

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
Department of Automation and Applied Informatics

Jena Woodroffe

PhysioHub and PhysioLink

Companion Android Apps for Physiotherapists and their Patients

Project Laboratory

SUPERVISOR

Dávid Sik

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STUDENT DECLARATION

I, **Jena Woodroffe**, the undersigned, hereby declare that the present BSc Project Laboratory work has been prepared by myself and without any unauthorized help or assistance. Only the specified sources (references, tools, etc.) were used. All parts taken from other sources word by word, or after rephrasing but with identical meaning, were unambiguously identified with explicit reference to the sources utilized.

Budapest, 27 May 2024

Jena Woodroffe

Summary

This project was created to serve the needs of physiotherapists and their patients. After attending physiotherapy for many years, I realised how archaic and disorganised physiotherapy can be in terms of communication, data sharing etc. The apps were created to create structure and formality in the communication between physiotherapists and patients.

This meant that the applications needed to achieve various functions. Firstly, designated communication was very important. Many physiotherapists run their practice through their personal devices, meaning that using a simple texting platform to communicate with patients results in physiotherapists struggling to separate their personal and work lives. By communicating solely through a designated application, it allows physiotherapists to turn off just that application and be able to fully relax during time off.

Secondly, the applications need to be able to store and manage all of the data related to physiotherapy. This includes exercises that are assigned to specific patients with instructions that the physiotherapists can create and manage and the patients can view.

Finally, I wanted the application to include a calendar functionality where physiotherapists can manage their appointments and their schedule. This appointments are also shared with the respective patients.

Introduction

1. Project background and description

These two android applications are created with the goal of connecting physiotherapists (PTs) with their patients in a seamless and well structured manner. The primary application, PhysioHub, is for the PTs to use and allows them to create, view, manage and update exercises for each patient, as well as create new appointments in their calendar and message their patients. The companion application, PhysioLink, is for the patients to log in and use. They can view the exercises assigned to them by their PT and message them on the application.

2. Project scope

Functions worked on this semester:

- Refactoring the base starting project to properly align with the MVC (Model-View-Controller) design pattern
- 2. Creating distinct, mutually exclusive log-in systems for each of the applications
- 3. Invitation system to invite patients and link their information with their PT's
- 4. Exercises functionality in both applications filtering, viewing, management, creation
- 5. Chat functionality between the applications

Technologies used

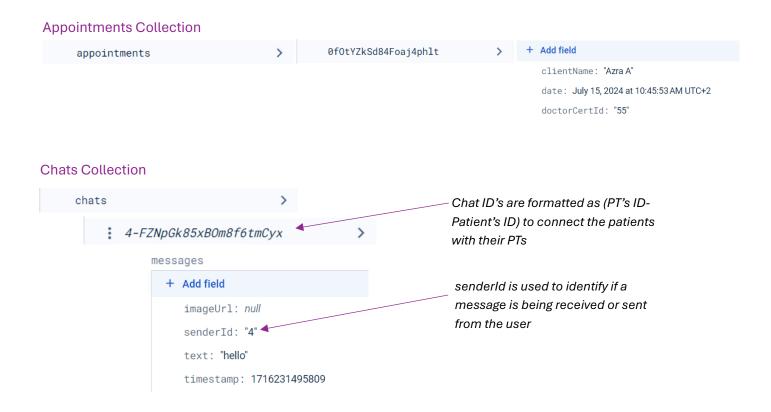
1. Front end and logic

- Class logic and front-end design is made through the Android Studio IDE
- Classes are coded in Kotlin
- UI is all made using XML to provide the initial layout and then dynamically adapted in the Kotlin classes
- Both Fragments and Activities are used to allow the users to seamlessly change between functionalities

2. Back end and data storage

- The back-end logic is implemented with Firebase and its tools
- Authentication is handled by Firebase Authentication using both their Google Sign-In tool and their Email and Password Sign-in option.
- All information related to PTs and their patients including invitations, appointments, exercises and messages is stored in Firebase Firestore.
- All data is retrieved, edited and created through the relevant Data Access class.

Firebase examples:



Exercises Collection



Firebase Authentication



Since I needed to use the Firebase Authentication within a single Firebase project, I utilised different Firebase login tools to ensure that patients registered to the PhysioLink (patients app) cannot access the PTs app. I used email and password login for the patient's app and Google Sign-in for the doctors app.

Project Structure

I used the Model-View-Controller design pattern for this project and the structure is built in a way to support that. I have listed the design of only one application, but since the second application is just a derivative of this one with less functionality, the structure is almost identical.

PhysioHub (PTs'App)

model

Contains the data models representing the structure of data used in the app

Appoitment

ClientModel - clients refer to patients

DoctorModel - doctors refer to physiotherapists

ExerciseModel

MessageModel

data

Manages data access and operations, including database queries and network requests

AppointmentDataAccess

ChatDataAccess

ClientDataAccess

DoctorDataAccess

ExerciseDataAccess

DoctorDataHolder – holds the data of the currently logged in PT

utils

Provides utility classes

NoteSharedPreferencesHelper

adapter

Acts as controllers to manage complex activities by handling the logic connecting data models to the views.

