

Aperture By Octech Solutions



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Executive Summary

This document is an overview of the journey of the photo sharing application Aperture by Octech Solutions from design through development culminating in the beautiful product it is today.

How better to start the story of development of Aperture than with an opportunity to try it out?! Try out Aperture at <https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>.

Aperture can be viewed as comprising of 6 sub-systems.

1. User Account System
2. Content Creation System
3. User Interaction System
4. Game Mechanics System
5. Notification System
6. Application Improvement System

To begin, an overview of the system, technology used and its components shall be provided moving on to various visual representations using Use Case and Sequence diagrams depicting the working of parts of the system can be found.

Then the layout of the app and steps via which to navigate through it are laid down followed by a description of implementation methodology and testing methods adopted by the development team is made available along with a log of achievements realized at various points of time in development.

A guide to installing, setting up and maintaining Aperture is provided in addition to a user guide.

Finally, this document features a project evaluation section that covers topics like team organization, implementation schedule / process and the features of the final product with all achievements and failure to achieve mentioned in detail. This section boasts artifacts like the aperture project diary, implementation charts, tables depicting project requirements completion status etc.

The Appendix of this documentation contains supporting documents like a Usability Evaluation document, a list of all Functional and Non-Functional Requirements, etc.

Contents

Aperture By Octech Solutions

Formal Team

Executive Summary

Introduction

Purpose

Scope

Overview

The Vision

1. Overview of the System

 1.1. Technology Used

 1.2. High level Components

2. Detailed Design

 Use Case and Sequence Diagrams

 1. User Account System

 2. Content Creation System

 3. User Interaction System

 4. Game Mechanics System

 5. Notification System

 6. Application Improvement System

 Class Diagram

3. Final Interface Design

 3.1. Application Layout & Navigation

 3.2. Implementation Methodology

 3.3. Iteration Achievement History

 3.4. Testing Regimen

 3.5. Install - Setup - Maintain

 3.5.1. Installation

 3.5.2. Set Up

 3.5.3. Maintenance

 3.6. User Guide

4. Project Evaluation

 4.1. Organization

 4.1.1. Organizational Structure

 4.1.2. Team Work

 4.1.3. Overcoming Problems

 4.1.4. Sticking To Schedule

 4.2. Implementation

 4.2.1. Implementation Schedule

 4.2.2. Path to Success

 4.2.3. Tools Used

 4.3. Product

 4.3.1. Functionality Achieved / Failed to Achieve

 4.3.2. What's Special?

 4.3.3. Bugs/Constraints

 4.3.4. Usability Test Results

 4.4. Project Evaluation Reflection

Conclusion

References

Appendix

 Requirements

 Usability Evaluation

Introduction

Purpose

This report outlines the developmental progress of the Aperture application. The report will consist of an overall low level and high-level overview of the system and its components, diagrams to visualize the workings of the architecture and details, system testing for technical correctness according to our client's expectations and a section with project evaluation observations. This will ensure the client Dr. Richard Freedman and his associates fully understand and comprehend the Aperture system functionalities..

This document is intended to be read by but not limited to

1. The client Dr. Richard Freedman and his associates so they are completely aware of the current state of the Aperture application.
2. The OcTech Solutions development team as a reference. This document will also assist the development team in maintaining the application post deployment.

Scope

There is one system called "Aperture". The document contains the high-level overview of technologies and components for the 6 sub-systems of Aperture,

1. Content Creation System
2. User Account System
3. User Interaction System
4. Game Mechanics System
5. Notification System
6. Application Improvement System

These sub-systems will be developed and operational under the guidelines of GDPR and W3C regulations to maintain a high standard. Comprehensive and in-depth details of each sub-system is provided in the Stage 1 document submitted on the 26th of November 2020.

This document submitted on 1st April 2021 contains the final design of the Aperture system. It provides a comprehensive summary of the development journey and project management decisions.

Overview

This document provides an in-depth and cohesive breakdown of all the design and project/team management decisions which were made while developing the system. It will provide an overall overview of the final product along with the environment used to develop and deploy it and a high-level overview of the architecture of the system / sub-systems. Explanation of the user interface will also be provided, in addition to a user guide video and installation - setup - management guides. The testing methodologies used to test robustness and technical correctness as per our and our client's expectations will be followed by an in depth discussion of the implementation schedule, problem solving decisions taken etc related to the development journey. Usability tests carried out and their results shall also be briefly stated with a detailed Usability Evaluation Section available in the Appendix.

The Vision

Aperture is a photo sharing application set in a fun, competitive and educational environment.

By allowing users to create and enter photography challenges and gain points on their posts, aperture succeeds at giving users a unique gaming experience with players guaranteed a multitude of options to win challenges, badges and collect profile points.

Aperture allows users to share, comment and provide constructive feedback on posts in hopes of building an active, fun, encouraging and ever growing community of photography enthusiasts, hobbyists, professionals, gamers and anyone else who may be curious.

Every user's user experience, suggestions and privacy is important to us. Aperture enables users to report any content that they deem inappropriate or bugs that they discover to app managers. All application users shall follow a strict "no human in image" policy in adherence to our efforts at keeping this platform unbiased, focused on user contribution and free from legal hap hassle.

1. Overview of the System

High-level overview of technologies and components.

Aperture is a responsive, cross-browser compatible, web-based application developed primarily using ReactJS and supporting services.

1.1. Technology Used

- HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- React JS, JSX
 - React DOM
 - React Bootstrap
 - React-HTML5-Camera-Photo API
 - React-Redux
 - Material-ui/core
 - Material-ui/icons
 - Material-ui/lab
 - Tenserflow-lite
 - tensorflow-models/coco-ssd
 - tensorflow/tfjs-backend-cpu
 - tensorflow/tfjs-backend-webgl
 - tensorflow/tfjs-converter
 - tensorflow/tfjs-core
 - Autosuggest-highlight
 - Avataaars
 - compress.js

- filerobot-image-editor
- framer-motion
- moment
- react-bootstrap
- react-copy-to-clipboard
- react-countdown
- react-countup
- react-cropper
- react-datepicker
- react-flip-move
- react-giphy-searchbox
- react-google-places-autocomplete
- react-leaflet
- react-map-gl
- react-medium-image-zoom
- react-router-dom
- react-scripts
- swiper
- web-vitals
- Google Firestore
- Firebase Authentication
- Firebase Storage
- Node Package Manager (NPM)
- Visual Studio Code
- Github
- Heroku CLI
- Ionic/Capacitor
- Visual Studio Code
- Github

1.2. High level Components

1. User Account System

This component handles user signup/login, profile creation/deletion/management and validation of user details. This component ensures that users submit consent forms in order to upload a photo of themselves as their profile picture or alternatively choose from pre-defined avatar pictures instead.

2. Content Creation System

This component focusses on enabling users to create/destroy content on the application. Users may create posts (comprising of images - via image upload/taken using camera, associated GPS data and text), channels, collections, challenges and a portfolio. Users may delete any content that they have created. Features supported include modification of images during upload, tagging of objects/public events in images and sharing of content (on feedback/gaming forums, profile, collections, channels, challenges and portfolio).

3. User Interaction System

This component enables interaction among users and/or application managers. Facilitated features include a chat between users, rating of posts, point (profile/challenge points) tracking, adding/deletion of comments, sending/accepting/ignoring friend requests, blocking/unblocking of users, following/unfollowing of channels, a feedback forum, a gaming forum, search/explore facility, news feed fetching, leaderboard management, participation in challenges, notification handling, user content/bug/help reporting management and making recommendations.

4. Game Mechanics System

This component handles the game aspect of the application and deals with allowing users to create and participate in challenges and earn points and badges via user ratings on profile and challenge posts. Display of point status summary on leaderboards, announcing of winners and providing rewards are also managed by this system.

5. Notification System

This system ensures that users are aware of all major events that they may be interested/involved in by sending notifications if and when they occur. Notifications will be sent when a user sends a friend request, likes a post, leaves a comment, accepts a friend request and deletes a challenge to name a few events.

6. Application Improvement System

This component is the means through which users can contribute to improving the app by reporting bugs or inappropriate content. This system ensures that all user reports will be displayed to application managers so that they may monitor user satisfaction and take necessary action to ensure that the app remains safe and fun for all.

