

iPhone Hotel Booking Application

Q3 develops a native application for a worldwide hotel chain to provide booking functionality on the iPhone.

Case Study - iPhone Hotel Booking Application

Company Profile

The Client is one of the largest family of hotel websites in the world, offering users the fastest way to find and book a hotel. The company has a multi-lingual staff and aims to offer individual and corporate travelers interesting, fast and informative web pages about lodging and transportation in cities around the world to help them plan their travels. The company operates through a directory of hotel websites all over the world that contains a chain of hotel websites that are linked to their website.

The Client wanted to implement the features of their hotel booking website on the iPhone using a native application.

Business Situation

Challenges

The challenges were to:

- » Engaging and intuitive user interface.
- » Implement searching of hotel based on current user location using location based services.
- » Provide a map view functionality on the iPhone.
- » Unified login between existing web site and new iPhone application.
- » Provide the functionality of making a call to customer care.

Q3 came up with a dedicated team of developers and QA experts to build a solution based on Client's requirements. The team analyzed the requirements and designed the application to ensure that all needs and objectives were covered.

Some features of the iPhone application are as follows:

- » The application is built with a highly engaging user interface that was extremely easy and intuitive for users.
- » A user can search for hotels, view details, compare pricing, book and modify their reservations.
- » The application also allows searching for hotels based on the user's geographical location using location based services.

Technical Solution

- » The hotels searched by the user are visible as a list as well as on a Google map, a feature which was implemented using the iPhone mapping APIs.
- » A unified login has been implemented that allows users to share their account information between the booking web site and iPhone. This enables users to immediately start using the application to make reservations, without registering, if they already have an account from the web site.
- » The application provides functionality to enable a user to make a call to customer care by launching the iPhone calling application with the appropriate phone number.

The QA team also got involved from the very beginning to ensure that bug free software as per desired quality is provided in a timely way that includes all the Client requirements.

- » Objective C
- » X Code 3.0
- » iPhone SDK 3.0
- Interface Builder
- » JSON
- » MKMap Kit
- » iPhone Map APIs with GPS
- » iPhone OS version 3.0

Technologies used