ExerciseAdapter

ExerciseAdapterListener

ExerciseViewHolder

MessageAdapter

SearchClientRecyclerAdapter

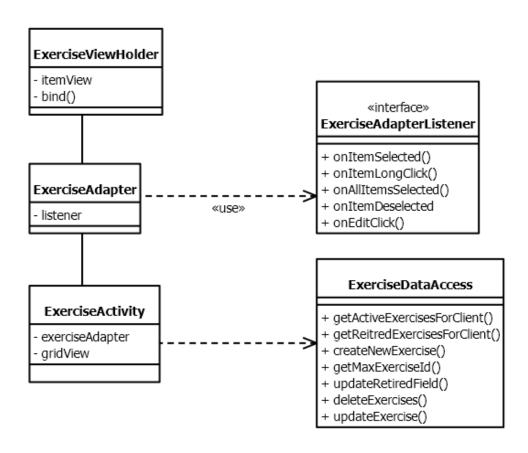
activities

 Many activities are created in this application – for logging in, registering, viewing clients, inviting new clients, messaging clients, viewing, editing and create exercises, viewing information about the client as well as for viewing and creating new appointments.

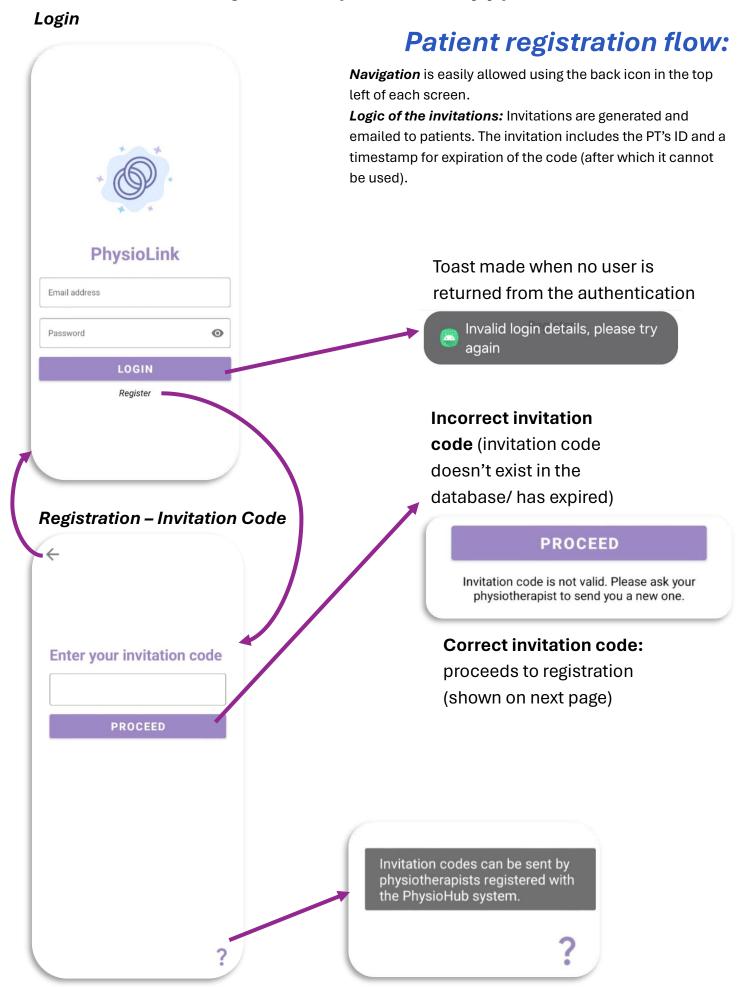
Architecture Overview

The functionalities created in these applications follow the rules of MVC design. The following description describes the architecture used to implement the Exercises functionality.

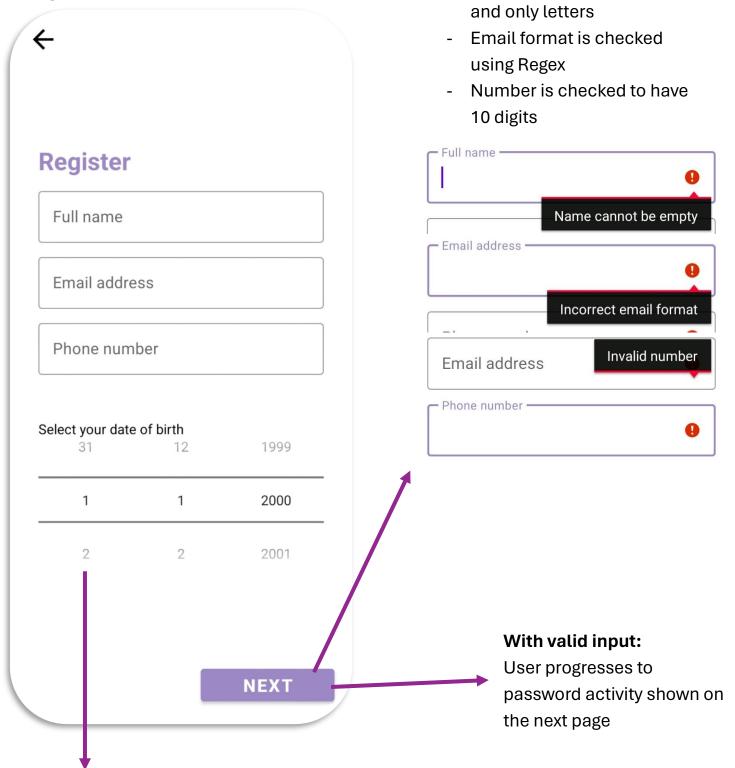
In this Android application, *ExerciseActivity* serves as the view, managing the user interface and interacting with *ExerciseAdapter* to display exercise items. *ExerciseAdapter*, functioning as a controller, binds the exercise data to the UI components managed by *ExerciseViewHolder* and handles user interactions such as clicks, edit clicks and long clicks. The *ExerciseAdapterListener* interface defines callbacks for these interactions, ensuring they are communicated back to the activity. Data operations are handled by *ExerciseDataAccess*, which *ExerciseActivity* relies on to retrieve and manipulate exercise data, maintaining a clear separation of concerns within the MVC pattern.



