

Software Design Document for  
**Hobby-Based Social Media**  
App/Website  
(G8)

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# 1. Software Architecture

## 1.1 Overview

### 1.1.1 System Overview

The Hobby-Based Social Media platform is a web application designed to help college students connect with each other based on shared hobbies and interests. The platform emphasizes anonymity and privacy, allowing users to interact without revealing their identities until they choose to do so. The system uses graph-based recommendations and an interactive questionnaire to match users with similar interests, fostering meaningful connections and group formations. The platform is institution-exclusive, ensuring that only verified students can join, thereby creating a safe and trusted environment for social interactions.

### 1.1.2 System Context

The system context is defined clearly in the SRS. Basically, the user is the main sink of the information. The user is also the main source of information/data.

### 1.1.3 Stakeholders

The main stakeholders for the system are the individual users who might use the system and the system designer/builder who will build the Hobby Based Social Media platform. The main concerns of the two stakeholders are:

- **Users:** The users are concerned with the privacy and security of their data. They are also concerned with the ease of use of the platform and the quality of the recommendations provided by the system.
- **System Designer/Builder:** The system designer/builder is concerned with the scalability and maintainability of the system. They are also concerned with the performance and reliability of the system.

### 1.1.4 Scope of this Document

This document describes the proposed architecture for the Hobby-Based Social Media platform. For architecture, we consider only the component and connector view.

### 1.1.5 Definitions and Acronyms

As given in the SRS.

## 1.2 Architecture Design

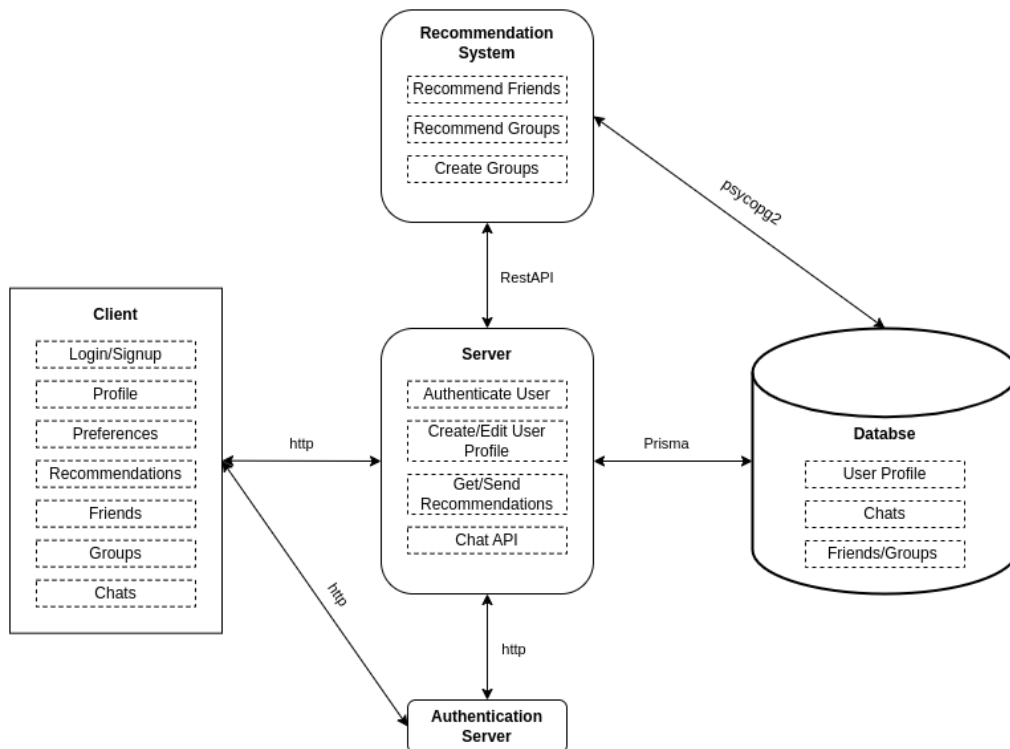


Figure 1: Component and Connector View of the Software

The system architecture follows a modular microservices-based approach to ensure scalability and maintainability. The core components of the system are:

- **Client:** Developed using React.js, the frontend is responsible for user interaction and interface rendering. It handles user login, profile management, and real-time chat.
- **Server:** The backend is implemented using Node.js. It processes user requests, manages session data, and handles real-time communication through WebSockets.

