SOAS Exchange App: Week 7 Update

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1 Progress overview

In the previous two weeks we had a discussion on whether to use Xamarin or Ionic as the framework to build our app. Upon reviewing the two options we decided to go with Xamarin. The reasons are as follows:

- The back end programming language is in C which is very similar to Java

- Xamarin produces more powerful and faster apps than Ionic

- Xamarin has fantastic libraries supporting many funcionalities

We then started building the App in Xamarin with a learning by doing approach, watching YouTube tutorials and reading online blogs to help us learn. We created a GitHub repository such that we could share code and build and maintain the same project. We have built various pages with some of the back end functionality attached to it. Our next steps are to start building some of the more complicated functionality and making the app look more presentable.

2 Language Exchange App: Summary

Facilitates the matching of users (predominantly SOAS students) for the purpose of language exchange. Language exchange involves two participants meeting up to speak in languages that one side is a fluent/native speaker of, and the other user is aiming to learn. The exchange is reciprocal: exchangers swap roles. The SOAS community covers a wide range of languages, so the app would need features to match users who speak more obscure languages, as well as the major languages.

3 Individual actions/Completed Tasks

3.1 Gal Moore

- Connected to GitHub

- Got up to speed on Xamarin

- Playing around with Ionic, Angular Cordova

3.2   Louis Fillo

- Built settings page

- Wrote report

- Made changes to Github repository

3.3   John Hill

- Got running on Xamarin

- Built login page and carousel page

- Set up GitHub repository

4   Issues Encountered / Next Steps

- Lots of issues setting up Xamarin

- Getting GitHub fully working was very time consuming

- Start working on back end functionality like user authentication and chat functionality

- Start making the user experience more enjoyable

- Meeting IT teams from SOAS next week to discuss the back end server and show basic prototype

- Construct Gantt chart

- Investigate Shibboleth