**App Name: LoboLocate**

**Team Members**

1. **Aayush Kafle**

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Aayush is a senior at UNM majoring in Computer Science. Expected to graduate in December 2024, Aayush is passionate about working in application development and community-focused technology. Aayush aims to use his knowledge and skills to create impactful and user-centered applications that address real-world challenges. Aayush is also a passionate soccer player who likes to play in the defensive midfield.

1. **Pradip Basnet**

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Pradip is a senior at UNM majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis on creative writing. A published author, Pradip has released a novel and an anthology in the Nepali language. Currently, he is crafting a crime fiction based on Albuquerque in English. He is interning at Tramway Ventures as a Venture capital intern. Outside of academics and work, Pradip is also a passionate soccer player who likes to play as a forward. He also shares his insights and creative projects on YouTube, where he’s built a substantial following.

**Figma App Prototype Link**: <https://www.figma.com/design/XgpLrvdjt8neFJn8slB07u/LoboLocate-Figma-design?node-id=0-1&node-type=canvas&t=EAcuXwU83MWpr5eu-0>

**App Development Link**: [**https://github.com/Aayush015/LoboLocate.git**](https://github.com/Aayush015/LoboLocate.git)

**App Home Screen Image**

A screenshot of a phone

Description automatically generated

**What is LoboLocate?**

LoboLocate is an innovative Lost and Found app currently being built by Aayush and Pradip catering to the needs of UNM community and UNM’s Lost and Found department. Once completed, this app will offer students, faculty, staff, and non-UNM affiliates an efficient way to report and search for lost or found items on campus. As for the name “LoboLocate”, Lobo is UNM’s Mascot, and “Locate” is because it will help people locate and retrieve their lost items.

**Why do we need LoboLocate? Why does it exist?**

Currently, UNM Lost and Found department falls under the UNM Police Department, but this department consists of only one employee accessible during normal business hours. It shows that UNM hasn’t given much attention to the lost and found issue, which strengthens our reasons for working to tackle this problem.

This lost and found department has no branches in any buildings across the campus. Most UNM’s buildings have their own lost and found section, which doesn’t come under the umbrella of the Lost and Found department. Besides, they don’t have a unified tracking process as well. If someone finds an item, they either bring it directly to the lost and found department in Hakona Hall (opposite UNM hospital) or drop it off at the reception desk of the building where the item was found. Each building, like Zimmerman Library, the Student Resource Center, Centennial, and Parking and Transportation, has its own independent lost and found section, but they do not coordinate with the Lost and Found department. This means receptionists don’t have a record of items that had been turned in, making it challenging and time-consuming for anyone looking to retrieve lost items.

Every 15-20 days, representatives from these buildings bring unclaimed items to the Lost and Found department in bulk, but there’s no easy way for people to know if their lost items have arrived there. It is also time-consuming for people in the Lost and Found department to sort these items and keep a digital record. This traditional method still exists but is inefficient and leaves gaps in communication. Our app, LoboLocate, is being developed to smoothen this process, reducing the time and effort spent on locating and retrieving lost items.

**Who are our users?**

The University of New Mexico (UNM) community comprises nearly 30,000 students and employees, with over 100,000 additional annual visitors for various events, games, and activities. With so many people on campus, losing items is bound to be a common issue. Our app exists to simplify and shorten the process of finding and retrieving lost items. After our app is complete, anyone can download it and use it. However, our core audience/users would be the reception of all offices throughout the campus, who mostly receives lost items from the finder if the finder doesn’t feel comfortable to use the app himself/herself to report the found items. As for people who lost anything, they will have strong incentive to download the app. So, we will be serving exactly the people who need help and who are there to help us (receptionists). After completion, we plan to work with Campus Communication to ensure all offices throughout the campus use this app. This way, students who don’t want to download the app could speak with reception and get the benefit of our app. Finally, this app will reduce the workload of UNM Lost and Found department through digitation of every single inquiry or work.

**How can people use it?**

With LoboLocate, users will be able to submit a report of lost and found items immediately. If someone finds something, they can report it as a found item in less than a minute using the app. First, they need to create an account and log in. After that, they can take one or many pictures of the item they had found (these pictures will be decoded into words within our app) and describe the item found in brief words along with the location of where they found it. Then they will have the option to either keep the item with them or hand it to the reception. If someone lost an item, they could submit the lost report wherein they can upload a picture of their lost item (if they have any) and provide the details of four or five possible places where they lost it along with a description of the item. Once both parties submit their report, our app will analyze both submitted reports and connect the finder and owner. If the finder handed it to the reception, the owner could go to the reception and ask them to retrieve the item as they will be certain that their lost item is there. This app could be used by receptionists to track the handed-in items.

**Pathway to Satisfaction**

After we began developing LoboLocate, we also met with officials from UNM’s Lost and Found department and confirmed that there’s a genuine need for improvement in the current system. Our conversations have ensured that the issues faced by the UNM community could be effectively addressed through LoboLocate. We also spoke with several random students across the campus and asked if they felt the need of this app, and most of them replied in affirmative. This app will provide a targeted solution to streamline and enhance the lost and found process across campus. Our goal is also to ensure this app aligns with the specific needs of the Lost and Found department, so they serve our UNM community better.