2. Detailed Design

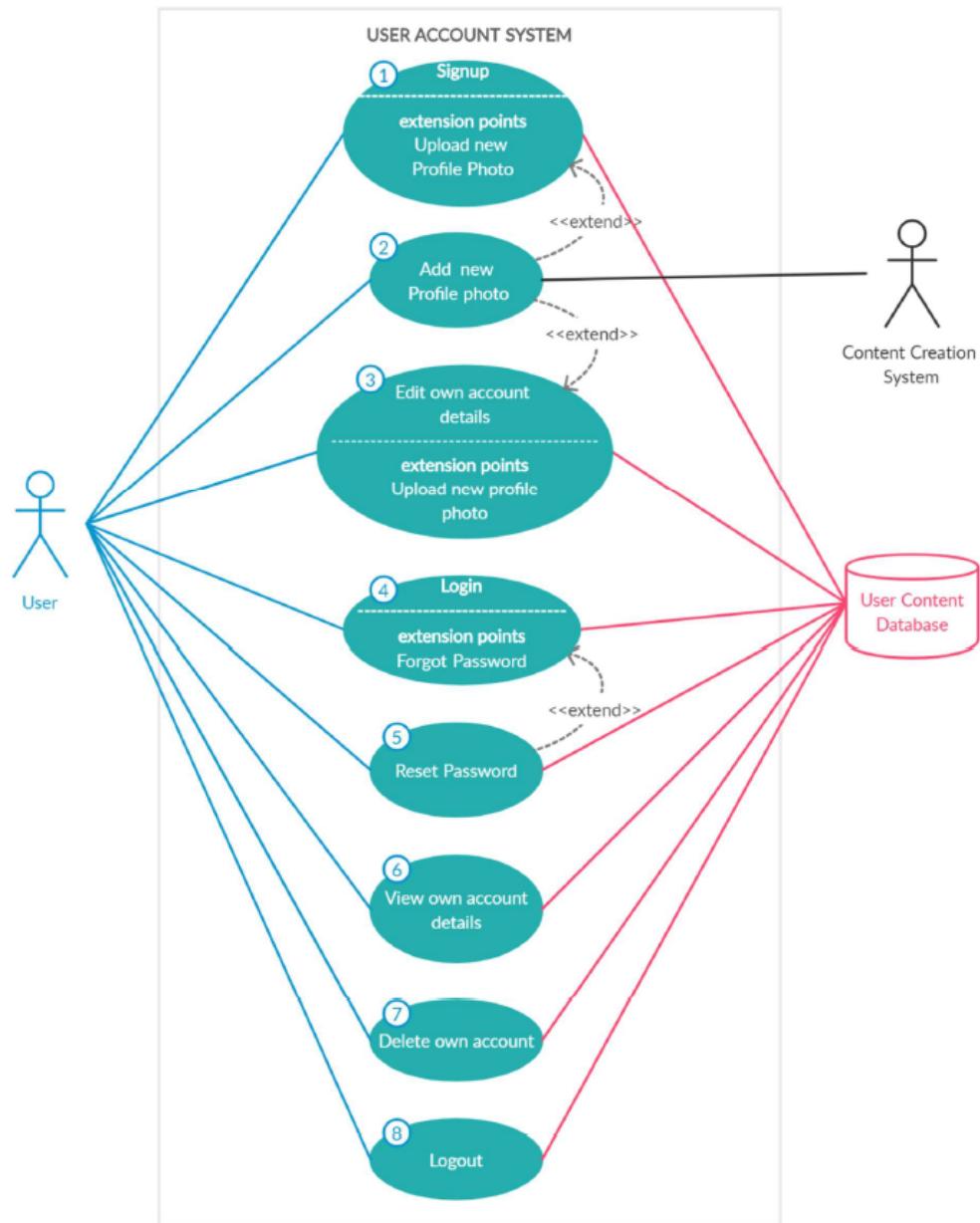
Dataflow diagrams, UML diagrams, Class diagrams, etc.

This section features visual aids that clarify/support design choices made. Significant diagrams that were described in detail in stages 1 and 2 of this project shall be revisited here in addition to new ones.

After Stage 3, all 6 sub-systems are completed. The 1st 3 sub-systems with use case diagrams depicting them along with supporting sequence diagrams have been provided and explained in details in stage 2 report. Use case diagrams related to systems 4, 5 and 6 have also been presented in the stage 1 report. These diagrams shall be revisited here. New sequence diagrams in support of systems 4, 5 and 6 will can be found below.

Use Case and Sequence Diagrams

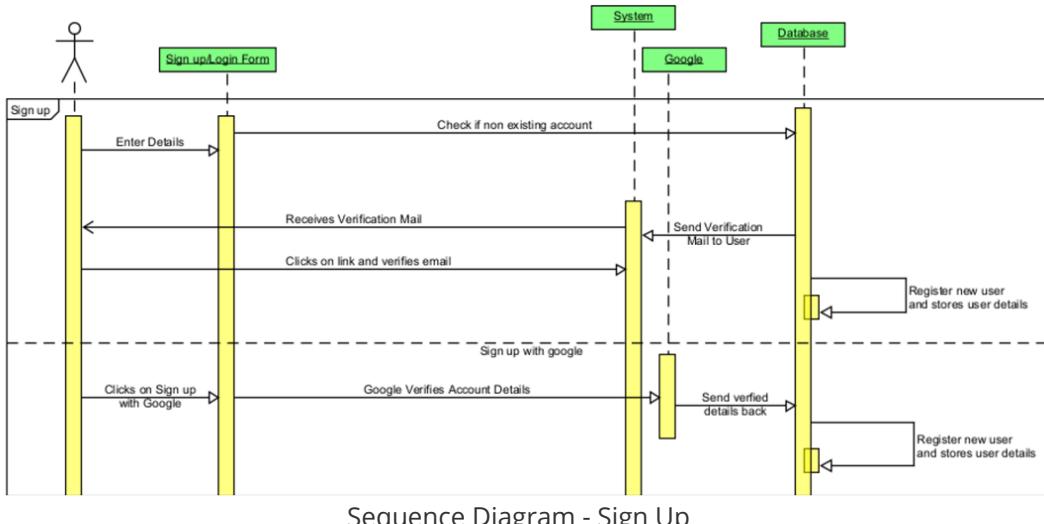
1. User Account System



Use Case Diagram - User Account System

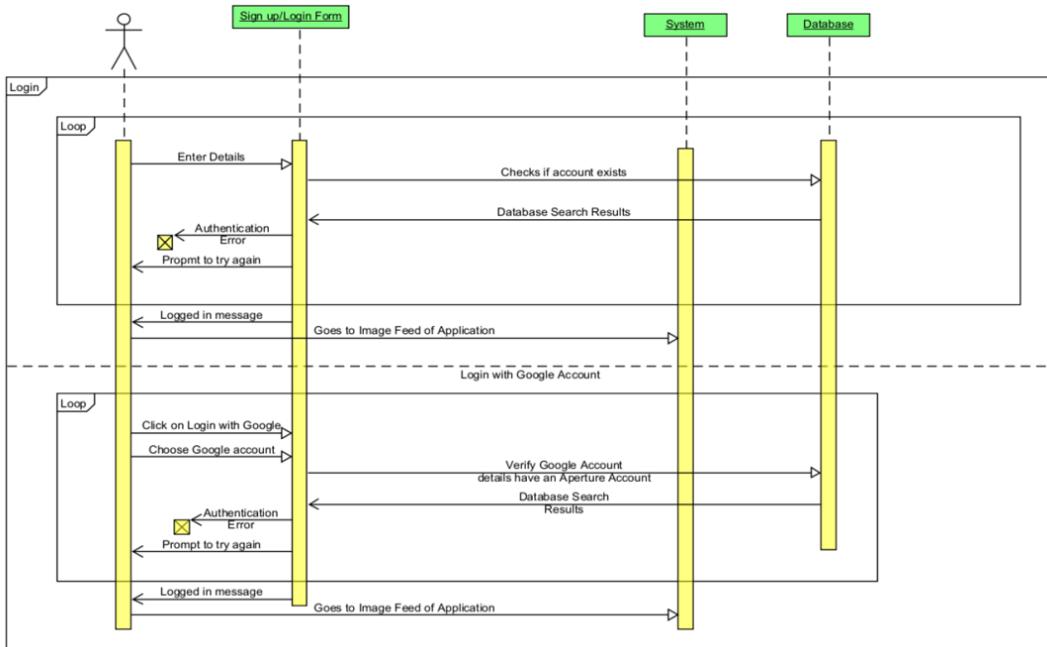
Above use case diagram shows all the functionalities of the user account system along with the actors who will be interacting with the system and which actors will work in conjunction, so that an action is completely carried out. The 3 actors which will be interacting are:

