

Socialising While Physically Apart by Watching Video Together

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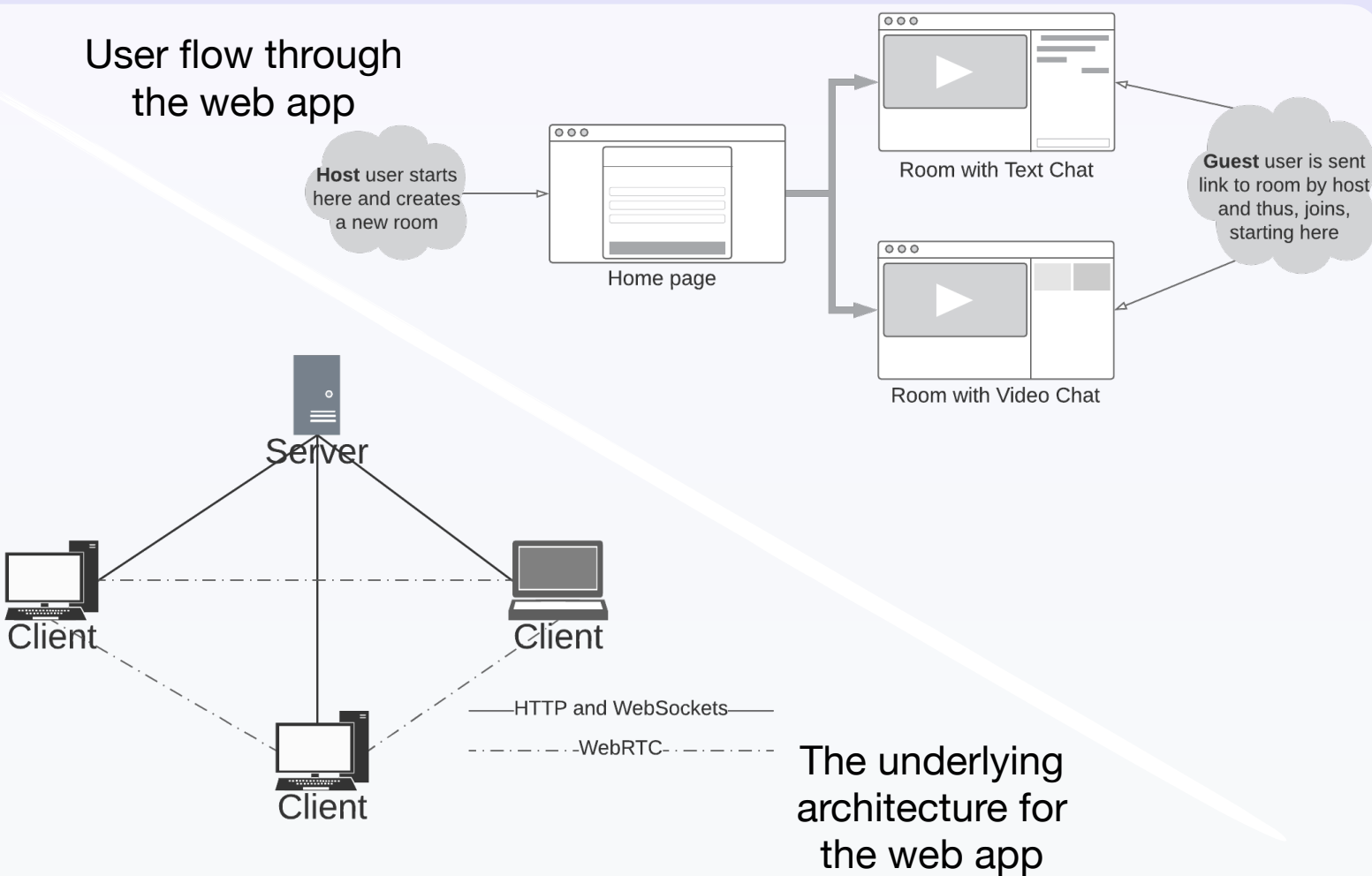
Background

- What have you missed the most about life before the pandemic?
- AIMS**
- Build an app to allow remote users watch videos together and in sync.
 - The app should allow all users have playback full control unless specifically denied by the host.
 - The app should allow for varying levels of user communications such as text, voice or video chat.
 - Complete user study on the feeling of togetherness between remote users watching video using the app