Results - PhysioLink (Patients' app)



Registration - Patient Details



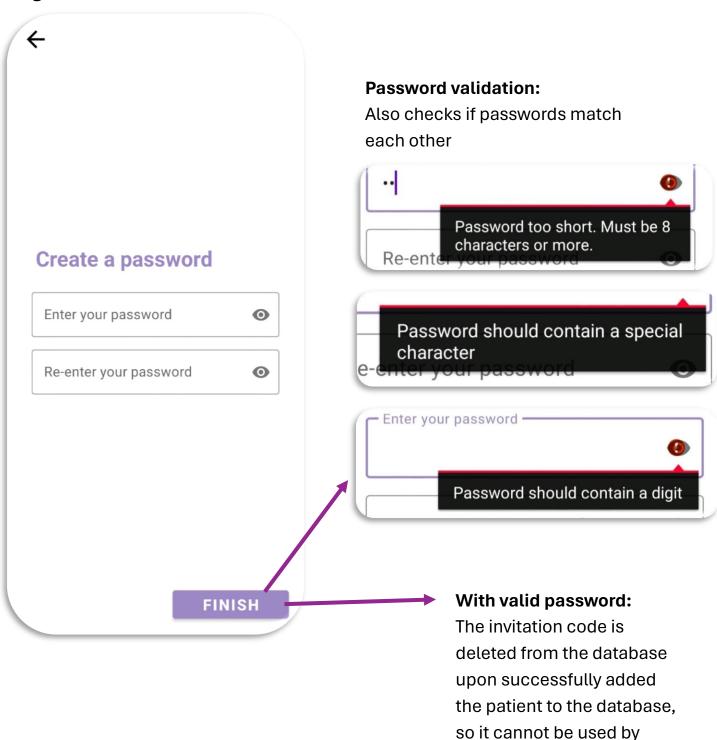
User input validation:

Name is checked as not null

Date of birth NumberPicker

I used three NumberPickers for day, month and year. The maximum year is the current year.

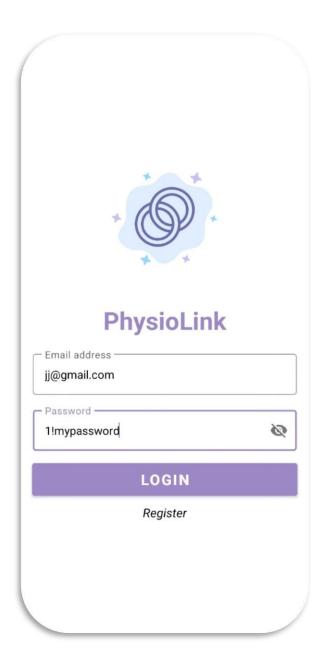
Registration - Password



additional users.

Patient login flow:

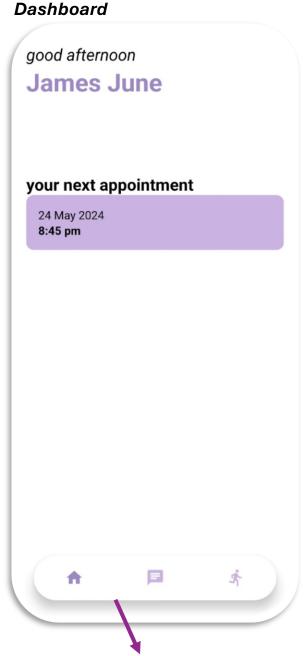
Upon successful registration, the user will be returned to the Login page. Login system uses email and password login with Firebase Authentication.



Upon successful login, the patient's data is retrieved from the database – including their ID, their PT's ID, and their personal information.

A time-sensitive greeting is displayed with the patient's name.

The database is queried to see if the patient has any future appointments, and if they do, it displays the upcoming one on the dashboard.



Custom Navigation Bar:

Rounded bottom navigation bar allows the patient to easily change between the dashboard, the chat and their exercises.

Chat Page:

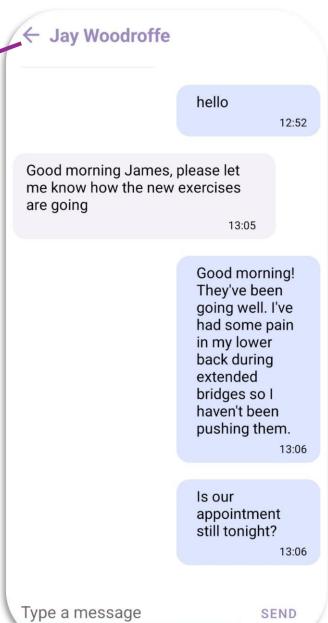
The patient's chat with their physiotherapist is loaded from Firebase and displayed in a Recycler View in MessageCards. The senderId is checked to decide whether to display the message as an incoming or outgoing message.