1. User
2. User Content Database
3. Content Creation System



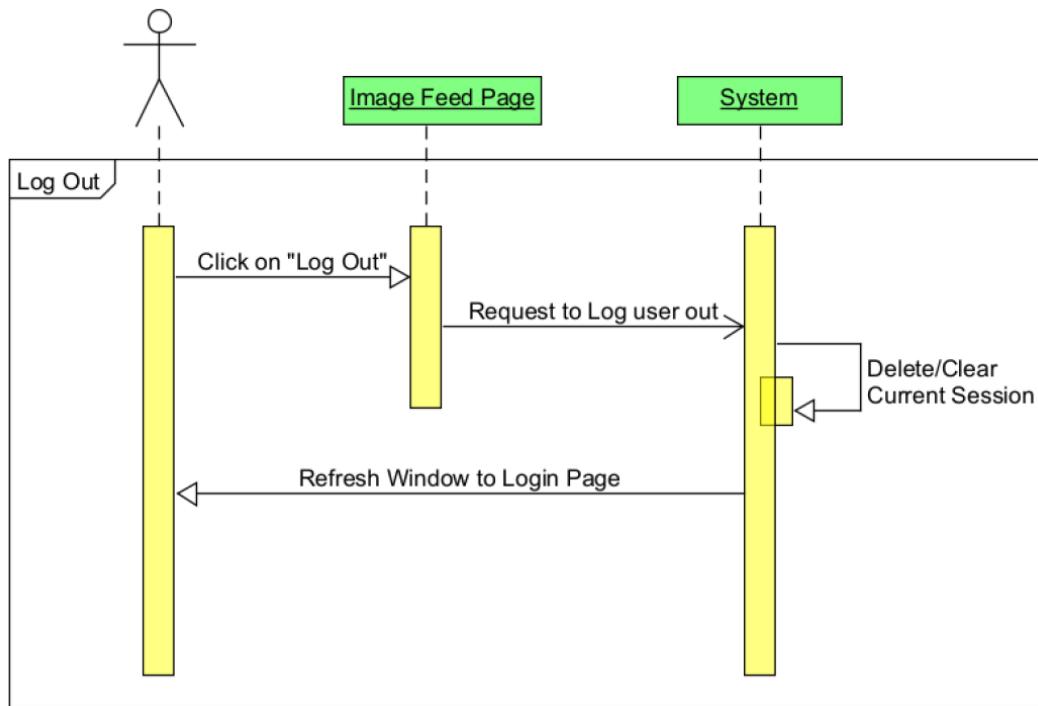
Sequence Diagram - Sign Up

Above sequence diagram shows the 2 alternate ways on how a user can create an account on Aperture, they can either enter their details, or sign up with a google account. Then our firebase database will create a new entry for the new user.



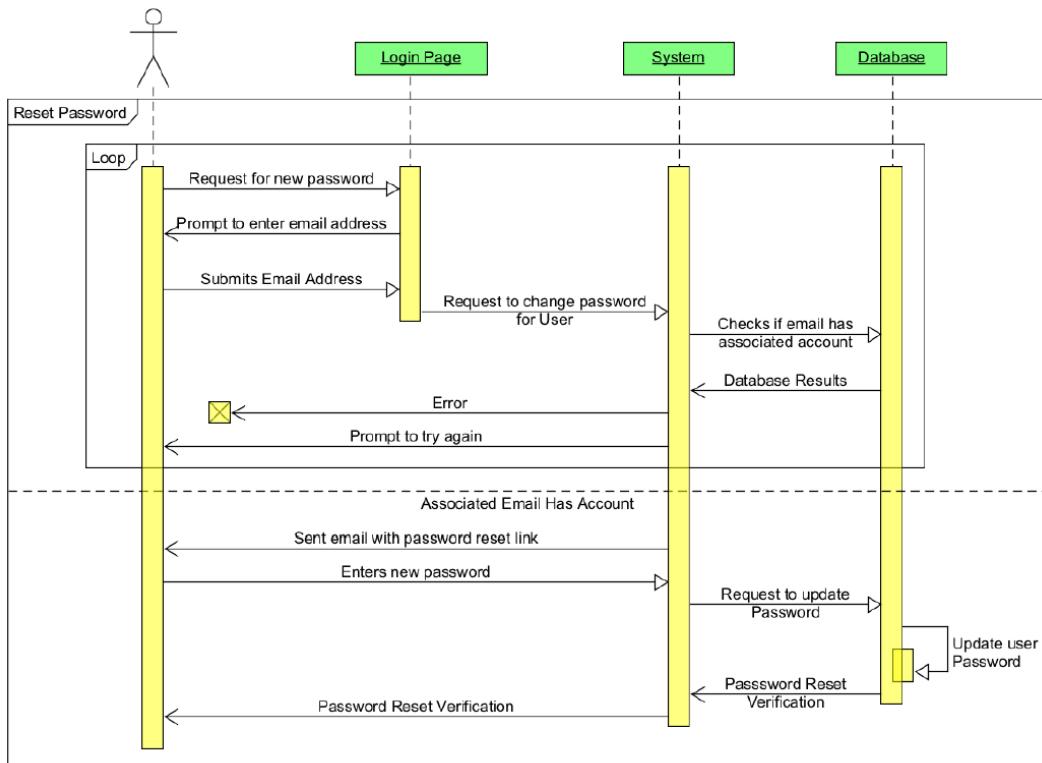
Sequence Diagram - Login

Above sequence diagram represents how a user can login to their account provided they have one which exists in our Firestore database. Users can enter their email address and password which is verified by the database, can login and are taken to the Image Feed of the application. If a user decides to login with their Google Account, they click on the "Login with Google" button and then choose their google account or enter details for their google account. Firestore database verifies if a user exists with the given google account details, if not then there is a login error, and the user is told to try again, otherwise the login is successful and the user is taken to the Image Feed.



Sequence Diagram - Logout

Above sequence diagram showcases the processes when a user decides to log out of their account. The user clicks on the "Log out" button which then sends a request to the system to clear the user's current session. The user is then redirected to the login page after the system refreshes the window the user is currently in.

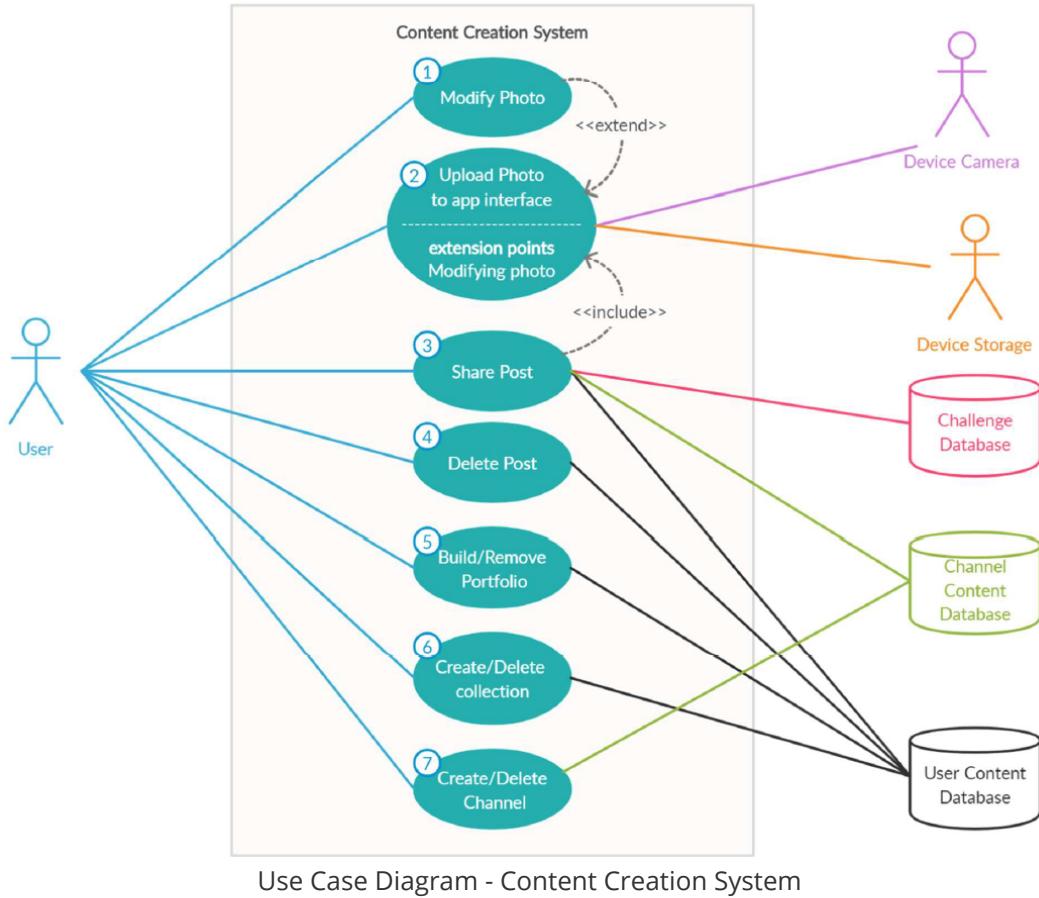


Sequence Diagram - Reset Password

Above is a sequence diagram for Reset Password, the user clicks on the "Forgot Password" button on the login page, user is then prompted to enter their email address. The database will check if the entered email address has an account, if not then the user has to enter the correct email. If the entered email address has an account, then the system sends the user an email with a link. The user will visit that link which will prompt them to enter their new password. The database will