- **Recommendation System:** Implemented in Python using Flask, the recommendation system generates friend and group suggestions based on a collaborative filtering model using user preferences data. It also creates groups using clustering methods like K means for interest group detection.
- **Database:** PostgreSQL is used for structured data such as user profiles and connections.
- **Google Firebase Authentication:** Firebase is used to authenticate users through their institutional email IDs, ensuring secure and restricted access.
- **Connectors:** The frontend and server communicate over http. The server communicates with the recommendation system using REST APIs. The server communicates with the database using prisma. The recommendation system accesses the database with psycopg2.

This architecture ensures a clear separation of concerns, allowing independent scaling of components and easier maintenance. The REST API-based communication provides flexibility, while WebSocket connections handle real-time data exchange efficiently.

### 1.3 ATAM Analysis of the Architecture

Scenario	Quality Attribute	Trade-off	Possible Solution
High User Load During Peak Hours	Performance, Scalability	Increased load may slow down real-time chat and recommendations.	Use a load balancer and increase backend replicas during peak hours.
New User Signup and Onboarding	Usability, Performance	Delay in recommendation updates after signup.	Implement asynchronous processing for recommendation updates.
Real-time Chat with Multiple Users	Performance, Scalability	Increased latency with multiple concurrent chat users.	Use WebSocket-based communication for real-time performance.
Handling Data Consistency During Network Failures	Reliability, Availability	Loss of chat or friend request data during outages.	Use transaction logging and retry mechanisms.
Privacy Concern with Identity Reveal	Security, Privacy	User discomfort with accidental identity reveal.	Double-confirmation before identity reveal.
System Crash During High Load	Fault Tolerance	Temporary unavailability.	Deploy automatic failover and container-based recovery.
User Switching Between Devices	Usability, Compatibility	Sync issues and inconsistent state.	Use session-based state storage and WebSocket reconnection.
Friend Recommendation Failing Due to Model Update	Performance, Accuracy	Slow updates in recommendations.	Cache recent recommendations and refresh models periodically.

