

# A Multi-user Chat Application

CS440 Computer Networks,  
Spring 2024-2025



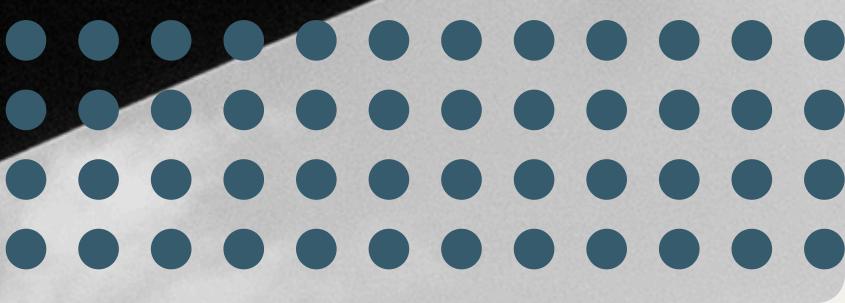
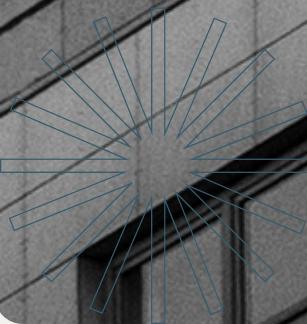
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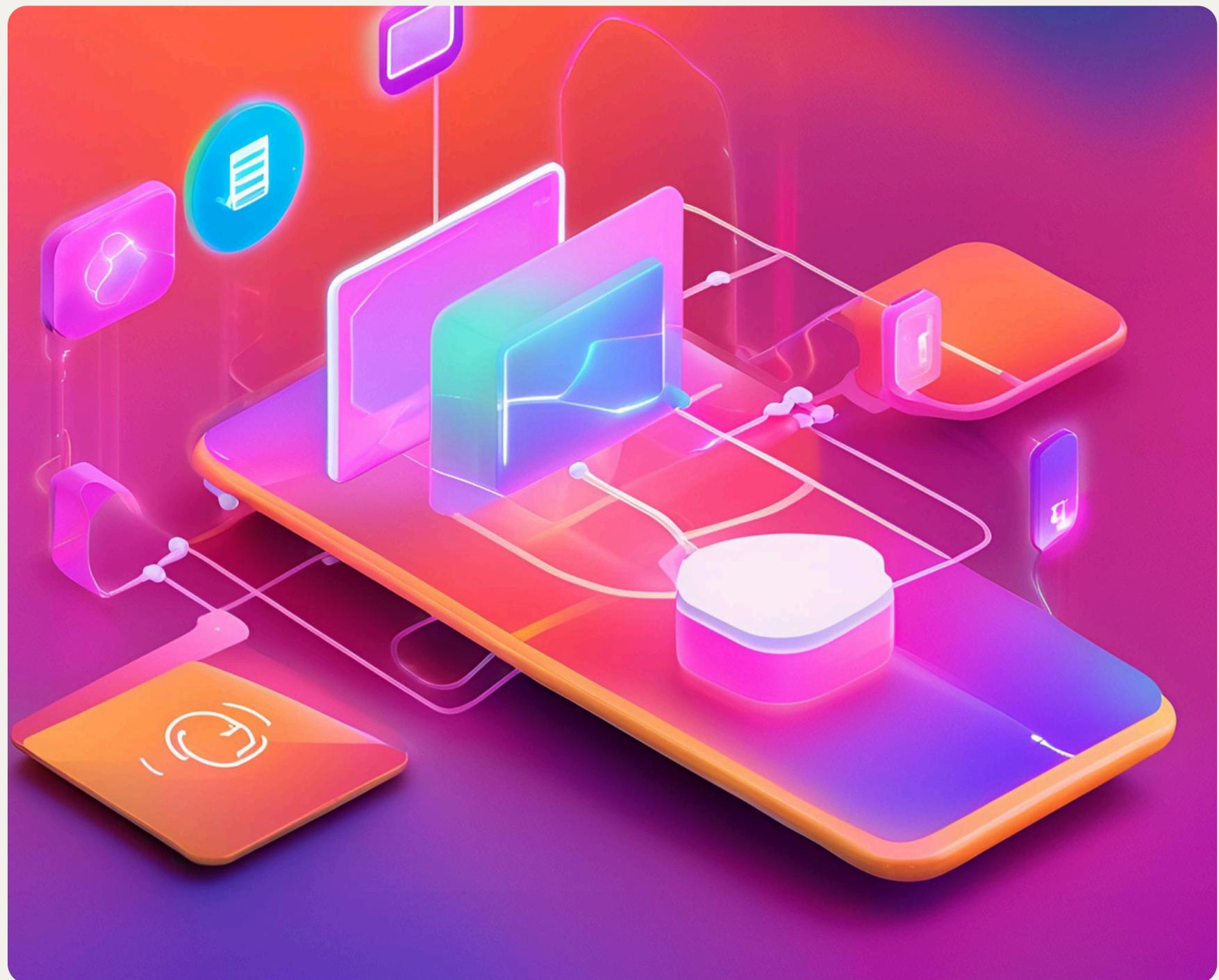