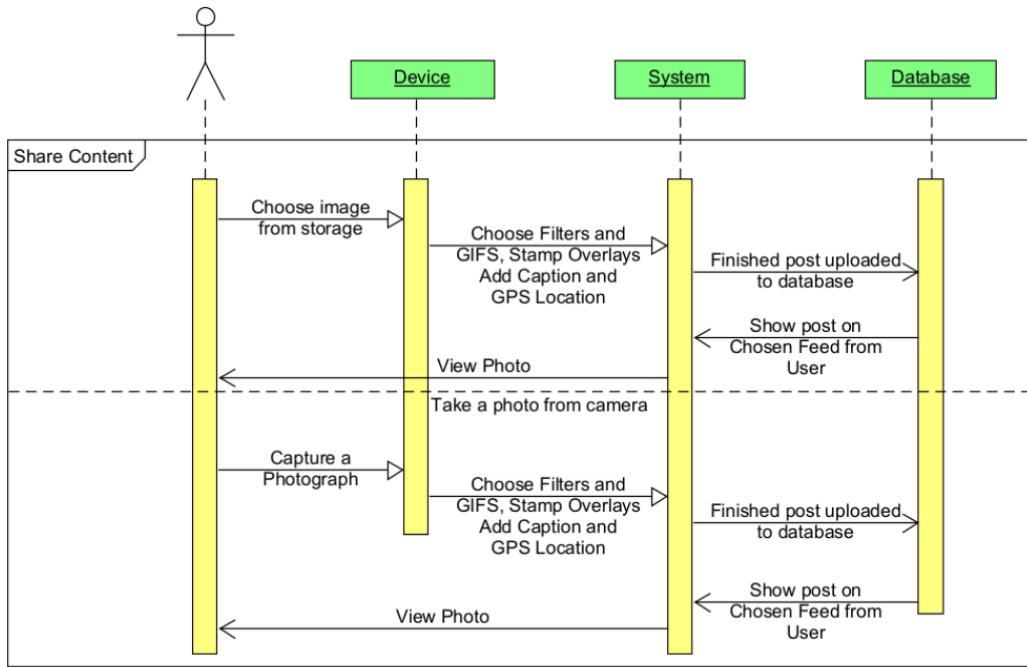
then update the password for that email address for the user and the system informs the user that their password has been reset.

2. Content Creation System



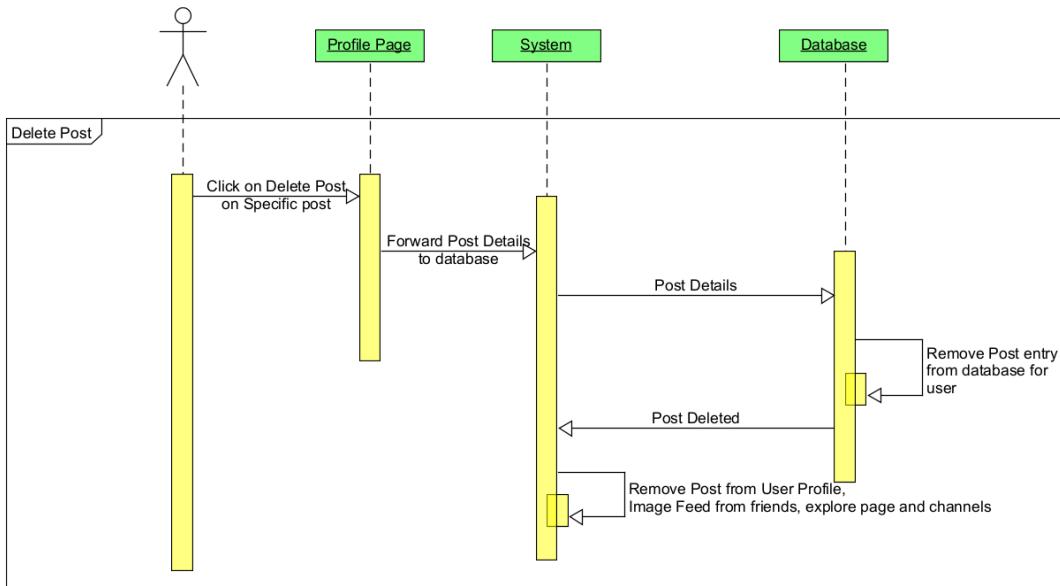
Above is the use case diagram for the Content Creation System along with all the actors working in conjunction to carry out the specific functions so users can create and post content on the Aperture application. The actors involved in this system are:

1. User
2. Device Camera
3. Device Storage
4. Challenge Database
5. Channel Content Database
6. User Content Database



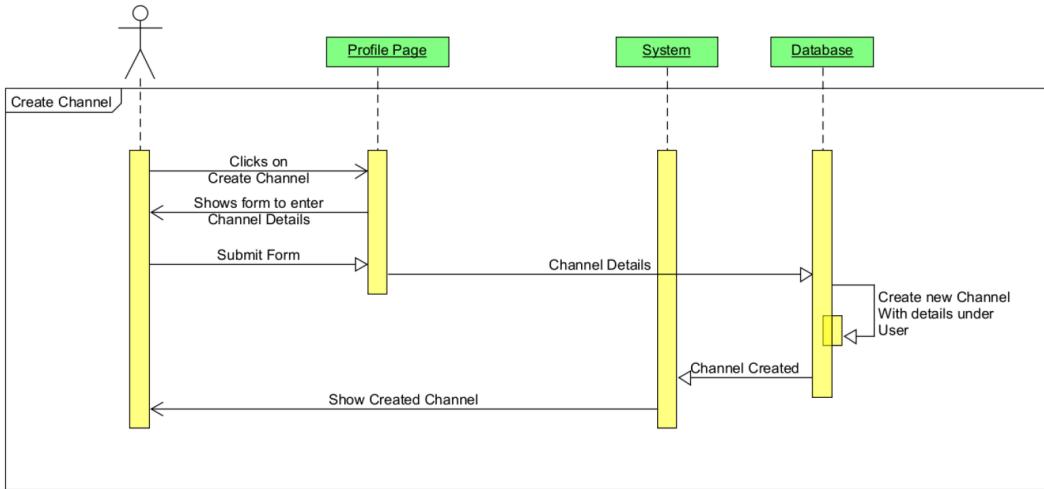
Sequence Diagram - Share Content

Above sequence diagram shows the process which takes place when a user shares a post. A user can either choose a photo from their devices storage or take a photograph using their device camera. The system then gives the user options to apply filters, GIFS and Stamp Overlays to each photo, then a user enters a caption and uploads the photo, the images are saved as a base 64 string in the database under the user's ID and the system renders that post in the Image Feed for the user and other users which follow him/her. The user can share and upload their content either on their profile, their channels, collections, or portfolios.