Back button returns the user to the Dashboard

The PT's name is displayed at the top of the page.

The messages are displayed chronologically and displayed with their timestamp.

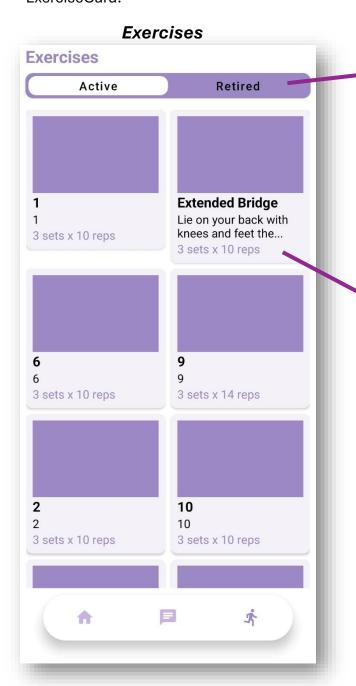
A messageListener checks regularly for new messages and updates the page with the new messages.



Chat

Exercises Page:

The patient is able to view their active and retired (ie non-active) exercises. These are displayed in a grid view, with each individual exercise shown inside an ExerciseCard.



Custom Toggle Bar:

Allows the patient to quickly switch between the exercise types. Asynchronicity is heavily taken into consideration and progress bars are displayed in case of slow database response. In case of new exercises being added, they will be displayed upon the tab being reloaded.

Exercise Detials

← Extended Bridge

Lie on your back with knees and feet the same distance apart. Push hips towards the ceiling and hold, slowly extend one leg, place it back and repeat with the other leg.

3 x 10

ItemClickListener:

Clicking on an exercise will open the exercise with all its details. The back button on this page returns the patient back to the Active Exercises tab.

Results - PhysioHub (Physiotherapists' app)

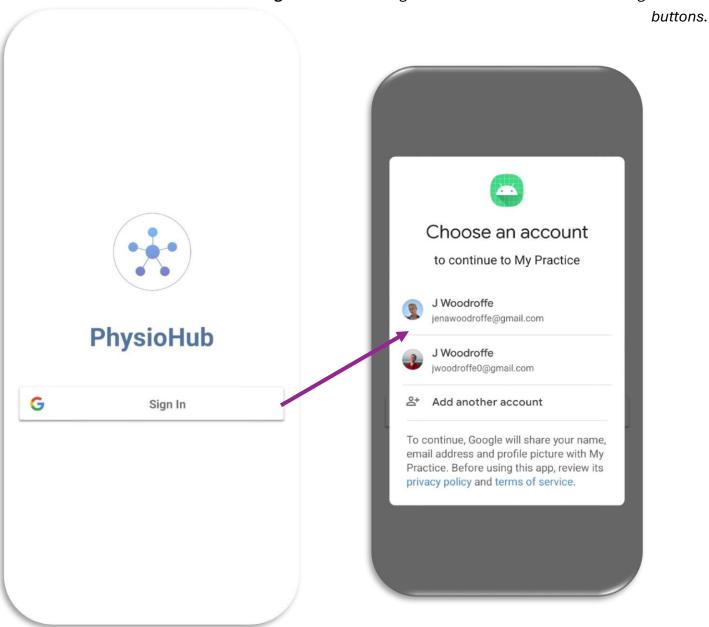
Physiotherapist registration flow:

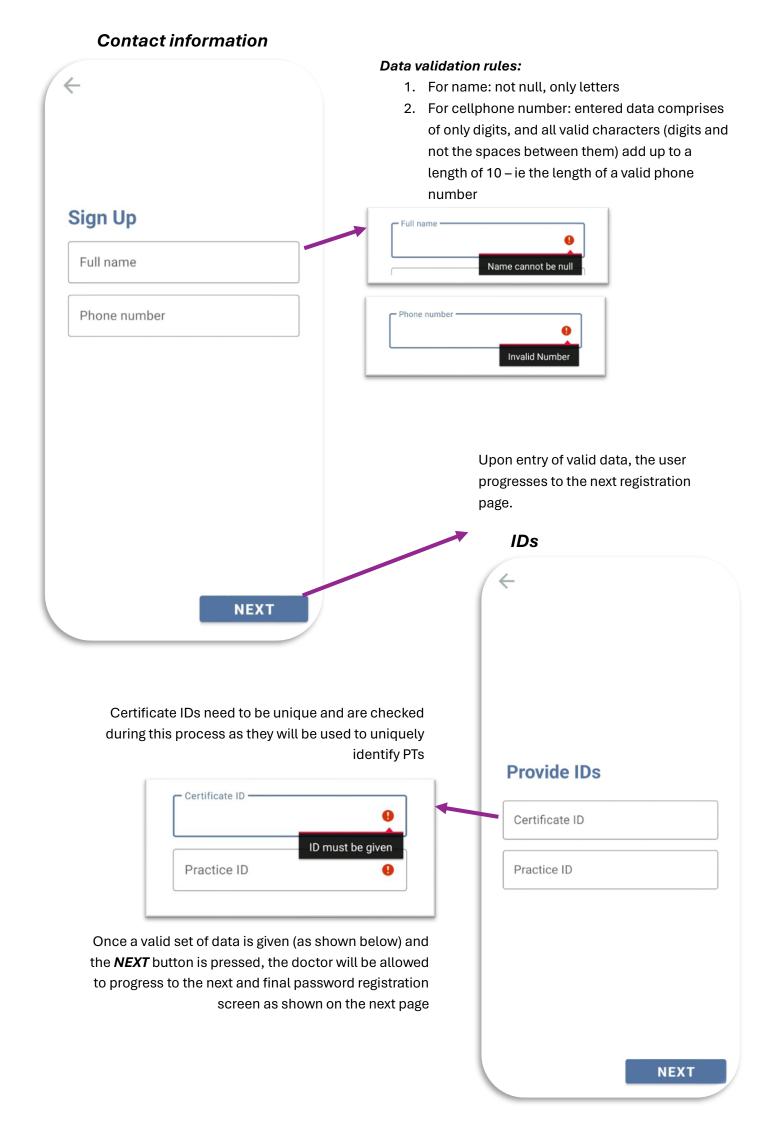
Signing in: is handled by Firebase Authentication with Google Sign in.

