

What is Carpoolworld.com?

Carpoolworld.com is an Internet web site that provides a free public on-line trip-matching service. Users log in and enter the street addresses of their origins (homes) and destinations (places of work), and then the system instantly shows them a list of similar trips from the stored database. The trips are also displayed visually on detailed maps. The users can contact each other by phone or e-mail to make ride-sharing arrangements. The service is primarily intended for commuters, but will work for any type of trip.

Carpoolworld.com also offers an enhanced group service, for a fee, that lets employers, institutions and municipalities brand and administer their own virtual carpool matching web site.

How does the branded virtual web site work?

Carpoolworld.com is designed so that a clients own home page and banner can wrap around the Carpoolworld.com web site, thereby branding the web site as the clients own service. The clients users can choose to find carpool matches only within their own group or within the general population. The client is provided with a suite of administrative tools to manage their user database, while the technical operation of the web site is managed by Carpoolworld.com.

Who created Carpoolworld.com?

Carpoolworld.com was developed by Max Fox and Isabelle Boulard in 2000. The partners are president and vice president of Datasphere Corporation, a company they formed in 1993 to provide computer consulting services. Datasphere Corporation owns Carpoolworld.com.

Why was Carpoolworld.com created?

Max and Isabelle have been computer software professionals since the early 1980s. In the late 1990s they began to plan a web site as an exercise to develop their Internet programming skills. In 2000, this project became Carpoolworld.com.

Why make a carpool matching system?

From its inception, the partners understood that a successful web site must provide valuable content for its visitors. Going one step further, they looked for a concept where the visitors would create their own content, which would then be of value to subsequent visitors. Building on previous experience with inventory management and logistics systems, they designed a database architecture and programming algorithm that could match any routes anywhere on Earth efficiently, even with a high volume of widely varied stored routes. Combining the ideas above, a vision emerged of matching peoples travel needs, and the focus then proceeded to matching commuters for carpools. The economic, social and environmental benefits of carpooling cemented the concept.

Why does Carpoolworld.com have a patent?

The partners researched existing patents to make sure that they were not using anyone elses proprietary technology. Instead they found that their system was unique and could itself be patented. The partners were granted U.S. Patent # 6,751,548 on June 15, 2004.

How much does it cost to have a group?

\$10.00 USD per month for up to 500 trips (*) in the group.

\$2.00 USD per month for each additional 100 users in the group or fraction thereof.

(*) A trip is a registered entry in our system, which specifies a geographic origin, and geographic destination, time parameters, and contact information for the traveler. Basically, if you have 100 commuters in your organization, you have 100 trips.

How can Carpoolworld.com charge as little as \$10 per month for its group service?

Other full-featured trip-matching systems are designed from a geographic information system (GIS) perspective based on electronic map data and navigational logic. These systems determine the navigational route between two points on an electronic map to establish driving distances, and they look for potential carpool partners by searching a corridor around the primary navigational route. This approach requires complex geographic data processing software, a very large library of map data, and very powerful computer processing. The costs include software and data licenses, high-performance hardware, and support services. In contrast, Carpoolworld.com uses inexpensive on-line geocoding services to translate street addresses instantaneously into precise latitude and longitude coordinates (inches/centimeters of precision), it stores the geocodes in a database specifically designed for trip-matching, and it then uses an innovative (patented) mathematical algorithm to select the best matches out of the database while computing at least five different indicators of how similar each matched route is to the primary route. The benefits of this approach are very significant.

Benefit 1: Quality

Although navigational logic is useful for traveling from a given origin to a given destination, it is not essential for matching routes. Commuters do not necessarily need to drive from one house to another, nor drive from one place of work to another, as would be the case in the transportation of freight. People sharing a carpool may walk from home to a common origin and may walk to work from a common destination, such as a parking spot downtown. Therefore, the best way to select commuters for transportation sharing is by determining the simple proximities of their homes and places of work. Carpoolworld.com uses an efficient trigonometric formula to calculate the precise distance between any two points on the surface of the Earth. Carpoolworld.com displays detailed maps showing the users trip requirement and the trips of the potential matches, but it does not need the map data for the trip-matching function.

Benefit 2: Simplicity

Because Carpoolworld.com does not need to store map data nor geocoding databases on its own server, storage space requirements are minimal. And because of the highly efficient trip-matching algorithm, it does not require exceptional computing horsepower. These factors mean that the web site can run on an inexpensive standard web server. Additionally, the conceptual design of the branded virtual web site (group service) eliminates the need for the clients to install or support additional IT infrastructure.

Benefit 3: Value

Carpoolworld.com was developed using state-of-the-art Open Source technology, which is the most advanced software development technology platform available, developed by programmers for programmers, and it is also free. Our free public carpool-matching system, and our low-priced group service, reflect this model and leverage its benefits.

Summary

Through innovative design principles, and by keeping its development and maintenance costs low, Carpoolworld.com offers its clients a complete trip-matching solution at a very low price.