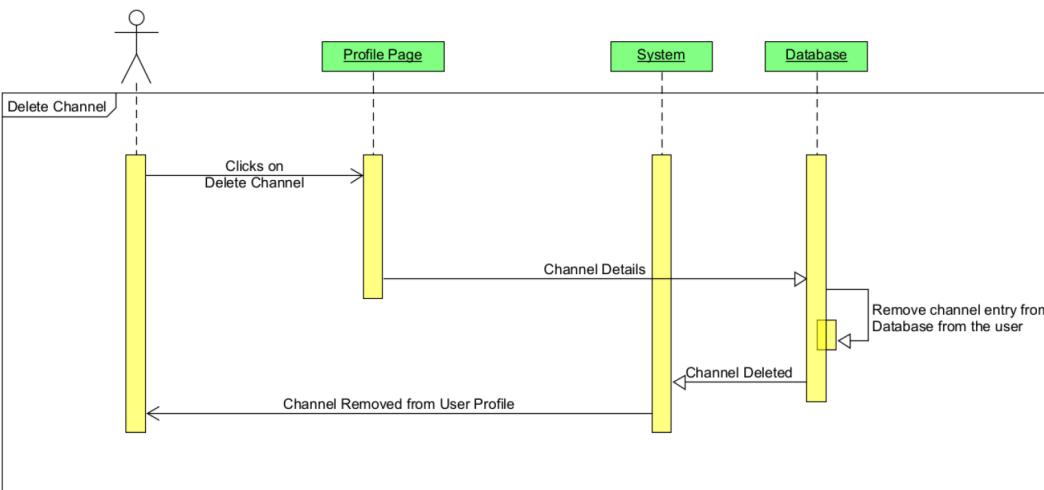
Sequence Diagram - Delete Post

Above sequence diagram shows how a post is deleted, the post entry is removed from the database and as a result that post is removed from the user's profile, the image feed of the user's friends, the explore page and the channels if that post is also in a channel. Then the post would no longer be visible in the app as all details have been removed from the database.



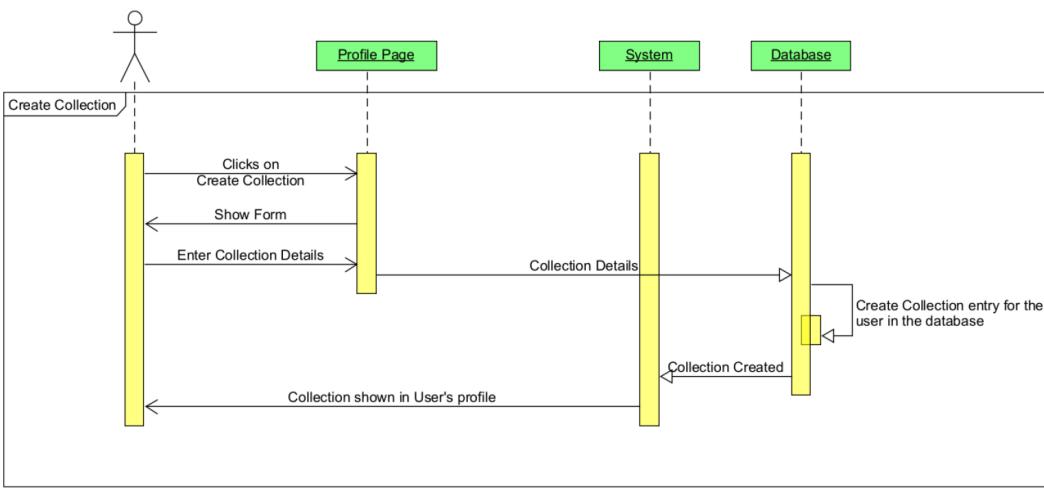
Sequence Diagram - Create Channel

Above is the sequence diagram showing creation of a channel. The user will click on a button which leads them to a form so the users can give the channel a name, a theme and a description for other users. The database will create a new entry for the user being the channel creator for the specific channel.



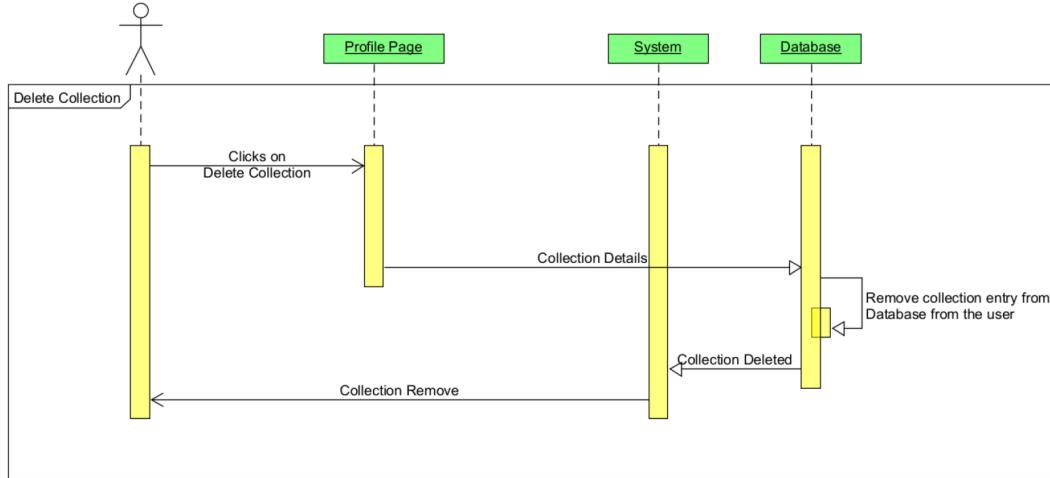
Sequence Diagram - Delete Channel

Above is the sequence diagram for deleting a channel. The user would click on the "Delete Channel" button on a channel, the database would then remove the details and all posts in the selected channel. The system's frontend would no longer show that channel in the User's profile.



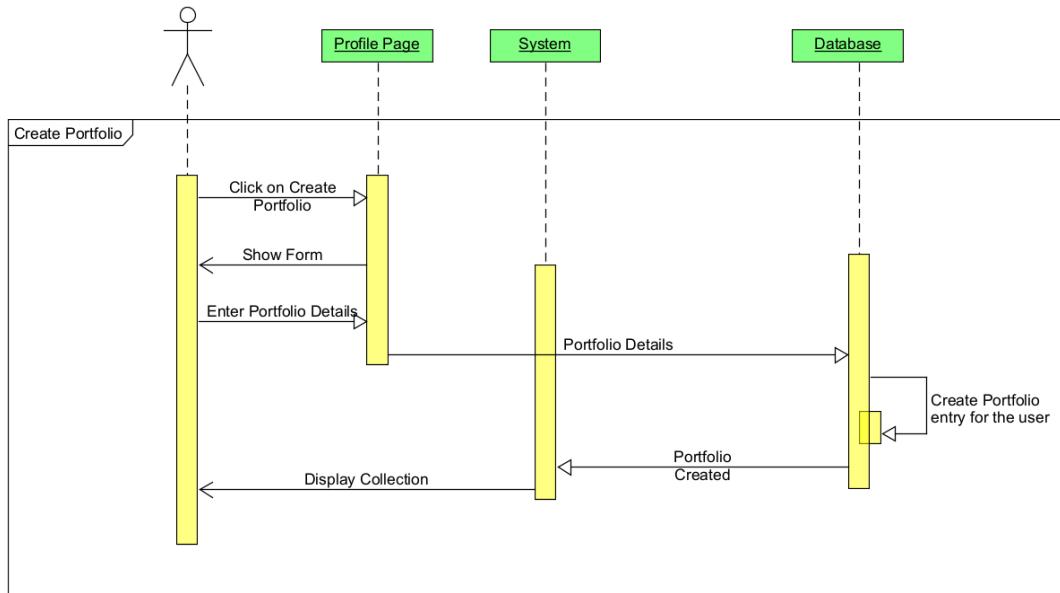
Sequence Diagram - CreateCollection

Above sequence diagram shows the internal processes of creating a collection. The user will click on the "Create Collection" button, it will display the user a form where they can enter in their collection's theme and a short description. These details will then be stored in the database under the user's entry. The system will then display the collection to the user and let the user add photos to their collections.