# Introduction

## Real-time chat app using Python

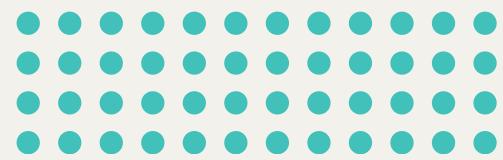
### Key features:

- Login / Register
- General, private, and group messaging
- Real-time communication
- Built with Streamlit, Socket Programming, Threading

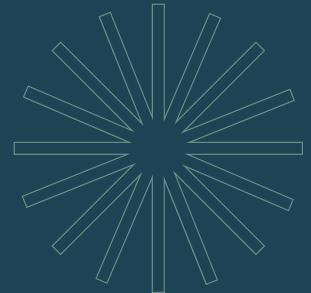




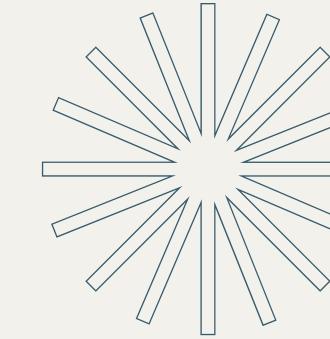
# Technologies Used



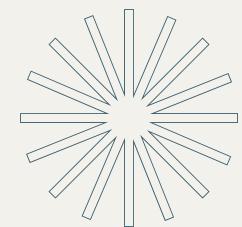
- Streamlit: UI interface
- Socket Programming: Client-server communication
- Threading: Receive messages in background
- Queue: Store & manage incoming messages
- Datetime, JSON: Timestamping & message formatting
- Streamlit AutoRefresh: UI updates every 2s



# System Architecture



- Clients <-> Server with Socket
- MongoDB for user/group storage
- Threads per client
- Message queue for async communication



# Session State Management (Client)

## Streamlit session\_state variables:



- `username`, `client_socket`, `messages`, `connected`
- `auth_status`, `message_queue`, `receive_thread`, `last_refresh`

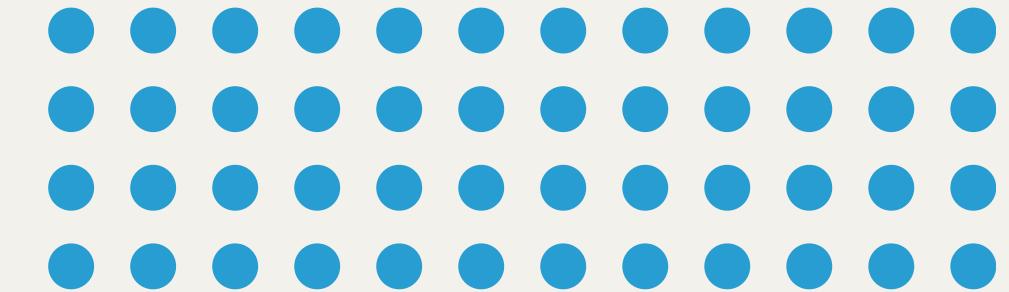
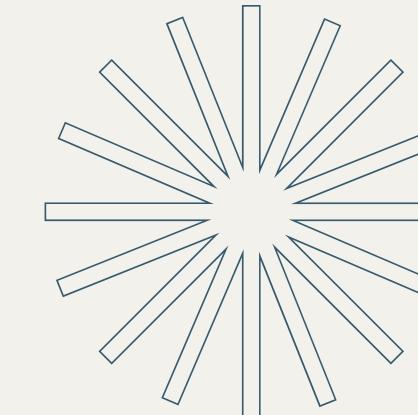
Ensures persistent UI state during chat

# Session State Management (Client)

Ensures persistent UI state during chat

```
Initialize session state
F 'username' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.username = None
F 'client_socket' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.client_socket = None
F 'messages' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.messages = []
F 'connected' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.connected = False
F 'auth_status' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.auth_status = None
F 'message_queue' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.message_queue = queue.Queue()
F 'last_refresh' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.last_refresh = time.time()
F 'receive_thread' not in st.session_state:
    st.session_state.receive_tl↓d = None
```