Table 1: ATAM Analysis of Proposed Architecture

## 2. Data Flow Diagram (DFD)

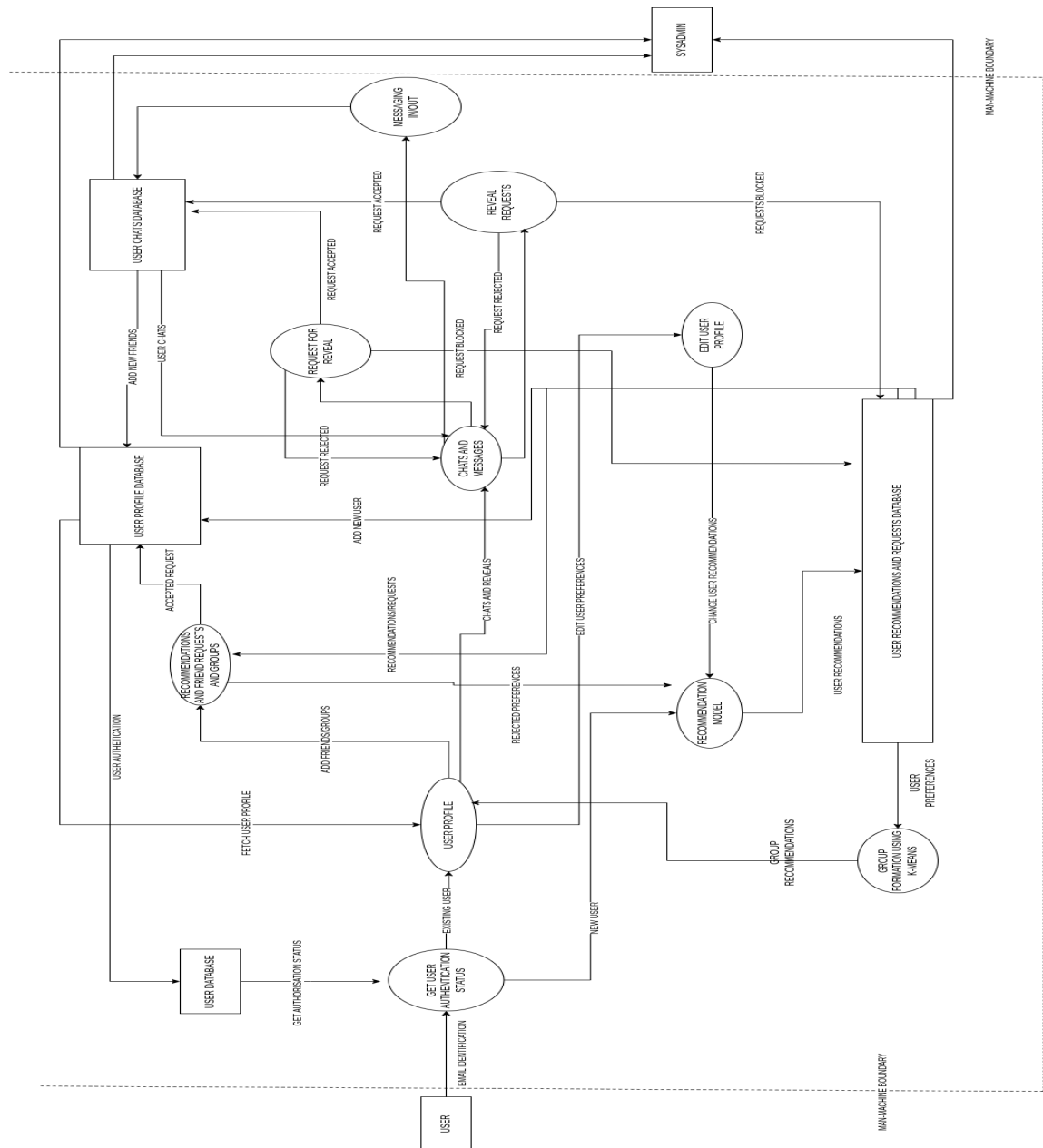


Figure 2: Data Flow Diagram

## 2.1 Abstract Input and Output

### 2.1.1 *Most Abstract Input*

The most abstract input to the system can be generalized as:

- **User Actions:** These encompass all interactions initiated by the user within the system. The key user actions include:
  - Registration and authentication using institutional email credentials.
  - Setting up and updating user profile information, including hobbies and preferences.
  - Sending and receiving friend/group recommendations and requests.
  - Engaging in conversations, including anonymous chatting.
  - Requesting identity reveals and accepting/rejecting such requests.
  - Blocking/unblocking users based on preferences.

### 2.1.2 *Most Abstract Output*

The system's most abstract output is:

- **User Connections and Interactions:** These are the final outcomes generated by processing the user actions. The key outputs include:
  - Successfully authenticated users gaining access to the platform.
  - Personalized recommendations for new friends and groups based on shared interests.
  - Established connections through accepted friend requests and group formations.
  - Real-time or asynchronous messaging between users.
  - Identity reveal status updates based on user interactions.
  - Blocked users and restricted communications as per user preferences.

The system takes user actions as input and processes them through multiple components, ultimately producing meaningful social connections and engagement among college students.



## 3. Structure Charts

### 3.1 First Level Factored Modules

These are the majority variations of functional modules that structure the entire system:

- **Client Side Application** – Covers user interaction modules such as login, signup, messaging, etc.
- **Server Side Application** – Manages database interactions and server-side processing.
- **Recommendation System** – Generates recommendations based on user data as well as identifies new groups based on clustering algorithms.
- **Request Handler** – Processes user requests and calls appropriate modules for handling.

### 3.2 Factored Input Modules

The input modules are responsible for handling user inputs and requests. These modules include:

- Sign up
- Log in
- Log out
- Set Preferences / Profile
- Edit preferences
- Edit profile
- Send a Friend Request
- Accept a Friend Request
- Reject a Friend Request
- Send a Message To Another Group/User

- Send a reveal request
- Accept Reveal Request
- Reveal Identity to another User
- Block a User/Group
- Reject a Group join Invitation
- Accept a Group join Invitation
- Send Messages
- Send Reveal Request

### 3.3 Factored Output Modules

The output modules are responsible for generating and displaying the results based on user inputs and system processing. These modules include:

- View profile
- View preferences
- Get Recommendations from server
- Get Current Friends And Groups
- Receive New/Old Messages/Requests From other Group/User
- Fetch Reveal Request
- Fetch Profile / Preferences
- Fetch Recommendations
- Fetch Current Friends/Groups
- Fetch Messages/Requests
- Fetch Users reveal's and Revealed List
- Add New Groups
- Get Groups from Database
- Get Users from Database