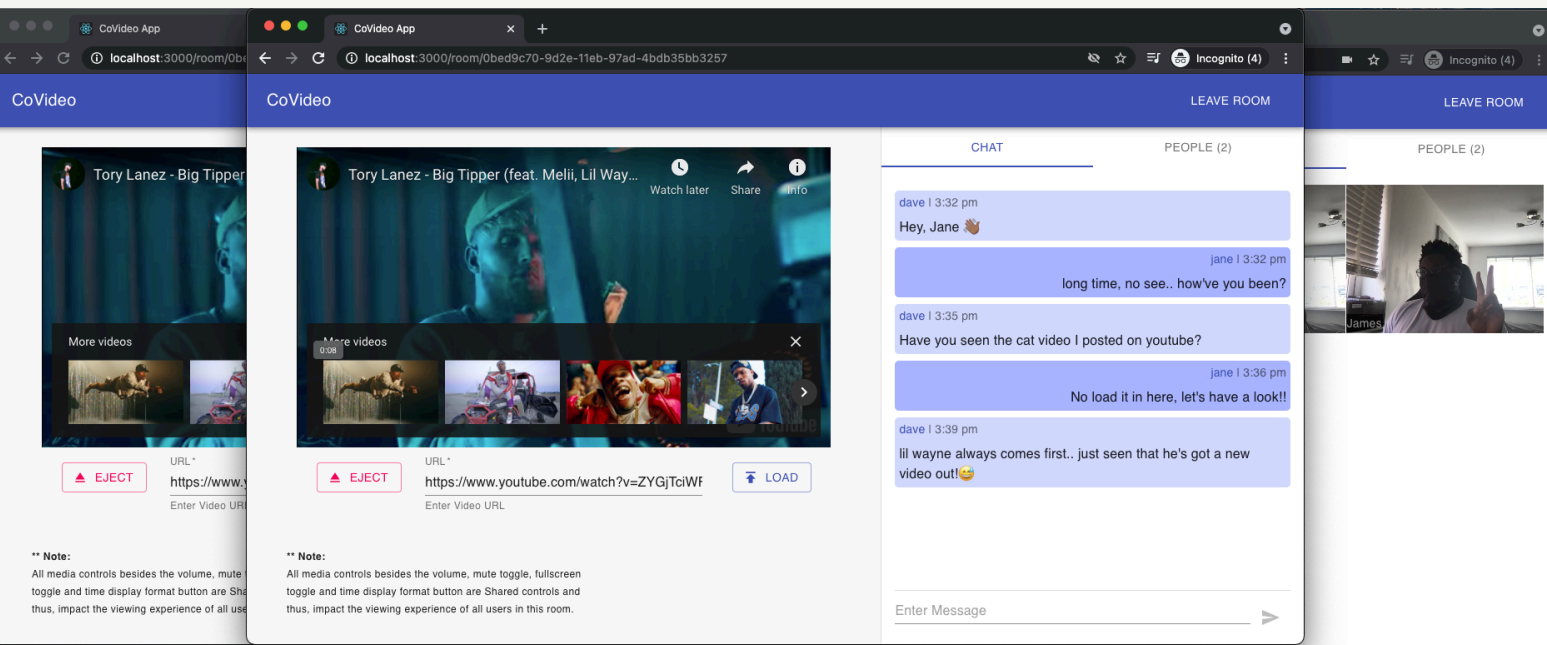
Approach

- Use WebRTC — it offers the greatest documentation, support and sub-second latency.
- Build for the Web — it is most widely available and accessible
- Compare the feeling of togetherness while varying the communication modality available to users
- Learn to use chosen tech
- Produce and evaluate prototypes
- Complete design, coding and testing of final app
- Run and evaluate user study

App Design and Architecture



Implementation



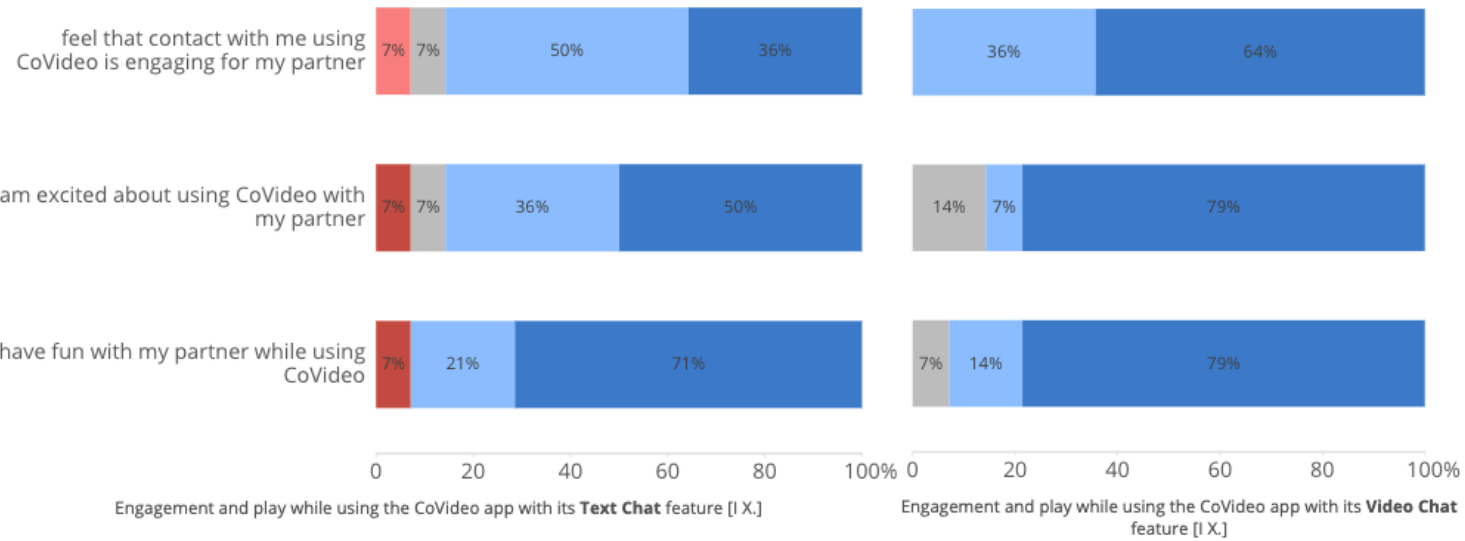
- CoVideo web app, featuring:
- Two room communication modes – Text Chat, Video Chat,
 - Two room types – Watch Together, Broadcast
 - A shared video player in each room

