



NOTE-SHARING PLATFORM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Haneen Alhajali/ 9 Mar 2025

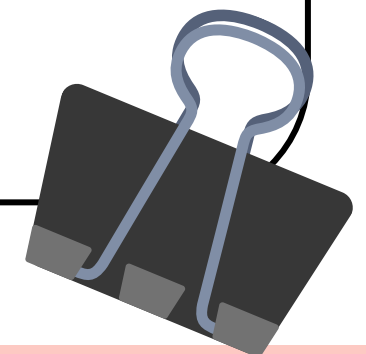
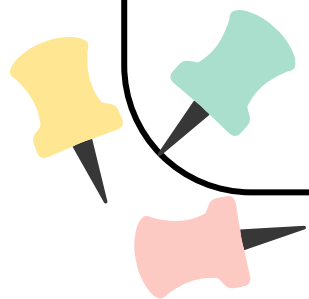


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



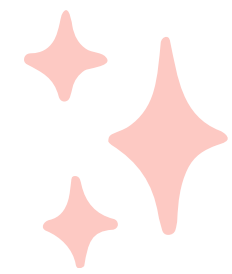
This study explores the needs of **university** students in creating, sharing, and accessing peer-generated notes. Through **semi-structured interviews** with five participants, we identified key pain points and opportunities for a **centralized, intuitive note-sharing platform** tailored to **Computer Engineering students**.

- **Key findings** include the need for:
 - **Centralized** access to notes.
 - **Trust-building mechanisms** like ratings and reviews.
 - **Features** such as search filters, bookmarking, and annotation tools.
- **Recommendations** focus on creating a **user-friendly platform** that addresses these needs while fostering **community engagement** and **trust**.





RESEARCH QUESTIONS



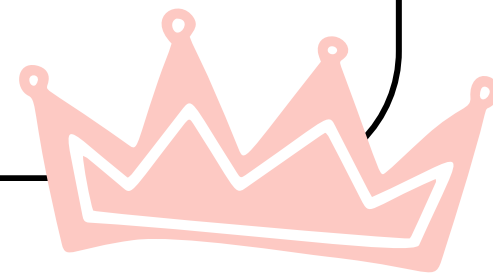
Digital learning is essential, but current note-sharing methods (e.g., social media groups) lack organization and reliability. This study aims to design a **centralized platform** for **Computer Engineering students** to access and share high-quality notes efficiently.

- **Key Research Questions**

- **[Needs]** What features would make a note-sharing platform useful?
- **[Behaviors]** How often do students contribute their own notes?
- **[Opportunities]** What would make the platform more intuitive and enjoyable?

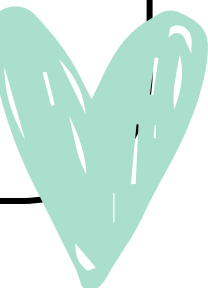
METHOD

- Conducted **30-minute semi-structured interviews**.
- Questions focused on:
 - Current note-sharing practices.
 - Pain points with existing methods.
 - Desired features for a new platform.



PARTICIPANTS

- **5 university students** who actively create, share, or use peer-generated notes.
- Represented diverse academic years and courses within **Computer Engineering**.



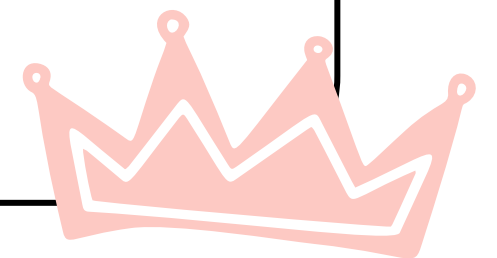


KEY FINDINGS

Scattered Notes Across Platforms

#1

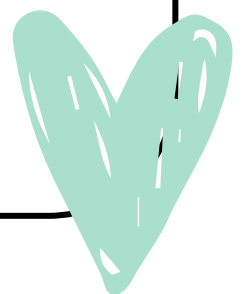
- Students struggle to find notes because they are scattered across multiple platforms (e.g., WhatsApp, Facebook, university websites).
 - *"The notes are scattered across WhatsApp, Facebook, and the university website. It's hard to find what I need!"* – Participant 2.
- A **centralized platform** is needed to consolidate notes and improve accessibility.



Trust in Notes from Specific Sources

#2

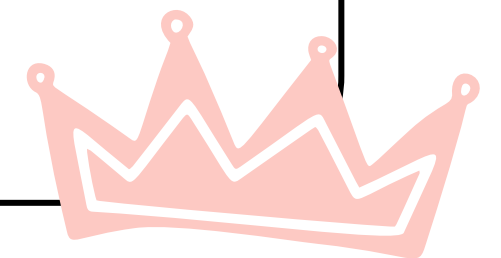
- Students prefer notes from recognizable or high-achieving peers and trust notes aligned with specific professors' teaching styles.
 - *"I trust notes from people I know or those who took the course with a trusted professor."* – Participant 3.
 - *"A rating and feedback system would help me choose which notes to study from."* – Participant 1.
- A **rating or verification system** for uploaders can build trust and ensure note quality.