If the user clicks Sign in, and they haven't previously logged in before,
they will be prompted to register with all their necessary data.

Navigation between registration screens is seamless using the back

Login





Dashboard - Physiotherapists

Greeting by name

After receiving the PT's authentication details, I queried the rest of their details from the database to greet them by name

Displaying their next appointment

I also query the appointments that are registered to the current PT and find the next appointment occurring after the current time. I show the date, time and patient name of this appointment. good evening Dr. Jane Doe your next appointment 07 Dec 4:30 pm Francis Moran invoice due SAVE

Time-sensitive greeting and icon

Depending on the time of that, the greeting will be displayed as 'good morning', 'good afternoon' or 'good evening' with the respective icon

Notepad

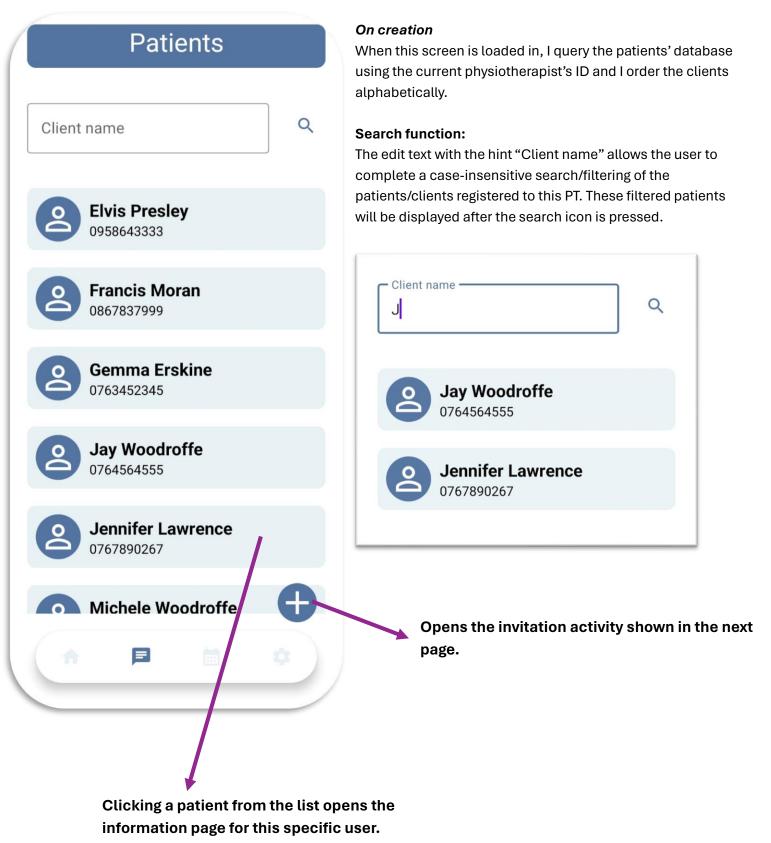
I created a simple notepad using a multiline edit text and stored the notes using SharedPreferences. If the doctor wishes to remind themselves of anything, they can add the note here and click save to save it to memory.

Custom navigation bar:

Allows the users to quickly switch between the dashboard, their patients, their calendar and settings

Patient flow - Physiotherapists

Patients recyclerview

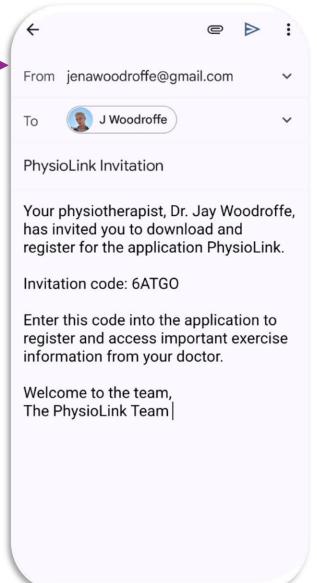


Invitation page



Once the email has been sent successfully, this invitation code, along with the PT's certificateID and an expiration date is added to the invitations collection. By adding the certificate ID, we can bind the new patients with the PT that invited them.