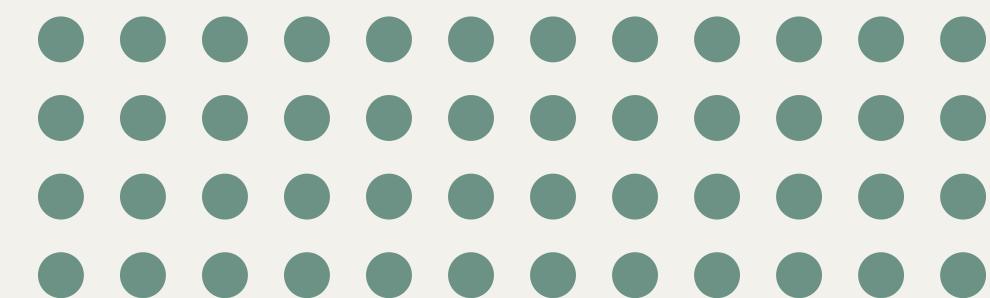
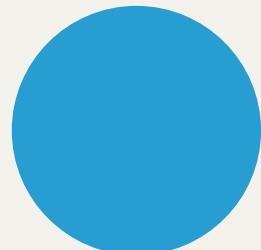
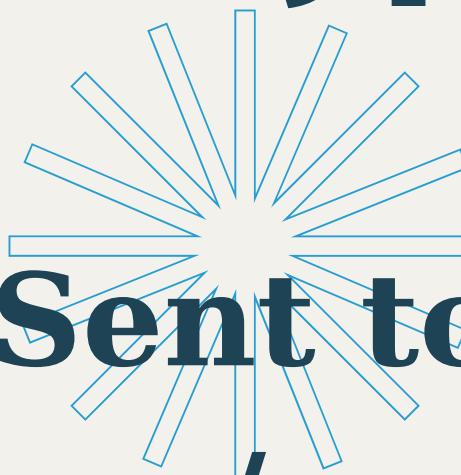
# Server Connection & Authentication



- Connect to `localhost:5555` using socket
- Authentication flow:
  - Choose Login/Register → Enter credentials
  - Server validates → responds with result
- Starts message receiving thread after success

# Message Types & Sending

- General Chat: Sent to all
- Private Message: /msg <user> <msg>
- Group Message:
  - /create\_group <name>
  - /join\_group <name>
  - /group\_msg <group> <msg>

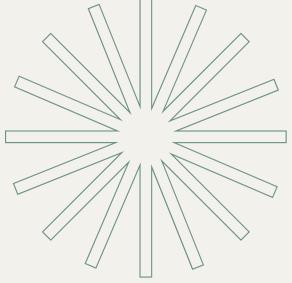


# Receiving Messages



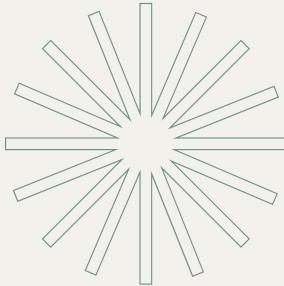
- Background thread continuously calls `recv()`
- Ignores control keywords (e.g., `USERNAME`)
- Adds actual messages to `message_queue`

# User Interface (UI)



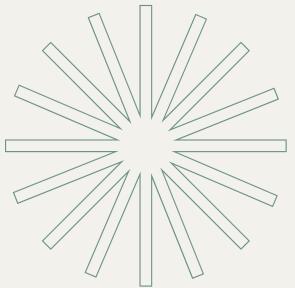
- Sections:
  - Authentication form (login/register)
  - Chat display: styled per message type
  - Message form with type selection

# Real-time Updates



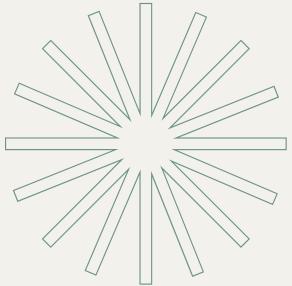
- `threading.Thread` keeps UI responsive
- `st_autorefresh(interval=2000)` reloads UI

# Error Handling



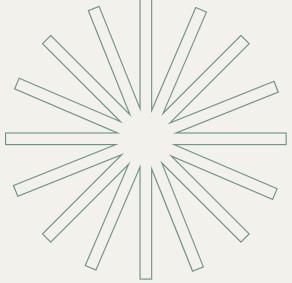
- Handles:
- Connection timeouts
- Wrong credentials
- Invalid commands
- Disconnected sockets

# Conclusion



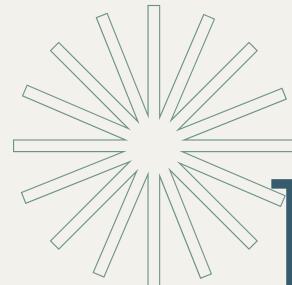
- A full-featured real-time chat platform
- Combines networking, UI, multithreading
- Extendable to support:
- File sharing, online presence, emojis, etc.

# Demo (Optional)



- Screenshot series or live demo:
  1. Login/Register
  2. General chat
  3. Private & Group message interaction

# Q&A



## Invite audience to ask questions



