

From Boring Text-Based to Fun and Interactive: VibeCheck with Streamlit

1. Introduction

The concept for the VibeCheck App was inspired by the personal experience of stress and frustration in a professional context. The necessity for a simple, interactive, aesthetically pleasing, and user-friendly app that could provide a momentary distraction based on the level of stress was identified. The development of the app was aimed at providing Z Generation users with an engaging method through humour, relaxation techniques, and supportive messages, to improve their mood.

This report outlines the development process, key improvements made, challenges faced, and reflections on using Streamlit as a development tool.

2. Development process

The original form of the VibeCheck app, developed in a previous semester, was entirely text-based, providing users with basic mood-based messages without interactive elements. The new version was redesigned using Streamlit, which allowed for dynamic content, visual elements, and a more engaging user experience. At the first level, the simple text was changed into jokes to lighten the mood of the user without creating too much pressure. Later, dad jokes became memes to suit the needs of the target group better.

At the second level, TikTok videos were incorporated as a highly popular feature. The process of accessing these videos involved scanning a QR code, which resulted in the display of a humorous

video of cows. This feature not only functions effectively on the user's preferred platform but also serves as a source of surprise, as it is not commonly anticipated that such a video would feature cows rather than cats. The element of speed and unexpectedness of this feature is particularly appealing to young people, as a sense of relief from negative emotions.

Despite the many new features in the latest version, the breathing exercise has been carried over from the original application, augmented by the addition of a progress bar to assist the user.

The inspiration for level four was drawn from a video featuring an AI content of marble balls playing music, which I found deeply relaxing. It is my pleasure to share this alternative method of relaxation with the world.

In addition to the entertaining features and comedic elements, I believe it is crucial to emphasise that there is no shame in requesting help when needed. For this reason, the final level remains unchanged, with the objective of encouraging users to seek assistance in times of crisis.

3. Challenges

A number of issues were found in the process of balancing the technical possibilities with the user expectations. The task of displaying images in a randomised order while ensuring correct loading was particularly challenging. Similarly, the process of embedding YouTube videos in Streamlit was difficult because of the lack of auto-playing functionality. However, the implementation of a button that opens the video in a new tab successfully addressed this issue.

4. Feedback of users

Initially, testers found the concept of VibeCheck interesting, but the lack of engaging content led to a quick loss of interest. Many users felt that the original version was too static and text-heavy,

making it less immersive. The simple background design also failed to make a strong first impression.

However, after implementing key updates testers responded much more positively. The interactive features made the app feel more entertaining and engaging, and testers particularly enjoyed the humor of the memes and visual elements. Overall, the improved version created a fun, light-hearted experience that kept users engaged and encouraged them to explore different stress levels.

5. Conclusion

Switching to Streamlit turned the development process into a fun and creative journey! What started as a simple text-based tool evolved into a fully functional interactive app with memes, videos, and QR codes to keep users entertained and engaged.

Following a few modifications, VibeCheck evolved from a simple to a sophisticated, dynamic and enjoyable platform. It serves to demonstrate that even stress management can be accompanied by a sense of humour.