Try it yourself at <https://coveido.herokuapp.com/>
...or see the code at <https://github.com/David24E/CSP420>

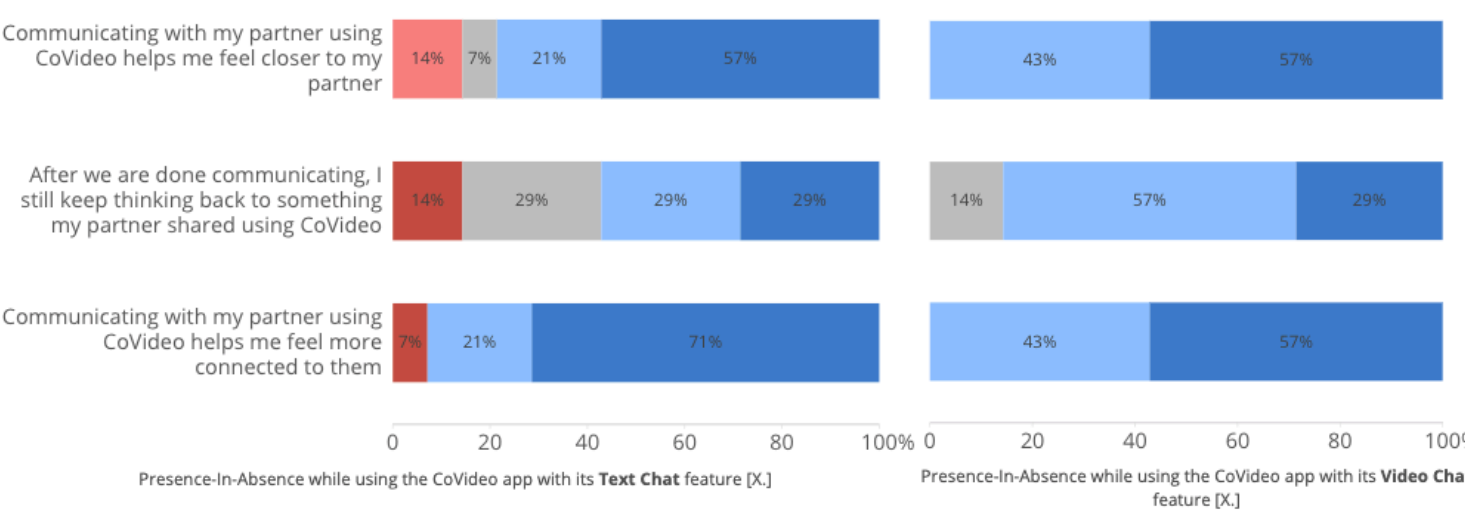
Evaluation

- Research Questions:**
- Does using the app foster the feeling of togetherness between remote users?
 - What are the effects of the chosen communication mode on that feeling of togetherness?
 - How can the app be improved so that it reinforces and further stimulates the feeling of togetherness?

- Method:**
- Get participants to experience the app using both communication modes.
 - Get participants to fill a session questionnaire after each session and a final questionnaire to end the study.



A comparison of the communication modes based on the Engagement and Play section of the ABCCT scales



A comparison of the communication modes based on the Presence-In-absence section of the ABCCT scales



Text Chat	64.3%
Video Chat	35.7%

Communication Mode Preference while using the CoVideo app

Strongly Agree	78.6%
Agree	21.4%

Connecting with remote friends or family while participating in a shared activity further fosters the feeling of togetherness