### **3.4 Factored Transform Modules**

The transform modules are responsible for processing the data and performing the necessary computations to generate the desired outputs. These modules include:

- Create User Profile
- Save Profile / Preferences
- Update Friendships
- Update Group membership
- Update Identity Revealed Status
- Update Users Block List
- Recommend Groups
- Recommend Friends
- Get list of new Groups

### **3.5 Final structure chart showing all the modules**

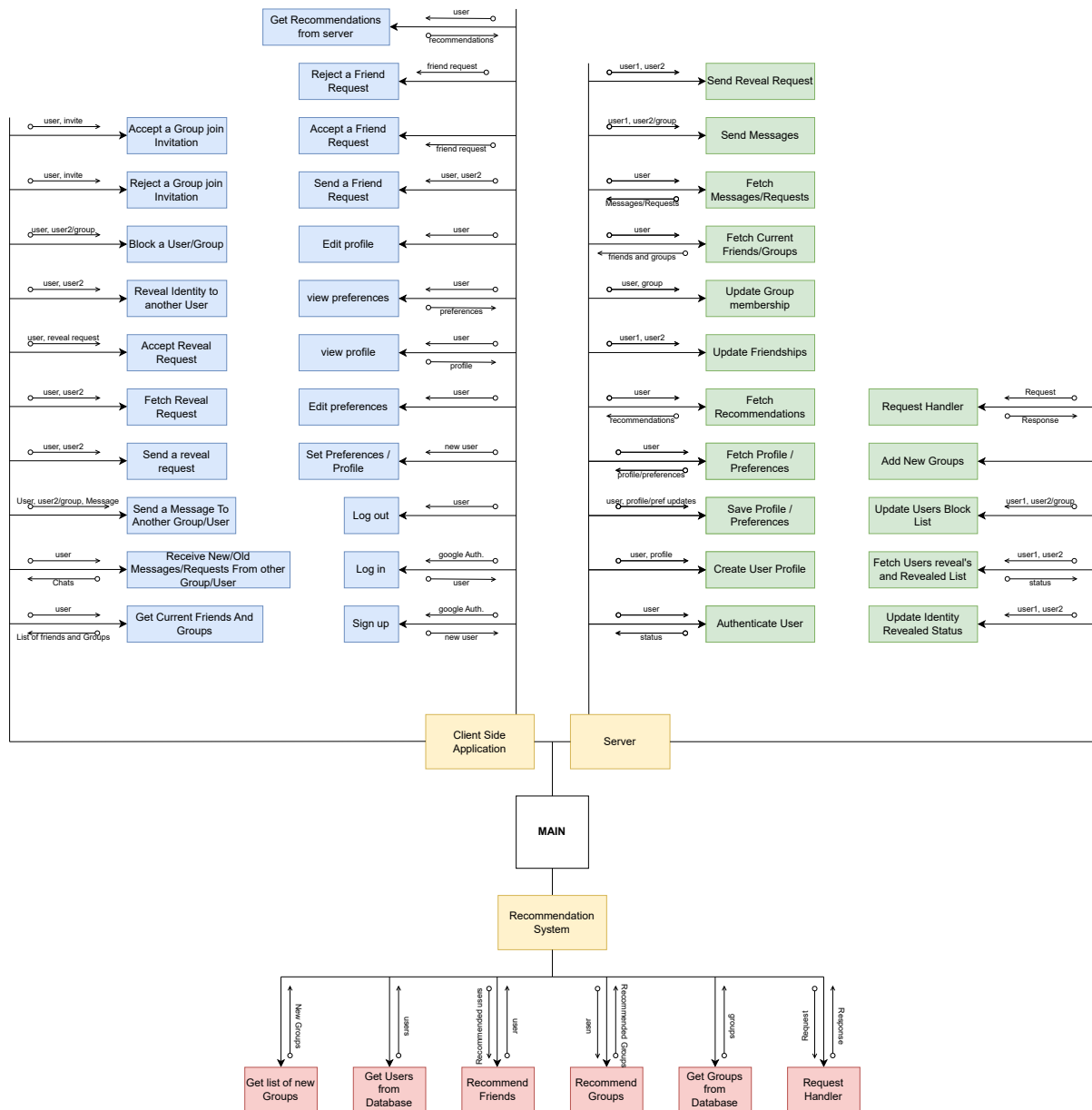


Figure 3: Structure Chart

## 4. Design Analysis

### 4.1 Module List and Description

Module	Type	Cohesion	Description
Sign up	Input	Functional	Handles user registration using institutional email.
Log in	Input	Functional	Authenticates user and grants access to the platform.
Log out	Input	Functional	Ends user session and logs out the user.
Set Preferences / Profile	Input	Functional	Allows users to set their preferences and profile details.
Edit preferences	Input	Functional	Enables users to update their preferences.
View profile	Output	Functional	Displays user profile information.
View preferences	Output	Functional	Shows user preferences.
Edit profile	Input	Functional	Allows users to update their profile details.
Send a Friend Request	Input	Functional	Sends a friend request to another user.
Accept a Friend Request	Input	Functional	Accepts a received friend request.
Reject a Friend Request	Input	Functional	Rejects a received friend request.
Get Recommendations from server	Output	Functional	Fetches friend and group recommendations from the server.
Get Current Friends And Groups	Output	Functional	Retrieves the list of current friends and groups.

Table 2: List of All Modules

Receive New/Old Messages/Requests From other Group/User	Output	Procedural	Receives messages and requests from other users or groups.
Send a Message To Another Group/User	Input	Functional	Sends a message to another user or group.
Send a reveal request	Input	Functional	Sends a request to reveal identity to another user.
Fetch Reveal Request	Output	Functional	Fetches reveal requests from other users.
Accept Reveal Request	Input	Functional	Accepts a reveal request from another user.
Reveal Identity to another User	Input	Functional	Reveals user's identity to another user.
Block a User/Group	Input	Functional	Blocks a user or group.
Reject a Group join Invitation	Input	Functional	Rejects a group join invitation.
Accept a Group join Invitation	Input	Functional	Accepts a group join invitation.
Authenticate User	Coordinate	Functional	Authenticates user credentials.
