Project Name:

CUNYPlus

Group Name:

GitBits

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What inspired the creation of this communication application is the lack of a full-fledged communication platform between students from CUNY that are working towards degrees in the same field. Surely there are sources that notify students of internships, course offerings and upcoming events but there is no one platform that contains all that information along with a venue where they can share ideas and discuss what's going on. This application would allow students to create permanent profiles where they could list their campus, majors/minors, and other interests. Then, they can browse for other users who share their aspirations and become part of interest-based communities in which they could discuss their fields of interest and compare experiences between schools.

Any CUNY student will be able to use school email to register as a regular user who can create their own personalizable profile where they list their majors/minors, course history and grades (optional). This type of user is able to make individual chat or group discussion, similarly to the Slack channels we have. The users can form discussion groups, RSVP and comment on current events that are posted to the application/website.

Based on the user's profile, the website can find people with similar background and the groups that the users may be interested in. The users will automatically join three default discussion groups, which contains all the students from different CUNY schools with same major. These three default groups are course offerings, general discussion and internship

information. In the course-offering group, students can discuss and compare analogous courses between campuses in order to help them make better decisions on what and where to take their required classes. In general discussion group students could ask each other and discuss things related to their field, creating a better network of communication between people with the same interests and aspirations.

One of the things that employers usually do is asking the students or potential employees about how they heard of the program and whether they would recommend it. What we observed is that about half of the students had only heard of the internship by accident and it wasn't well-promoted even in the CUNY campuses, leading to us thinking that this information could be shared better and more students should be able to find out about these programs. This application would be able to do so, relying on its student base so that when one student sees a poster somewhere or gets an email from an advisor, they could be able to share this in the internship channel with other students in the same field.

Since this project relies on users sharing events that they hear about and expanding the database, users will also be able to link new events/internships that they hear about which would then be confirmed and updated by moderators. Moderators will be assigned to each "major" area so that they can update, confirm, and keep track of new information coming in. These can be students that have been active on the application and have shown higher involvement and participation, as well as being reliable sources. Multiple moderators could eventually be a part of the same categories as the application grows to handle traffic better.

Other applications and websites currently exist but usually do not offer the full range of features that this application would have, which would be targeting specifically CUNY students since there is no communal platform for this purpose currently. Some websites that offer some of these features and were used as an inspiration are ratemyprofessors.com, myedu.com (which is removing one of it's best features in September - being able to catalog your courses and have an "interactive transcript"), and of course, CUNYPortal. Our idea would combine what those websites offer and take it a step further, integrating the separate pieces together and making it as a one-stop application that fulfills multiple needs.