

# Final Presentation

Studii: Collaborative Software for Students

## What is Studii (Again)?

- Studii is a platform for facilitating classroom discussions and student driven study groups online
- It's a synergistic combination of real time chat applications and the QA format
- This new communication format brings together the ease of instant messaging, and the purposeful discussion of the Question/Answer model

## Why do you need Studii?

- Right now, there is a gap in the marketplace
- Students have no single purpose-built tool to meet their educational collaboration needs
  - Class discussion is fractured across many platforms
    - Facebook, Yahoo Answers, Skype...
- Existing educational tools fail to meet the needs of students

## Methodology

- Surveys
  - Generalizability
    - Survey of 50 UVic students from varying faculties
- Tool Analysis
  - Realism
    - Identify key features of Facebook, Yahoo Answers, Google Docs, and Piazza
- Focus Group
  - Precision
    - Gathered in-depth input from 5 UVic students from varying faculties

## Designing Studii

- By drawing common design elements from popular existing tools, Studii makes itself immediately familiar to new users
- Studii's features are designed to be simple, but essential
- Combining the real time aspects of Facebook chat with the QA format of Yahoo Answers allows for directed but dynamic discussions

## Designing Studii (continued)

- Since Studii is based around a University structure, user created class groups are created with an expiry date to avoid confusing duplicates
- Searchability was an essential part of the design, allowing students to find relevant course pages on the site and even relevant responses in chat
- See Studii for yourself!  
<https://invis.io/F550YL5BK>

## Lessons Learned

- We received a lot of good feedback from our focus group:
  - Remove downvote buttons
  - Provide ways to express ideas beyond text
  - Add sharing links, and notifications
  - May not be useful for non-science faculties
  - Change organization of groups, topics, and convos
- We also learned that most existing academic tools are too reliant on the fact that students are often forced to use them

## Issues Faced

- Initial project direction was too focused on UI design instead of collaboration
  - Change research plan midstream
- Not enough time/developers to make high fidelity prototype
- Spreading ourselves too thin, at first we were trying to develop a functional prototype at the same time as we did our research



## Future Work

- Integrate focus group feedback
- Build a functional prototype
- Run collaborative experiments

# Thank you for Watching

Any questions?