Create User Profile	Transform	Procedural	Creates a new user profile.
Save Profile / Preferences	Transform	Functional	Saves user profile and preferences.
Fetch Profile / Preferences	Output	Functional	Fetches user profile and preferences.
Fetch Recommendations	Output	Functional	Retrieves friend and group recommendations.
Update Friendships	Transform	Functional	Updates user friendships.
Update Group membership	Transform	Functional	Updates user group memberships.
Fetch Current Friends/Groups	Output	Functional	Retrieves current friends and groups.
Fetch Messages/Requests	Output	Functional	Fetches messages and requests.

Table 3: List of All Modules

Send Messages	Input	Functional	Sends messages to users or groups.
Send Reveal Request	Input	Functional	Sends a reveal request to another user.
Update Identity Revealed Status	Transform	Functional	Updates the status of identity reveal.
Fetch Users reveal's and Revealed List	Output	Functional	Fetches the list of users who have revealed their identity.
Update Users Block List	Transform	Functional	Updates the list of blocked users.
Add New Groups	Output	Functional	Adds new groups to the system.
Server Request Handler	Coordinate	Communication	Handles server's incoming requests and routes them to appropriate modules.
Recommendation System Request Handler	Coordinate	Communication	Handles incoming requests and routes them to appropriate modules.
Get Groups from Database	Output	Functional	Retrieves groups from the database.
Recommend Groups	Transform	Functional	Generates group recommendations.
Recommend Friends	Transform	Functional	Generates friend recommendations.
Get Users from Database	Output	Functional	Retrieves users from the database.
Get list of new Groups	Transform	Functional	Creates a list of new groups.

Table 4: List of All Modules

## 4.2 Module Count by Type

Module Type	Count
Input	18
Output	14
Transform	9
Coordinate	3
Composite	0

Table 5: Count of Modules by Type

## 4.3 Complex or Error-Prone Modules

- **Input: Send a Message To Another Group/User** - This module is complex due to the need for real-time message delivery and handling various edge cases like network failures.
- **Transform: Recommend Friends** - This module is error-prone because it involves complex algorithms for generating accurate friend recommendations based on user preferences and activities.
- **Output: Fetch Messages/Requests** - This module is complex as it needs to handle a large volume of messages and requests efficiently, ensuring timely delivery and consistency.