Fear of Criticism and Privacy Concerns

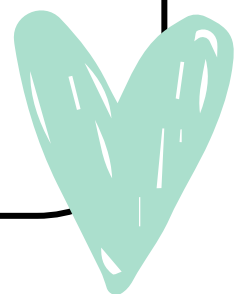
#3

- Students hesitate to share notes due to fear of judgment or sharing incorrect information.
 - *"I'm afraid people will judge the quality of my notes or that I might make mistakes in the information I share."* – Participant 3.
 - *"I used to share notes anonymously but now share under my name after receiving positive feedback."* – Participant 5.
- **Anonymous sharing options** and **positive feedback mechanisms** can encourage participation.



Preference for Detailed and Organized Notes #4

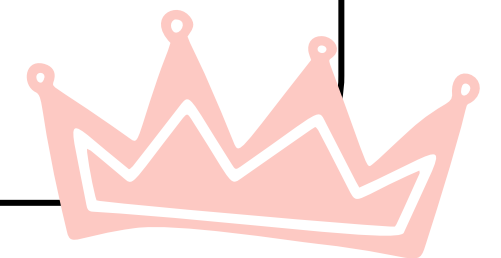
- Students value detailed, well-organized notes that cover entire courses and are divided into chapters or themes.
 - *"I prefer detailed notes that cover everything in the course, so I can summarize them into my own format like mind maps."* – Participant 3.
- The platform should support **structured note organization** and **allow annotations**.



Technical Challenges in Uploading and Sharing

#5

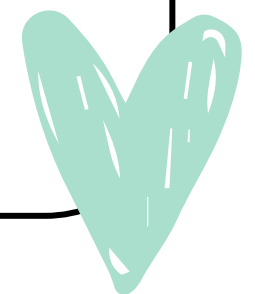
- Students face issues like expired links, access permissions, and poor-quality scans.
 - *"I stopped using my university's platform because it became inaccessible."* – Participant 5.
- The platform should ensure **seamless uploads, high-quality file formats, and reliable access.**



Motivation to Help Others and Build Reputation

#6

- Students are motivated to share notes to help peers and receive positive feedback.
 - *"What I love most about sharing notes is receiving thank-you messages and positive feedback from students who used them."* – Participant 5.
- **Gamification** or **recognition systems** (e.g., badges, leaderboards) can incentivize sharing.





RECOMMENDATIONS



01. Centralized Platform with Advanced Search and Filtering

- Organize notes by **course, professor, or keyword**.
- Include filters for **note type** (e.g., detailed, summarized) and **uploader reputation**.



02. Trust-Building Mechanisms

- Implement a **rating and review system** for notes.
- Allow **verified uploaders** (e.g., high-achieving students) to build credibility.

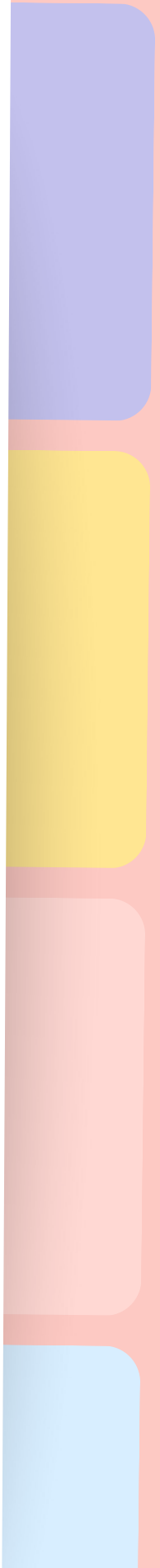


03. Features for Organization and Usability

- Add **bookmarking**, **annotation**, and **chapter division** features.
- Enable **offline access** and **easy navigation**.



04. Privacy and Sharing Options

- Offer **anonymous sharing** and **controlled visibility settings** (e.g., share with classmates only).
 - **Ensure secure uploads and downloads** to protect user data.
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05. Gamification and Rewards

- Introduce a **rewards system** (e.g., badges, privileges) to encourage participation.
- Highlight **top contributors** to foster a sense of community.

06. Technical Improvements

- Ensure compatibility with **various file formats** (PDFs, Word Docs, PPTs).
- Optimize **file storage and sharing** to avoid technical issues.

NEXT STEPS



1

Validate Findings

Conduct surveys with a larger sample to confirm insights.

2

Design Sprint

Brainstorm and prototype platform features based on user needs.

3

Usability Testing

Test the platform with students to refine functionality and usability.



APPENDIX



(Affinity Diagramming)



miro



https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVITuuOkE=?share_link_id=323980883683&shareablePresentation=1



THANK YOU