Vision Statement

Team Name: 2016 Cavs

Project Name: LeaseMate

Company: Appfolio

Team Members:

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Project Overview:
Our project aims to streamline property management by using an AI-powered webapp that automates lease management, tenant communication, and maintenance scheduling. The AI assists property managers by answering queries, generating lease renewal offers, and tracking maintenance requests. Tenants can easily check lease details, submit maintenance requests, and get real-time updates, while property managers benefit from predictive insights for rent adjustments and vacancy reduction. This solution improves operational efficiency and tenant satisfaction.

Background/Significance:
Most lease renewal processes are often difficult to fully understand and approach for tenants, as they do not have the proper expertise needed to make the right housing decisions. Tenants struggle with a multitude of issues throughout the process, including:

- Difficulty locating and accessing important general and property-specific information in a readable format
    - i.e: Market rates, maintenance responsibilities, termination clauses, one-time fees & their deadlines (security deposits, pet deposits etc.), access to personalized guidance during the negotiation process
- Clear communication with the property manager

Similarly, the general status quo on the leasing company side of things leads to a lot of functional inefficiencies and dissatisfaction for both tenants and property managers alike. The current system requires significant time investment from property managers, as they need to manually handle lease reviews, maintenance requests, and communication with tenants etc. A network that relies so heavily on non-automated processes is bound to have operational delays and poor throughput.

Existing Solutions:
This reliance on manual processes can lead to delays, miscommunication, and added stress for both tenants and property managers. For managers overseeing multiple properties, responding promptly to tenant needs becomes even more challenging, resulting in tenant dissatisfaction and missed opportunities for timely resolutions.

Current and basic property management software can assist with automating reminders for lease expiration dates or sending out generic renewal offers, but they often lack the ability to provide personalized guidance tailored to a tenant's and property manager's individual needs. Tenants and property managers may want to negotiate terms, such as rent increases, lease duration, or request repairs or upgrades. Handling these situations manually can lead to back-and-forth negotiations, making the process tedious and less efficient for property managers.

Project Outcome:

Our project aims to enhance property management by automating routine tasks, improving efficiency, and reducing vacancies. By leveraging AI for lease management, tenant communication, and maintenance scheduling, we aim to provide property managers with a seamless, time-saving tool that also boosts tenant satisfaction.

Platforms/Technologies:
Project Management: Git/Github (version control), Trello (sprint planning), Slack (communication)

Fullstack: React (frontend), Django (backend)

Development Tools: Firebase (user authentication), Docker, Kubernetes (software deployment), CircleCI (testing)

Milestones:
- Gain Familiarity with the Technologies That Will Be Used
- Select the NLP Model for Chatbot
- Identify Data Sources/APIs for Market Rates
- Establish Communication Channel Between Tenants and Property Managers
- Testing and Evaluation of the Results
- Deployment of the Initial Prototype