A Multi-Agent Based Solution for Dynamic Tour Recommendation

M.K.M Kalpanie 129104M



Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of MSc in Artificial Intelligence

February 2015

Declaration

I declare that this dissertation does not incorporate, without acknowledgment, any

material previously submitted for a Degree or a Diploma in any University and to the

best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously

published or written by another person or myself except where due reference is made

in the text. I also hereby give consent for my dissertation, if accepted, to be made

available for photocopying and for interlibrary loans, and for the title and summary to

be made available to outside organization.

Name of Student

M.K Mahesha Kalpanie

Signature of Student



Supervised by

Name of Supervisor

Prof. Asoka Karunananda

Signature of Supervisor(s)

Date:

ii

Acknowledgements

My research experience has been fruitful with the motivation and guidance from many people. Firstly, I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Asoka Karunananda for his invaluable insights and continuous support throughout the Artificial Intelligence Master program and the research. Also my special thanks go to all the lecturers and the staff at University of Mortuwa for giving me their support in various manners for the study.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Technical Officer of Araaya Business Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd. Mr. Ashoka Ekanayaka for guiding me and allowing me to do the research while working for his company. My immense gratitude also go to the staff of Tourist Board of Sri Lanka and the staff of Sky Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd. for sharing their knowledge and the ideas on tour planning and Tourism domain. Lastly, I would like to thank my mother and all my friends who have helped University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. me a lot

Electronic Theses & Dissertations

www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Abstract

Tour recommendation and planning has become a complex and challenging task in the modern world. Even though there is wide-variety of existing sources that provide tour recommendations for tourists based on their preferences, it has become a difficult task for tourists to pick up the right and up to date touristic information from those sources. The solutions provided by the existing application and travel companies are not sufficient for a tourist to plan their holidays in a satisfactory and efficient manner. Even when the existing touristic information sources are up to-date, there is no proper way to recommend best touristic activities based on specific preferences of a tourist using those up to date information. This thesis discuss about the software that has been developed to tackle the problem of handling the complexity of tour recommendation in dynamic manner based on up to date information. The main purpose of this application is to help tourists by providing them with up-to date information about touristic information and help them to choose the right destination and tour activities. In this application tour recommendation will be created based on users' dynamic changes on preferences and the dynamic changes of the other factors such as changes of the schedules of events or tour activities, bad weather condition, heavy traffic etc.

With the approval of an administrator, any user who registered in this system can input information about new tour locations or touristic activities to the systems or update changes of existing information to the system. A tourist can access the systems using their hand held devices and specify their preferences as the inputs. The preferences of the tourist mainly include arrival date, departure date and the interests of the tourist. A tourist can have one or more interests such as wildlife, scenery, hiking, cultural discovery, beach & water related activities, meditation, romantic getaway, shopping and etc. based on up-to date information and tour preference the system will recommend using multi-agent technology, a customized set of touristic activities to the tourist in adaptable and efficient manner. According to the evaluation performed using real data captured via questionnaire, the best results were obtained and it is concluded that a tourist can easily calculate their own tour activities in dynamic manner.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1Prolegomena	1
1.2Background & Motivation	1
1.3 Aim and Objectives	3
1.5 Thesis Organization	5
1.6 Summary	5
Chapter 2 Current Issues in Tour Recommendation	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Ontology Based Modeling in Tour Recommendation	6
2.3 Multi-agent approach in dynamic tour recommendation	11
2.4 Summary University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	19
Chapter 3 Multi-Agent Systems and Consist Dissertations	20
3.1 Introduction www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	20
3.2 Multi-Agent Systems	20
3.3 Agents and the environment	21
3.4 Open Systems	21
3.5 Complex Systems	21
3.6 Ubiquity	22
3.7 Summary	23
Chapter 4 Multi-agent based approach in tourism	24
4.1 Introduction	24
4.2 Hypothesis	24
4.3 Input	24
4.4 Process	25

4.5 Output	26
4.6 Features	26
4.7 Summary	27
Chapter 5 Analysis & Design	28
5.1 Introduction	28
5.2 Ontology Based Complexity Modeling	28
5.2.1 Attraction	29
5.2.2 Activity	30
5.2.3 Events	30
5.2.4 Location	30
5.3 Multi-Agent Based Dynamic Recommendation	31
5.3.1 Web GUI (Graphical User Interface)	32
5.3.2 Mobile Application	32
5.3.3 Search	32
3.4 Usenmangement Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	32
Malectronica Theses Dissertations	33
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk Chapter 6 Implementation	36
6.1 Introduction	36
6.2 Overview	36
6.3 Sub Modules	37
6.4 Ontology - Inferred Class Hierarchy	41
6.5 Hardware & Software	42
6.6 Summary	42
Chapter 7 Evaluation	43
7.1 Introduction	43
7.2 Evaluation Strategy	43
7.3 Evaluation questionnaire	43
7.3.1 Adaptability of proposed system	44

7.3.2 Accuracy	44
7.3.3 Relevancy of Recommendations	45
7.3.4 Response Time	46
7.4 Test Data	46
7.5 Computation of Tour Recommendations	47
7.6 Dynamic Aspect of Tour Recommendation	48
7.7 Summary	48
Chapter 8 Conclusion and Future Work	49
8.1 Introduction	49
8.2 Conclusion	49
8.3 Future Work	51
8.4 Summary	51
References Iniversity of Meneture Spi Lenke	52
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Appendix A Screen Prototypes Theses & Dissertations	54
Appendix B Query Resultsib. mrt. ac.lk	57
Appendix C Inferred Class Hierarchy of Ontology	60
Appendix D Ontology OWL	61

List of Figures

Figure 2.1: Architecture of Gulliver's Genie System	16
Figure 5.1: Ontology of the Proposed System	28
Figure 5.2: Overall System Design	31
Figure 6.1: Ontology - Inferred Class Hierarchy	41
Figure 7.1: Adaptability of proposed system	44
Figure 7.2: Accuracy	44
Figure 7.3: Relevancy of Recommendations	45
Figure 7.4: Response Time	46
Figure A.1 : Tour Map	54
Figure A.2: Login Screen	55
Figure A.3 : Home Page	55
Figure A.4: User Preferences	56
Figure A.4: Futuristic Activities	56
Figure C.1: Inferred Class Hierarchy of Ontology University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	60

List of Tables

Table 7.1: Test Data Summery

47