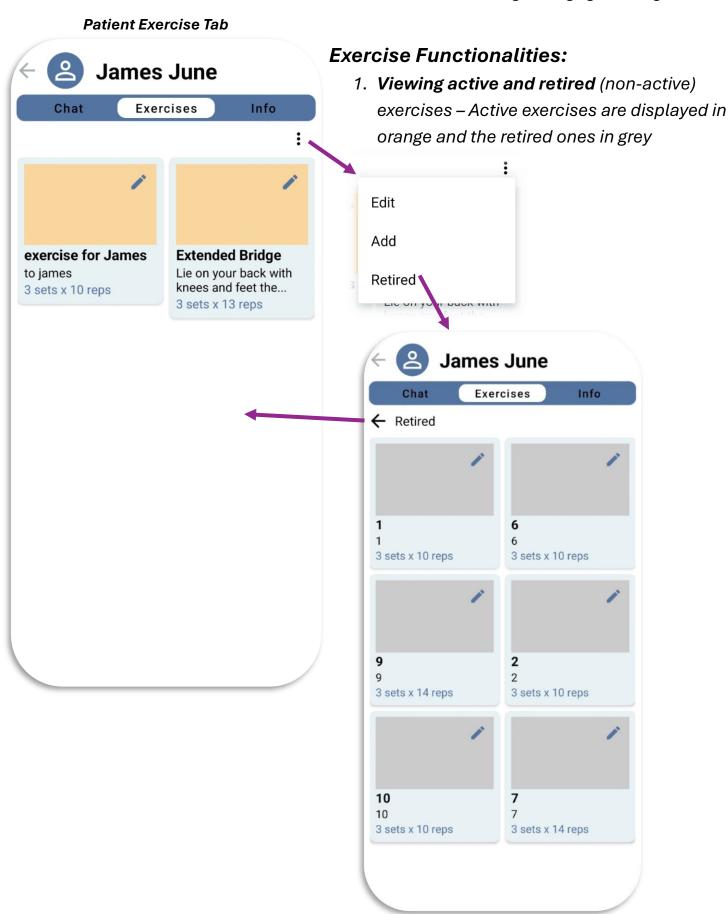
The PT is able to enter their new patient's email address into this page. When they click the button, a unique 5-character invitation code is generated and an Gmail intent is sent to the Gmail app.



This allows the PT's to not have to manually register each of their patients and their relevant data. Instead, by sending the code and allowing patients to register, they can supply their own information then.

Patient information - exercises

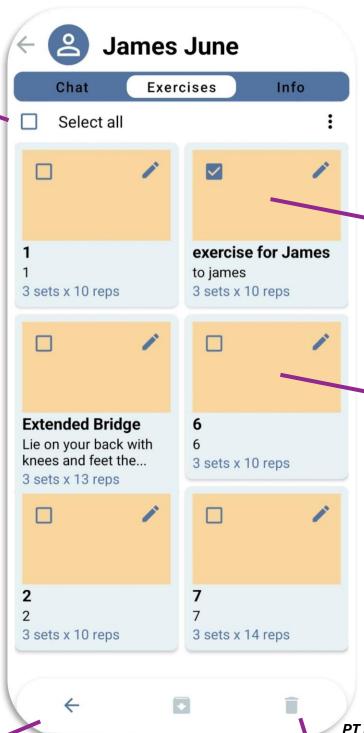
When a PT clicks on a patient, that patients page will open. This gives the PT access to the patient's information, exercises and chat. The exercises tab has a variety of functionalities. I will break them down into Viewing, Managing, Creating and Editing.



Exercise Functionalities:

2. **Managing exercises –** quick selection option and the ability to retire/unretire or delete exercise seamlessly.

Select All checkbox – appears when selection mode is on, allows the user to quickly select or deselect all the active exercises



OnLongClickListener – listener added to each item in the gird view. If it is triggered, it will turn on selection mode (all the checkboxes will appear), and the item it was trigger on will be seleced

OnItemClickListener –
once selection mode is
on, simply clicking
anywhere in the exercise
will select it (checkbox
will be ticked)

Bottom navigation bar – appears once selection mode is on. Allows the PT to exit selection mode, archive/retire the selected exercises or to delete them.

PT is asked for confirmation before delete is carried out

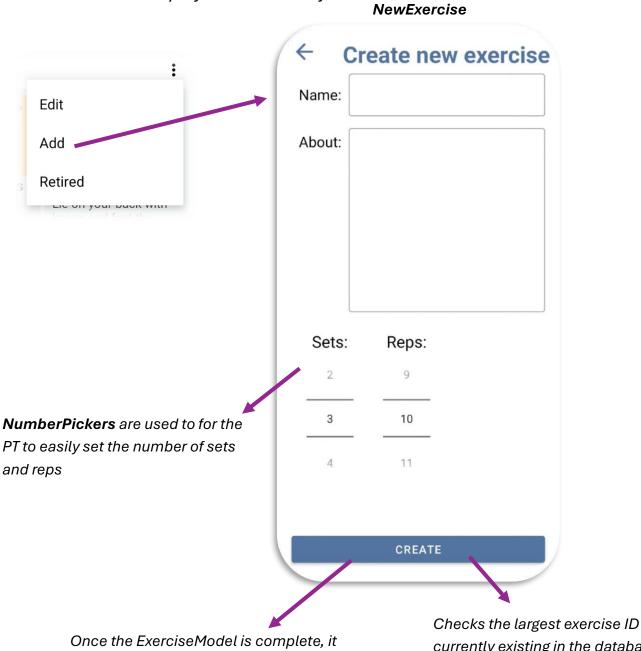
Delete Confirmation

Are you sure you want to delete the selected exercises?