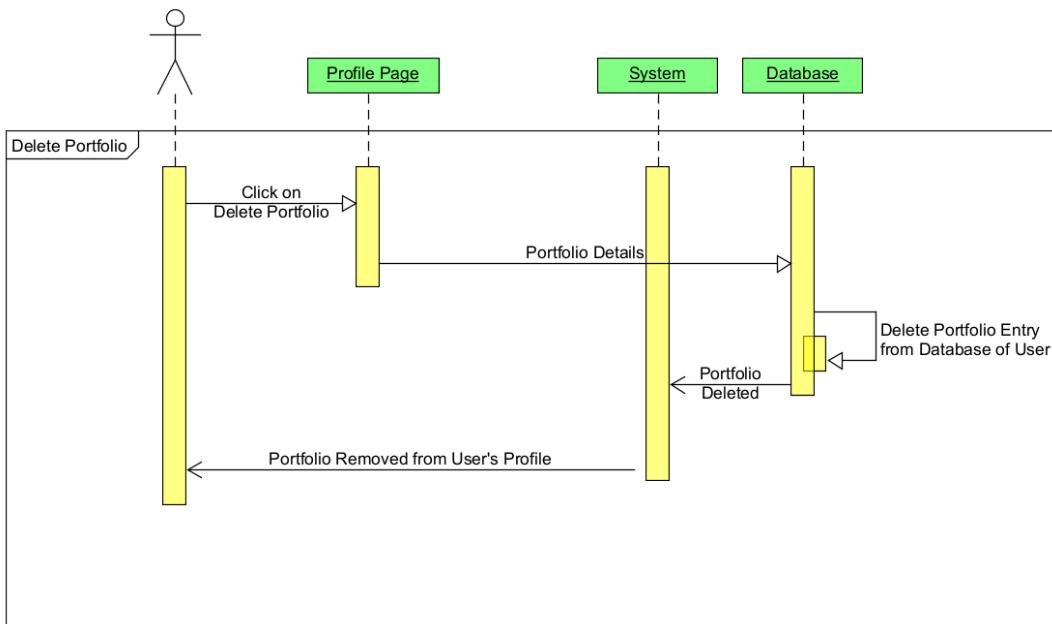
Sequence Diagram - Delete Collection

Above is the sequence diagram for deleting a collection. The user would click on the "Delete Collection" button on a collection, the database would then remove the details and all the photographs in the selected collection. The system's frontend would no longer show that collection in the User's profile.



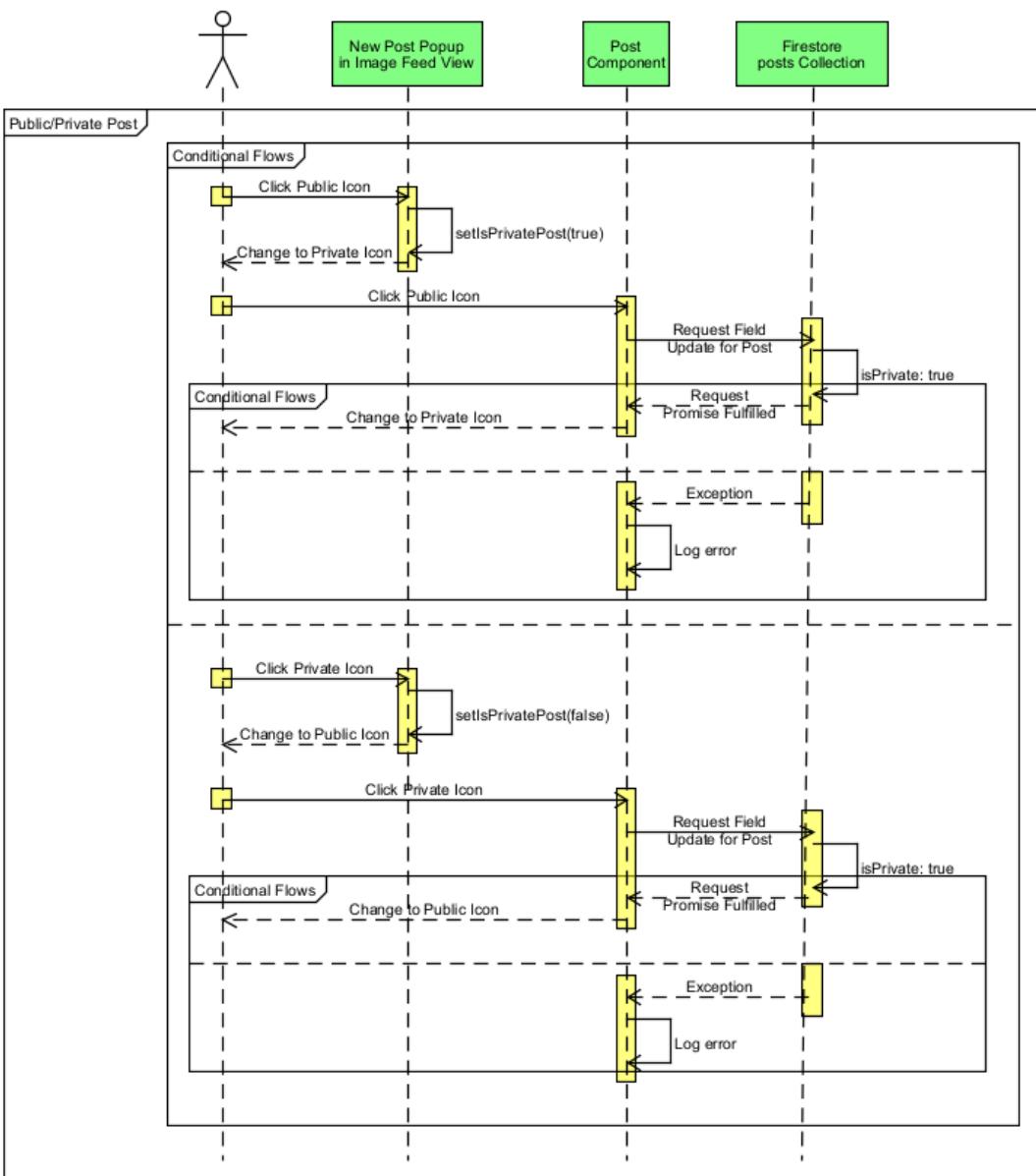
Sequence Diagram - Create Portfolio

Above is the sequence diagram which shows the processes on creating a portfolio. Only one portfolio can be created per user and the user can fill in details such as the user's first name and last name, a description of the portfolio, a quote, and a display picture. The database would create an entry for the user's portfolio and store the details along with the photos uploaded to the portfolio. The collection once created is then displayed in the user's profile page.



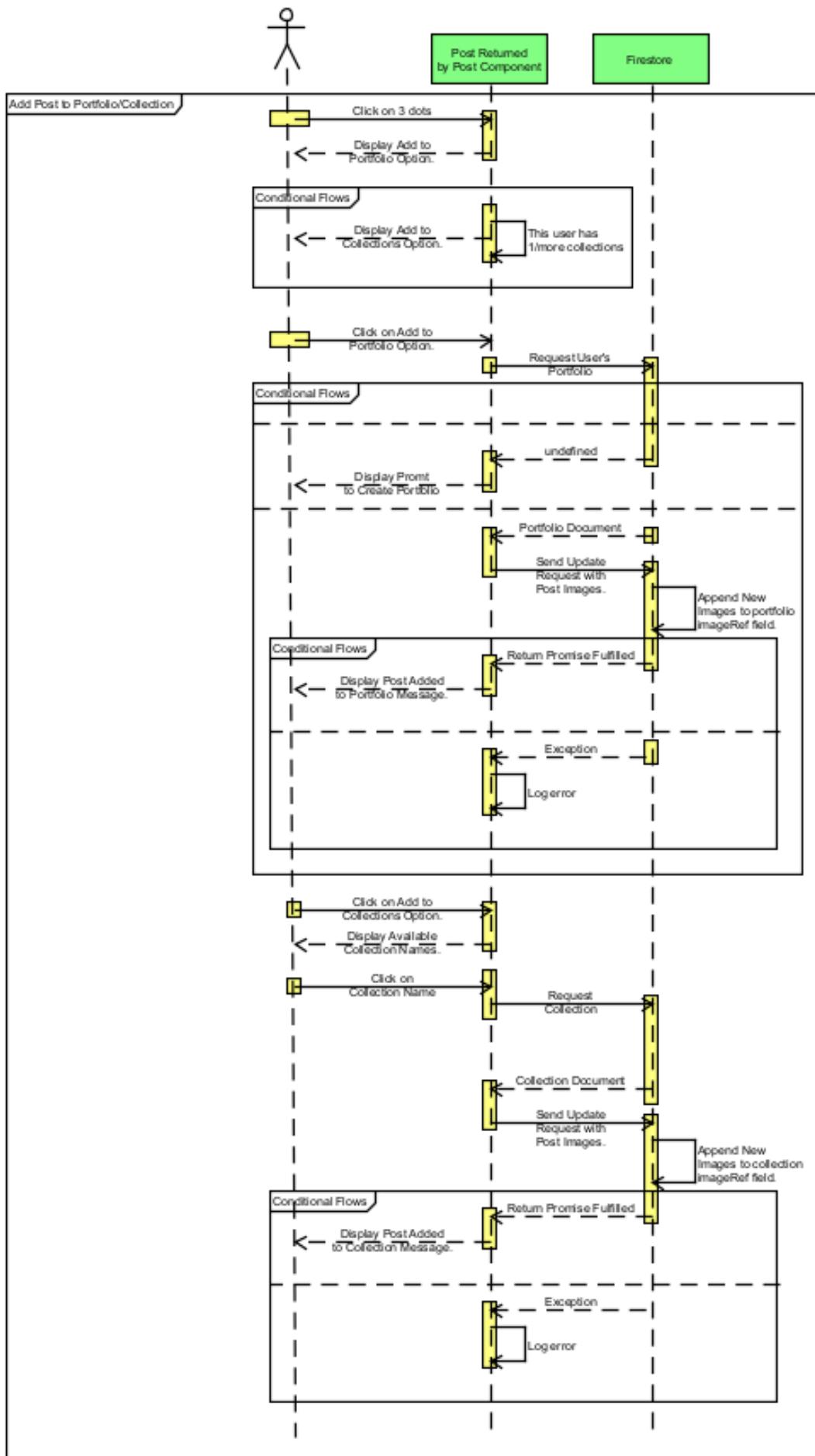
Sequence Diagram - Delete Portfolio

Above represents the sequence diagram for deleting a portfolio. The user would click on the "Delete Portfolio" button on the portfolio, the database would then remove the details and all the photographs from the portfolio. The system's frontend would no longer show the portfolio in the User's profile.



