

Problem Statement and Goals

4G06 - Software Engineering

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Table 1: Revision History

Date	Developer(s)	Change
9/25/23	All	Revision 0

1 Problem Statement

1.1 Problem

With the ongoing affordable housing shortage in Canada many people have been forced to find roommates in order to have a place to live in. This is especially common at universities like McMaster where its extremely common to have housemates while in student housing. While having roommates may help ease financial pressures it can lead to a lot of stress in dealing with them. These stresses can include things like dealing with splitting household tasks and grocery costs. An application that helps deal with these common stresses in the roommate life would make it more convenient for the housemates to live together and overall simplify their lives.

1.2 Inputs and Outputs

1.2.1 Inputs

Category	Description	Format
Chore Assignments	Details of assigned household tasks and responsibilities.	Task names, frequency, assignees.
Bill Information	Details of shared expenses, such as rent, internet, utilities, groceries, etc.	Bill amounts, due dates, responsible users.
Messages	Communication between housemates regarding general household matters.	Text messages, notifications.

1.2.2 Outputs

Category	Description	Format
Automated Notification for an Event	Automatic alerts and reminders for important events, such as bill due dates, chore deadlines, or house quiet hours.	Notifications, emails, text messages.
Report	Summarized information on expenses, chore completion, and any other house details.	PDF or HTML document.

1.3 Stakeholders

- People with housemates: People with housemates are the primary stakeholders of this application. They can use the application to better simplify life with housemates. As such they will have the greatest influence out of the stakeholders on the requirements of the application during the development process.
- Landlords / Property Manager / Housing Association: Landlords would be a secondary stakeholder for the application. Landlords might be interested in using an application like this for their tenants so that they will better be able to communicate with them with respects to household tasks that are required. As such, they might play a minor role on determining the requirements of the application during the design process.
- Families: Families can also benefit from the app to have a centralized place for all household matters. They can distribute chores evenly and keep track of bills. It promotes talking openly and encourages users to be more responsible about household duties and bills.

1.4 Environment

The expected environment for this application will be mobile devices (Android, iOS), providing a user-friendly and intuitive application that is really simple to use. With goals of expanding to web application, so that we can cater to a much diverse user base using computers with Windows, Mac or Linux and web browsers such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox, etc. Users would then have the convenience to access the solution/product on any device they want that suits their needs.

2 Goals

Goals	Importance
The application will have a straightforward and user-friendly interface that is simple to use for all users, regardless of technical ability.	This allows first time users to be interested in our product and a good experience with the overall product.
The application will simplify household task management through a task management system.	This allows streamlining the allocation of chores which in return will reduce conflicts and misunderstandings between housemates.
The application will streamline expense sharing through a cost management system.	This makes it possible for roommates to monitor their expenditure and prevent overspending. Additionally, it encourages each person to make a fair financial contribution.
The application will have a scheduling system that will allow for users to schedule quiet hours	This allows users to focus on their work, sleep, or studies without any interruption.
The application will have a calendar to see scheduled events	This allows users to coordinate their schedules and help them in managing their time in a better way.

3 Stretch Goals

Goals	Importance
The finished product will have Google account integration	The application having google account integration will allow for users to be able to see events scheduled on the app in their Google calendar.
Have the final product be available as a web application	Having the final product be available as a web application will allow users with an even wider range of devices being able to use the final product.