CANCEL DELETE

Exercise Functionalities:

3. **Creating exercises –** allows the PT to create an exercise for the selected patient and it will be displayed immediately after

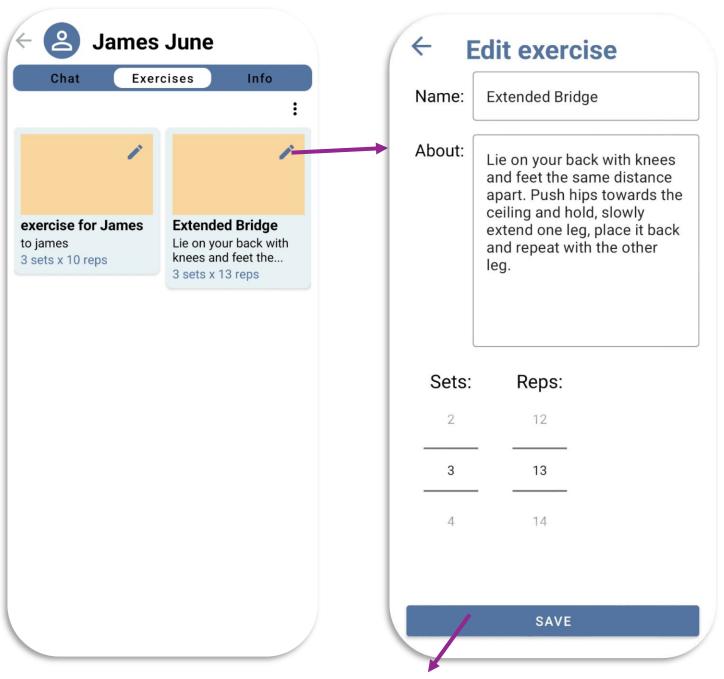


Once the ExerciseModel is complete, it will be sent to ExerciseDataAccess to add it to the Firestore. The PT will then be returned to the Active Exercises of the Patient and the new exercise will be displayed.

currently existing in the database
(since Firestore IDs are always strings, I needed to add a manual unique ID in order to display these exercises in a GridView and be able to get their numerical IDs easily

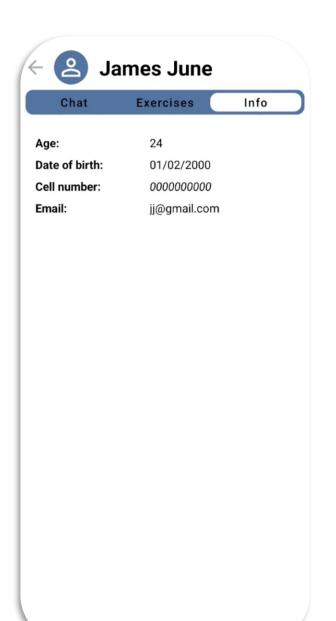
Exercise Functionalities:

4. **Editing exercises** – allows the PTs to quickly alter any of the information for a given exercise.



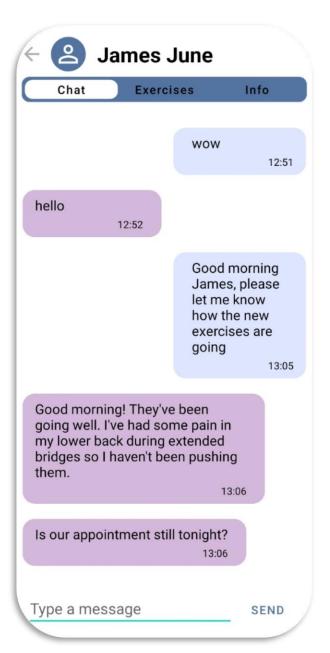
By clicking on the edit button in the top right hand corner of any of the exercises will open it with its details loaded in the same activity that was used to create new activities but with its

Save button clicked: The exercise model with the updated information will be sent to ExerciseDataAccess and the relevant exercise will be modified. Upon returning back to the exercises tab, the updated exercise will be displayed.



Patient information - info

When the PT clicks the "info" toggle on the custom toggle bar, it will open a fragment with the relevant patient's information. This information is derived from the information each patient is required to give upon registration.



Message listeners are used to check if there are any new messages and then Chat fragment is updates as necessary to allow for punctual and smooth communication.

Patient information - chat

The Chat toggle allows the PTs to text directly with their patients. Each message is added to a subcollection of this specific chat with its senderld and timestamp. The timestamp is used to display the time the message is sent and to order it chronologically. The senderld is used to determine how to display the message, either as an incoming or outgoing message.

