



Deciding On Our Theme

Following up on some of the feedback that we received from our guests at our halves presentation, the team met to finalize on a theme for our app. Based on how residents of Osaka reacted to the possible themes we presented at our halves presentation, we learned that any theme that is too strongly tied to Japanese culture will not be as interesting to them as a theme that has a Japanese basis with a “Western Flavor”. That is to say, the youth in Japan seem to find western culture very interesting and as such creating a theme which has a sense of familiarity through the use of Japanese culture, but has a look and feel that is inspired by western culture could be ideal in attracting users.

The team spent most of this week working on the design and look for the new theme artwork. Adjustments were also made to the user interface to compliment the new theme. We are a bit late in solidifying our theme, but with our theme in mind the team is able to move forward at a much better pace.

Gachapon!

Team INVOLution decided to move forward with a theme that revolves around the concept of Gachapon machines. Gachapon machines are extremely popular in Japan and are used daily by many different people. Gachapon machines contain many pods, each of which hold a random collectible item, and it is impossible to know what item a pod contains until it actually comes out of the machine. People will spend many yen at these machines trying to get a specific item. Each gachapon machine contains a specific series of collectibles, which is normally displayed on the outside of the machine.

This theme idea inspired the team to include a feature in our app where the user uses a gachapon machine to get a random bit of information. The user will be able to choose the category of the information they receive, however, the type of information, its quality and the area in Osaka the information is received from is completely random. We would also like to implement a collectible system to go alongside this gachapon feature. This will give users incentive to use our app outside of just sharing and discovering information, and may even motivate some users to share information more often.