Sequence Diagram - Toggle Public/Private Post

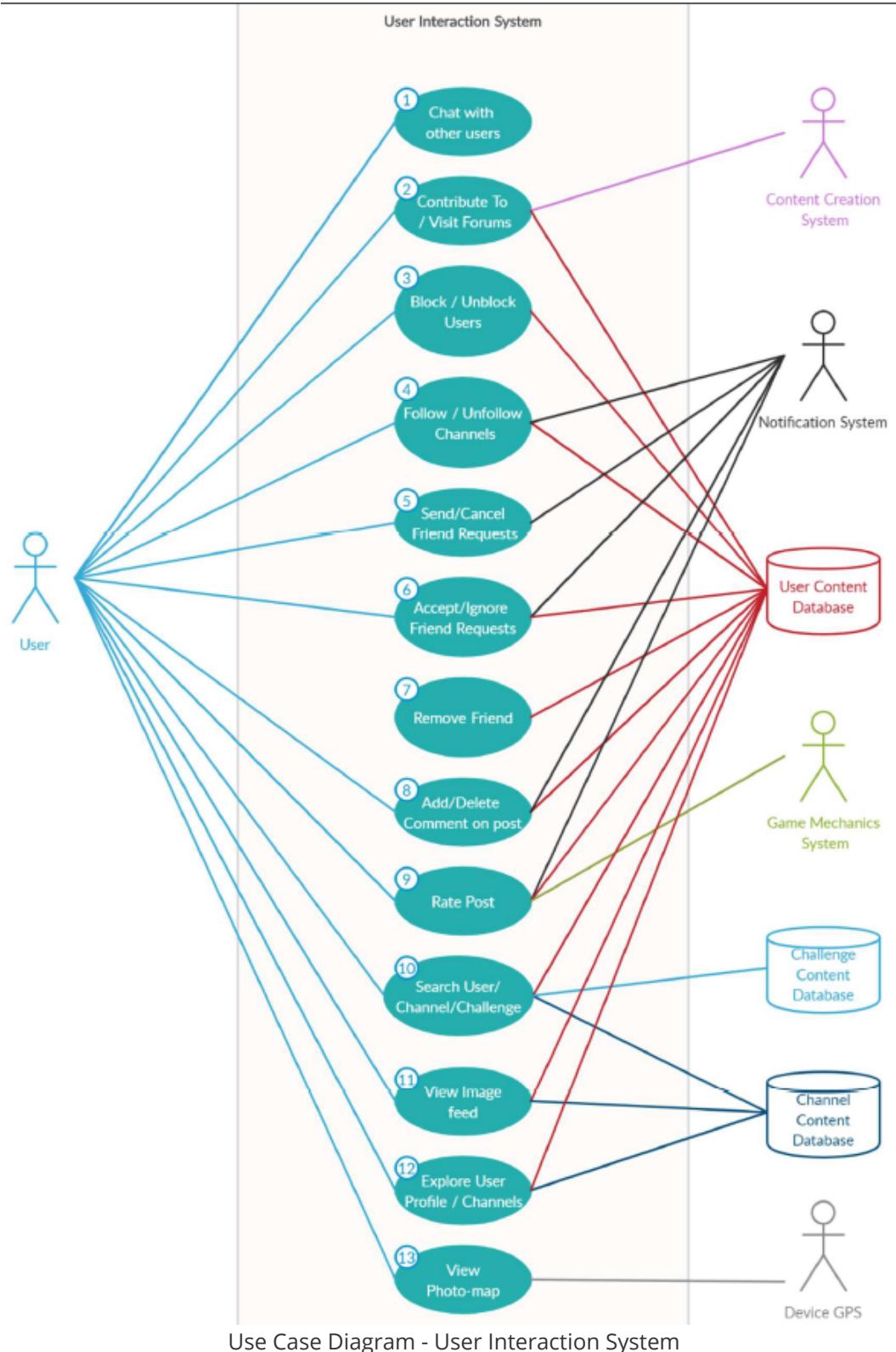
Above is the sequence diagram which represents how a post is kept public or private. A user can choose to keep a post public or private while creating the post and after the photos have posted then the user can toggle the option to keep the post public or private. If the post is public then all users can view the post by going to the user's profile but if a post is private, then only users added as friend of the user are able to view the private posts.



Sequence Diagram - Add a Post to Portfolios/Collections

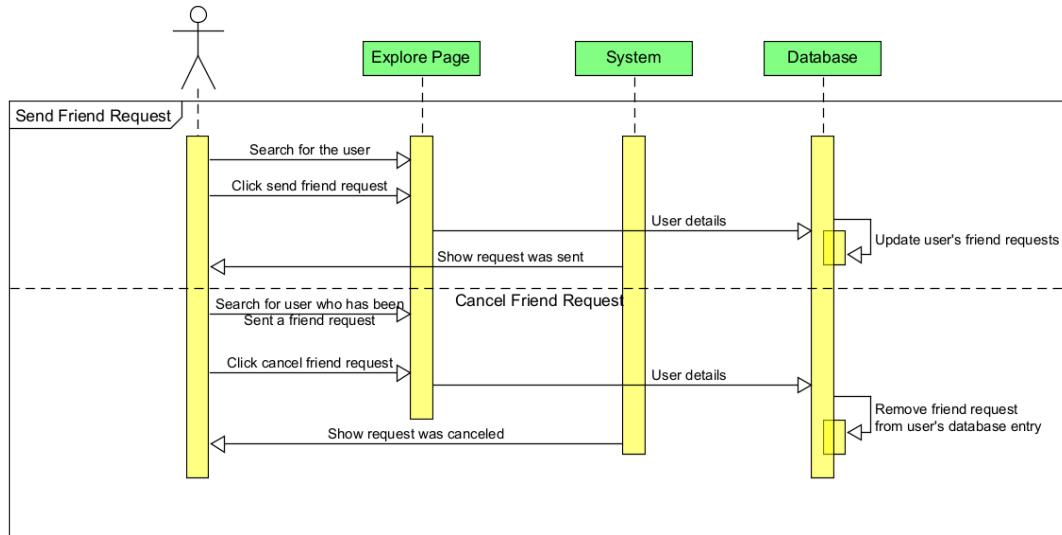
Above is the sequence diagram which shows the process in adding an existing post to a user's portfolio or a collection. Every post has a menu button and when you click it, the option to add the images of the post to the portfolio and collection are given if you have a collection. If a person does not have a collection, then the option for the collection does not show. If a person does not have a portfolio but clicks on the button, then an error message will pop up telling the user to create a portfolio first. If a user has multiple collections, then the user is given the option to choose which collection to add the post images to. Once chosen, the images can be viewed in the portfolio or in that collection.