Calendar and appointments

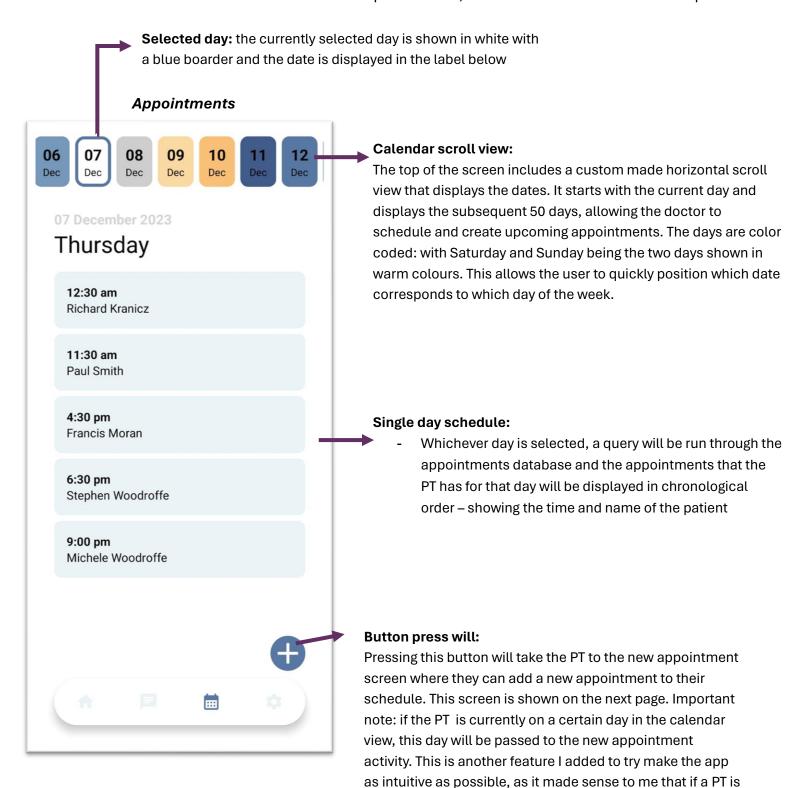
checking their schedule for the 20th of Jan, and went to make

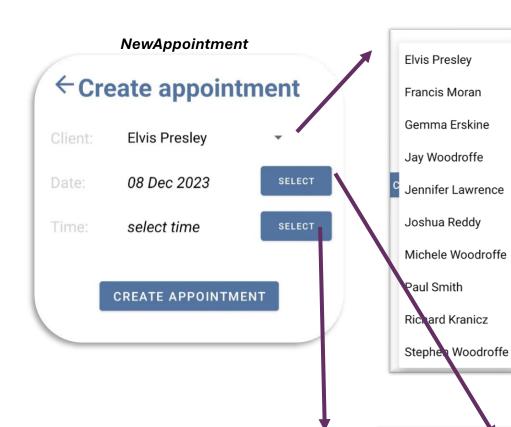
a new appointment, it is fairly likely they want that

editable if this is not the case.

appointment to be on the 20th Jan. This date is of course

Most of the code created related to the appointments, how their displayed and the data access they require was created last semester. But to ensure that the entire project is represented and explained here, I have included the results and explanations.





Selecting the patient:

To select the patient that the new appointment is for, the PT is given a drop down menu of all of the clients that are linked to them. They simply need to select one of their names and that name will be displayed as the Client.

Selecting the appointment time:

Pressing this select
button will bring up
another built in Android
feature – the Time Picker –
that I have also
customised to fit the color
and style of the rest of the
app. Once the PT is
satisfied with the time
and selects OK, the time
will be displayed next to
Time: on the
appointments screen.

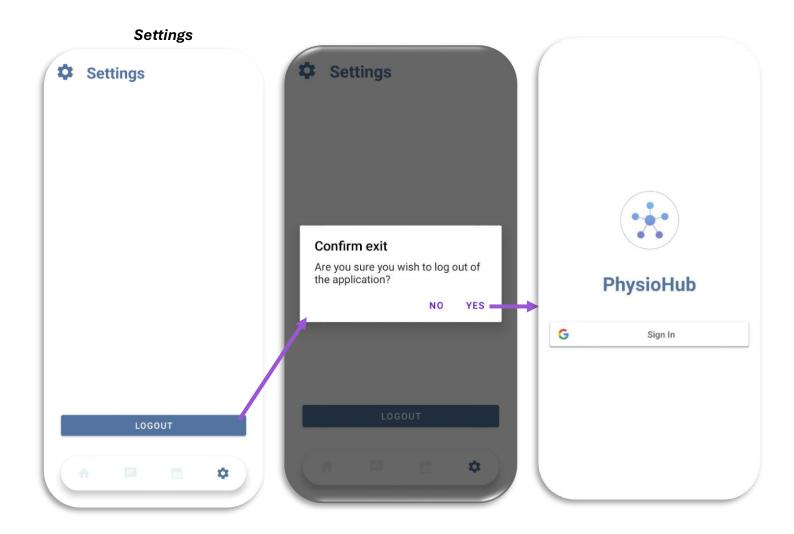


Selecting the appointment date:

If the suggested date isn't actually when you would like the appointment to be, clicking on the select button will bring up the built in calendar where you can select a new date. Pressing ok will display the new date next to Date.

Settings and Loging Out

The settings tab allows the user to quickly log out of their account.



Future work and expansion

There are many more features and improvements I hope to make on this application to make it more useful and effective.

1. Improvement of the Appointments Functionality:

Using Firebase Cloud Messaging, I wish to send notifications to the devices of patients in the days leading up to their appointments, reminding them of the time. I want to add locations to appointments, potentially linking to Google Maps. I will also give patients the opportunity to cancel their appointments through the application as long as it is 24 hours prior to their appointment.

2. Improvement of the Chat Functionality:

Tracking whether or not messages have been read, using Firebase Cloud Messaging to notify users of new messages and also displaying the number of new messages from a patient/doctor somewhere else in the application to draw attention to unread messages. Allowing images/videos to be sent

3. Improvement of the Exercises Functionality:

Patients should be able to upload videos or images they have on their device to their exercises they have assigned to them. This would be linked to their local storage so as not to use too much Firestore storage.