## 4.4 Top-3 Modules by Fan Out and Fan In

Module	Fan Out	Fan In
Server Request Handler	14	22
Recommendation System Request Handler	3	2
Create User profile	2	1

Table 6: Top-3 Modules by Fan Out and Fan In



## 5. Detailed Design Specification

Interface of all the final level factored modules in the form of classes with attributes and methods:

```
1
2 class SignUp:
3     def __init__(self, gmail):
4         self.email = gmail
5
6     def register(self):
7         pass
8
9
10 class LogIn:
11     def __init__(self, gmail):
12         self.email = gmail
13
14     def authenticate(self):
15         pass
16
17
18 class LogOut:
19     def __init__(self, user_id):
20         self.user_id = user_id
21
22     def logout(self):
23         pass
24
25
26 class SetPreferencesProfile:
27     def __init__(self, user_id, preferences):
28         self.user_id = user_id
29         self.preferences = preferences
30
31     def set_preferences(self):
32         pass
33
34
35 class EditPreferences:
36     def __init__(self, user_id, preferences):
37         self.user_id = user_id
38         self.preferences = preferences
```

```

39
40     def edit_preferences(self):
41         pass
42
43
44 class ViewProfile:
45     def __init__(self, user_id):
46         self.user_id = user_id
47
48     def view_profile(self):
49         pass
50
51
52 class ViewPreferences:
53     def __init__(self, user_id):
54         self.user_id = user_id
55
56     def view_preferences(self):
57         pass
58
59
60 class EditProfile:
61     def __init__(self, user_id, profile_data):
62         self.user_id = user_id
63         self.profile_data = profile_data
64
65     def edit_profile(self):
66         pass
67
68
69 class SendFriendRequest:
70     def __init__(self, user_id, friend_id):
71         self.user_id = user_id
72         self.friend_id = friend_id
73
74     def send_request(self):
75         pass
76
77
78 class AcceptFriendRequest:
79     def __init__(self, user_id, friend_request_id):
80         self.user_id = user_id
81         self.friend_request_id = friend_request_id

```

```

82
83     def accept_request(self):
84         pass
85
86
87 class RejectFriendRequest:
88     def __init__(self, user_id, friend_request_id):
89         self.user_id = user_id
90         self.friend_request_id = friend_request_id
91
92     def reject_request(self):
93         pass
94
95
96 class GetRecommendationsFromServer:
97     def __init__(self, user_id):
98         self.user_id = user_id
99
100     def get_recommendations(self):
101         pass
102
103
104 class GetCurrentFriendsAndGroups:
105     def __init__(self, user_id):
106         self.user_id = user_id
107
108     def get_friends_groups(self):
109         pass
110
111
112 class ReceiveMessagesRequests:
113     def __init__(self, user_id, chat_id):
114         self.user_id = user_id
115         self.chat_id = chat_id
116
117     def receive_messages_requests(self):
118         pass
119
120
121 class SendMessageToGroupOrUser:
122     def __init__(self, user_id, chat_id, message):
123         self.user_id = user_id
124         self.chat_id = chat_id

```

```

125         self.message = message
126
127     def send_message(self):
128         pass
129
130
131 class SendRevealRequest:
132     def __init__(self, user_id, recipient_id):
133         self.user_id = user_id
134         self.recipient_id = recipient_id
135
136     def send_reveal_request(self):
137         pass
138
139
140 class FetchRevealRequest:
141     def __init__(self, user_id):
142         self.user_id = user_id
143
144     def fetch_reveal_request(self):
145         pass
146
147
148 class AcceptRevealRequest:
149     def __init__(self, user_id, requester_id):
150         self.user_id = user_id
151         self.requester_id = requester_id
152
153     def accept_reveal_request(self):
154         pass
155
156
157 class RevealIdentityToUser:
158     def __init__(self, user_id, recipient_id):
159         self.user_id = user_id
160         self.recipient_id = recipient_id
161
162     def reveal_identity(self):
163         pass
164
165
166 class BlockUserGroup:
167     def __init__(self, user_id, chat_id):

