# EP- REVIEW 2

# Existing Applications Related to E-CHAT

## 1. Microsoft Teams

Features:

- Group Creation and Management: Microsoft Teams allows users to create channels within teams for specific subjects, projects, or discussion topics, offering a structured way to organize communication.

- Integration with Office 365: Seamless integration with Office apps like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint facilitates collaboration on shared documents.

- Real-Time Chat and Video Conferencing: Teams provide real-time messaging, video conferencing, and screen sharing, enhancing collaboration between students and instructors.

- File Sharing and Storage: Allows users to share files directly within channels, making resources easily accessible to all group members.

Limitations:

- Complexity in Navigation: The interface can be overwhelming, especially for new users, leading to confusion in finding the correct channels or resources.

- Limited Customization for Academic Groups: Unlike E-CHAT, which automatically creates groups based on course registration, Teams requires manual group creation, which can be time-consuming.

- Dependency on Microsoft Ecosystem: Full functionality often requires Office 365 subscriptions, limiting accessibility for institutions or individuals not integrated with Microsoft’s ecosystem.

## 2. Slack

Features:

- Channel-Based Organization: Slack organizes conversations into channels, which can be public or private, helping manage discussions based on subjects or topics.

- Integrations with Third-Party Apps: Slack supports numerous integrations, including Google Drive, Zoom, and Trello, enhancing productivity and collaboration within groups.

- Real-Time Messaging and Notifications: Provides instant messaging with options for threaded conversations, keeping discussions organized and relevant.

- Searchable History: Offers robust search functionality, allowing users to quickly find past messages, files, or discussions, enhancing accessibility.

Limitations:

- Lack of Automated Group Creation: Unlike E-CHAT’s automated approach, Slack requires manual setup of channels, which can lead to errors or missed communications if groups are not properly configured.

- Limited Free Version: Slack’s free version has restricted message history and limited storage, which can be a significant drawback for educational use.

- Complex Permission Management: Managing permissions for large groups can be cumbersome, leading to potential privacy and access issues.

## 3. Google Classroom

Features:

- Streamlined Class Management: Google Classroom simplifies class creation, assignment distribution, and grading, offering a central hub for academic activities.

- Integration with Google Workspace: Direct access to Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, and other tools enables easy sharing and collaboration on assignments and resources.

- Automated Group Notifications: Sends automated notifications for assignments, due dates, and announcements, keeping students updated.

- User-Friendly Interface: The intuitive design makes it easy for students and teachers to navigate and manage classroom activities.

Limitations:

- Limited Custom Group Functionality: Google Classroom lacks flexible group creation beyond the main class setup, making it difficult to manage smaller subject-specific or project groups automatically, as E-CHAT does.

- Dependence on Google Accounts: Requires Google accounts, which can be restrictive for institutions using alternative platforms.

- Basic Communication Tools: Lacks advanced communication features like real-time chat and video conferencing within the app, often requiring integration with Google Meet.