

SOAS Exchange App: Week 5 Update

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1 Progress overview

It was a very productive fortnight and the project remains on track. The scope of the project was narrowed: the app will now be exclusively for language exchange. Since the last report, we have held our second client meeting and agreed on all key design decisions. We agreed on a number of small deviations from the wireframes presented, in consultation with the client. Our attention is now turned to implementing the design and assessing competing technology solutions.

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 Summary of meeting (17/11)

We had very productive meeting with our client. Changes were agreed in the following areas:

- Gender categories - 'Male', 'Female', 'Other Identity'
- Drop-down list for positions at SOAS - 'Undergraduate'; 'Postgraduate'; 'PhD'; 'Staff'
- General visual identity
- Leaf descriptions
- Logo use

- Remove location functionality - replace with less detailed meet-up info
- Avatars as alternative to photos (SOAS leaves)
- Integration with Google calendar
- Add a warning message after a match is made

We agreed that the app should be cross-platform. Data will be hosted on SOAS servers. The key outstanding questions concern the app deployment process (app to be deployed on SOAS servers), and the email verification process (possibly using Shibboleth).

4 Individual actions/Completed Tasks

4.1 Gal Moore

- General project management incl. client liaison
- Significant work on UI, wireframes, demos

4.2 Louis Fillo

- Finalised user interviews
- Wireframe development

4.3 John Hill

- Analysis of user questionnaire,
- Fed insights in to wireframe development
- Report written

5 Issues Encountered / Next Steps

- Need to find a solution for cross-platform development (Ionic vs. Xamarin) and research back-end solutions (MySQL vs. SQLite).
- Pick technology stack
- Start coding front-end
- Start back-end development.
- Investigate user authentication, encryption and API (e.g. Google calendar) technologies.