```

```

168         self.user_id = user_id
169         self.chat_id = chat_id
170
171     def block(self):
172         pass
173
174
175 class RejectGroupJoinInvitation:
176     def __init__(self, user_id, group_id):
177         self.user_id = user_id
178         self.group_id = group_id
179
180     def reject_invitation(self):
181         pass
182
183
184 class AcceptGroupJoinInvitation:
185     def __init__(self, user_id, group_id):
186         self.user_id = user_id
187         self.group_id = group_id
188
189     def accept_invitation(self):
190         pass
191
192
193 class AuthenticateUser:
194     def __init__(self, email):
195         self.email = email
196
197     def authenticate(self):
198         pass
199
200
201 class CreateUserProfile:
202     def __init__(self, user_data):
203         self.user_data = user_data
204
205     def create_profile(self):
206         pass
207
208
209 class SaveProfilePreferences:
210     def __init__(self, user_id, profile_data):

```

```

211         self.user_id = user_id
212         self.profile_data = profile_data
213
214     def save_profile_preferences(self):
215         pass
216
217
218 class FetchProfilePreferences:
219     def __init__(self, user_id):
220         self.user_id = user_id
221
222     def fetch_profile_preferences(self):
223         pass
224
225
226 class FetchRecommendations:
227     def __init__(self, user_id):
228         self.user_id = user_id
229
230     def fetch_recommendations(self):
231         pass
232
233
234 class UpdateFriendships:
235     def __init__(self, user_id, friend_id, action):
236         self.user_id = user_id
237         self.friend_id = friend_id
238         self.action = action
239
240     def update_friendships(self):
241         pass
242
243
244 class UpdateGroupMembership:
245     def __init__(self, user_id, group_id, action):
246         self.user_id = user_id
247         self.group_id = group_id
248         self.action = action
249
250     def update_group_membership(self):
251         pass
252
253

```

```

254 class FetchCurrentFriendsGroups:
255     def __init__(self, user_id):
256         self.user_id = user_id
257
258     def fetch_current_friends_groups(self):
259         pass
260
261
262 class FetchMessagesRequests:
263     def __init__(self, user_id):
264         self.user_id = user_id
265
266     def fetch_messages_requests(self):
267         pass
268
269
270 class SendMessages:
271     def __init__(self, user_id, chat_id, message):
272         self.user_id = user_id
273         self.recipient_id = chat_id
274         self.message = message
275
276     def send_messages(self):
277         pass
278
279
280 class SendRevealRequest:
281     def __init__(self, user_id, recipient_id):
282         self.user_id = user_id
283         self.recipient_id = recipient_id
284
285     def send_reveal_request(self):
286         pass
287
288
289 class UpdateIdentityRevealedStatus:
290     def __init__(self, user_id, recipient_id, status):
291         self.user_id = user_id
292         self.recipient_id = recipient_id
293         self.status = status
294
295     def update_identity_revealed_status(self):
296         pass

```

```

297
298
299 class FetchUsersRevealsList:
300     def __init__(self, user_id):
301         self.user_id = user_id
302
303     def fetch_users_reveals_list(self):
304         pass
305
306
307 class UpdateUsersBlockList:
308     def __init__(self, user_id, chat_id, action):
309         self.user_id = user_id
310         self.chat_id = chat_id
311         self.action = action
312
313     def update_users_block_list(self):
314         pass
315
316
317 class AddNewGroups:
318     def __init__(self):
319
320     def add_new_groups(self):
321         pass
322
323
324 class ServerRequestHandler:
325     def __init__(self, request):
326         self.request = request
327
328     def handle_request(self):
329         pass
330
331
332 class RecommendationSystemRequestHandler:
333     def __init__(self, request):
334         self.request = request
335
336     def handle_request(self):
337         pass
338
339

```



```

340 class GetGroupsFromDatabase:
341     def __init__(self):
342         pass
343
344     def get_groups(self):
345         pass
346
347
348 class RecommendGroups:
349     def __init__(self, user_id):
350         self.user_id = user_id
351
352     def recommend_groups(self):
353         pass
354
355
356 class RecommendFriends:
357     def __init__(self, user_id):
358         self.user_id = user_id
359
360     def recommend_friends(self):
361         pass
362
363
364 class GetUsersFromDatabase:
365     def __init__(self):
366         pass
367
368     def get_users(self):
369         pass
370
371
372 class GetListOfNewGroups:
373     def __init__(self):
374         pass
375
376     def get_list_of_new_groups(self):
377         pass

```