Digital Champions?

- ▶ My advice to future School Digital Champions is that the most important thing you will ever do in your project is take those first few steps. Make sure your idea is worth pursuing before you dedicate a couple of months into it, and do try to come up with something wholly original, as something as simple as a unique idea will get you quite far.