



What is SpareChange

SpareChange is a desktop application designed to help first-time homebuyer better understand and plan for financial aspects of buying a house.

The Problem

The problem with buying a house is that not a lot of first-time buyers understand the how buying a house works. Many may not understand financial terminology and can be overwhelmed or unsure if they can truly afford a house

Solution

Our goal is to create an app that simplifies that process, where users can search for houses, input their financial information, and see what their monthly payments will be for houses they are interested in. This tool makes it easier for first-time homebuyers understand what is need to buy a house and ensures that they do not feel overwhelmed.



Details Page

- Users can view available properties as well as the mortgage calculation details based on the info they input for their account.
- They are also able to access the corresponding Zillow website page with the same property being sold.

Development

Hybrid desktop-web application stack that combines:

- Python Flask for the backend API
- Firebase for cloud services (database, authentication)
- Electron for cross-platform desktop application packaging

Sometimes referred to as the FFE stack (Flask-Firebase-Electron)

Contact us by scanning the QR code to the left or email at sparechange@cs.csub.edu!

Features

- Account Creation
- Adjustable input fields (interest, income, down payment)
- Mortgage calculation
- Ability to search for houses
- Instant feedback on price affordability

Target Users

Who we built this for:

- First-time homebuyers
- Users without deep understanding of financial knowledge
- Users wanting to know what their mortgage will be

Future Development

- Expand to support all California counties
- Integrate Zillow API for live listings
- Visual Mortgage breakdown charts
- Compare multiple properties side-by-side

Technologies



Flask

Firestore