3. User Interaction System



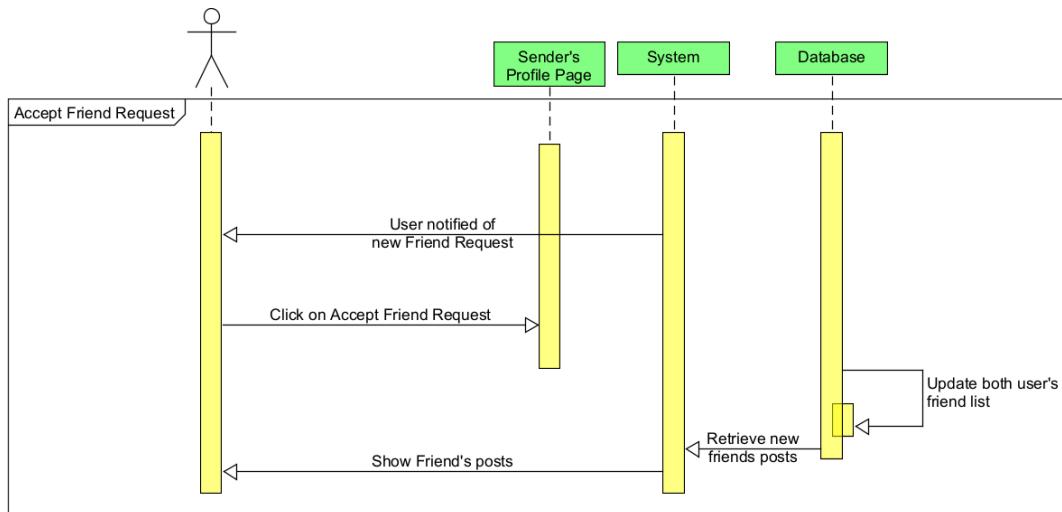
Above is the use case diagram representing the User Interaction System of Aperture. This system is composed of all the functionalities which allow users to interact with each other within Aperture. The actors in this system are:

1. User
2. Content Creation System
3. Notification System (Stage 3)
4. User Content Database
5. Game Mechanics System (Stage 3)
6. Challenge Content Database
7. Channel Content Database
8. Device GPS



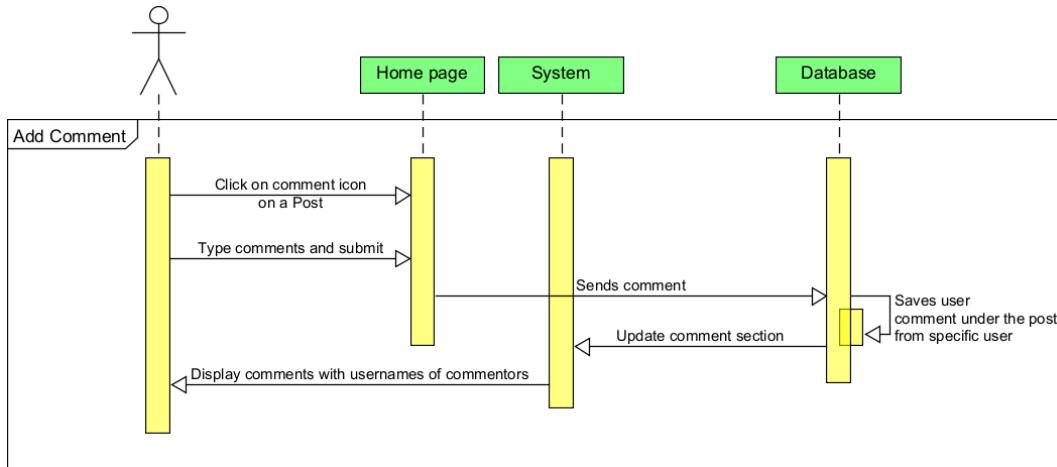
Sequence Diagram - Send Friend Request

Above is the sequence diagram for the functionality of a user sending a friend request and being able to cancel a friend request. If a user wants to send a friend request, then they must search for a user and visit their profile page. Then they can click a button to send a friend request. The database will update for both users the friend requests, the sender, and the receiver of the request. If the user wants to cancel a friend request, then they must visit a user's profile whom they have already sent a friend request to. The user can then click on the option to cancel friend request, the database will then clear the friend requests for both users. The user can send the same user another friend request if the user wants to add the other user as a friend.



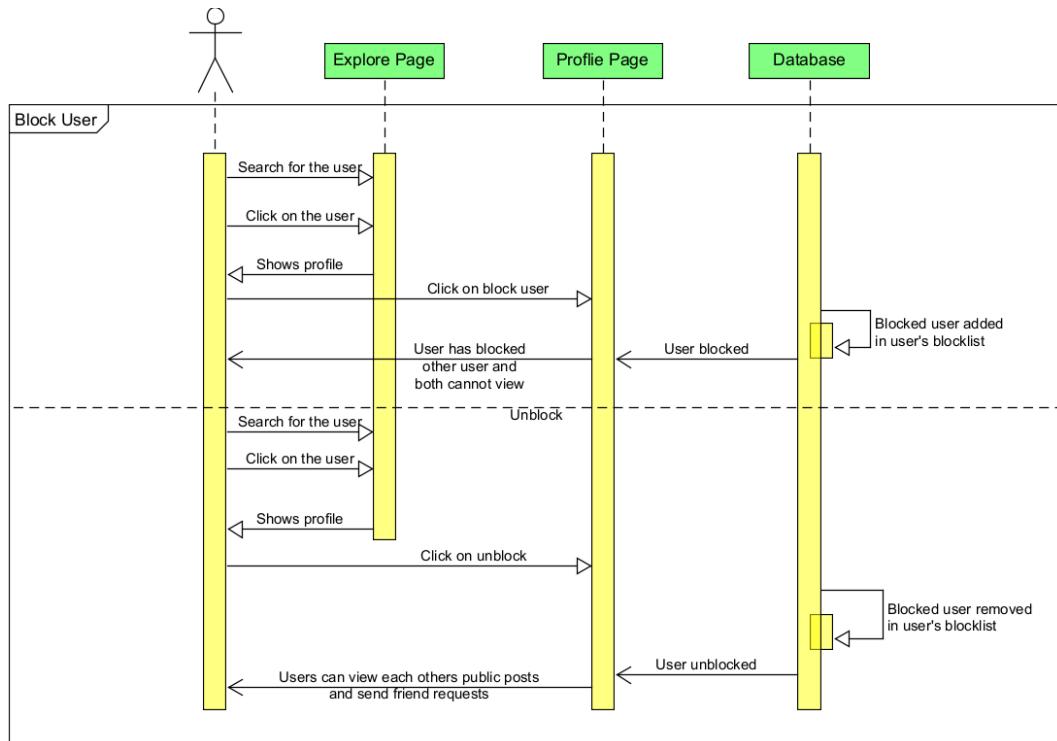
Sequence Diagram - Accept Friend Request

Above is the sequence diagram for accepting a friend request. In stage 3 the user will be notified when a user receives a friend request. The user will visit the profile page of the user who sent the friend request. The user will then click on the button to accept the friend request, in the background the database will update both the user's friend lists by adding in the new user as a friend. Both users will now be able to view private posts from each other in their Image Feed and chat with each other.



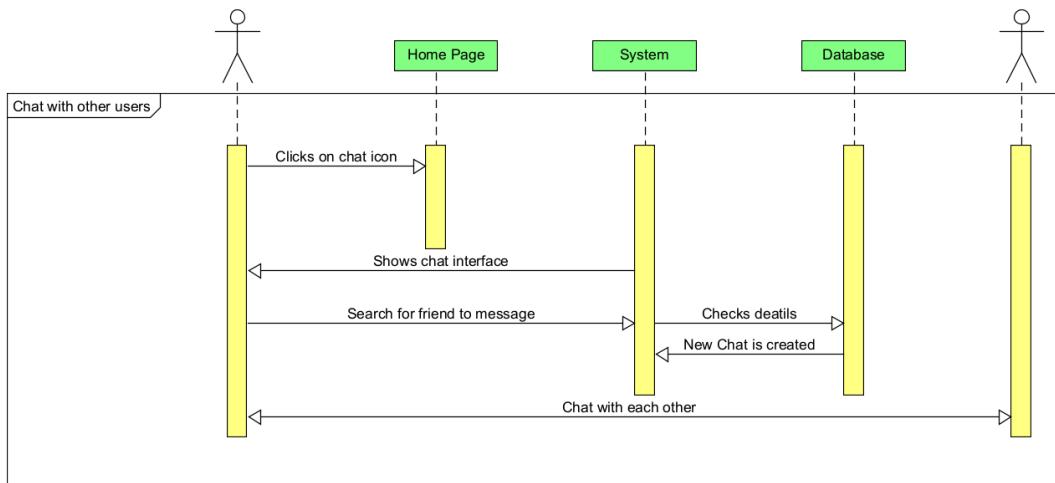
Sequence Diagram - Add Comment

Above is the sequence diagram for posting comments on a post, the user can click on the comment's icon on a post and then type in the comment box and click submit. The database will update the comment's field of the post and other users will be able to see the comments from other users along with their usernames.



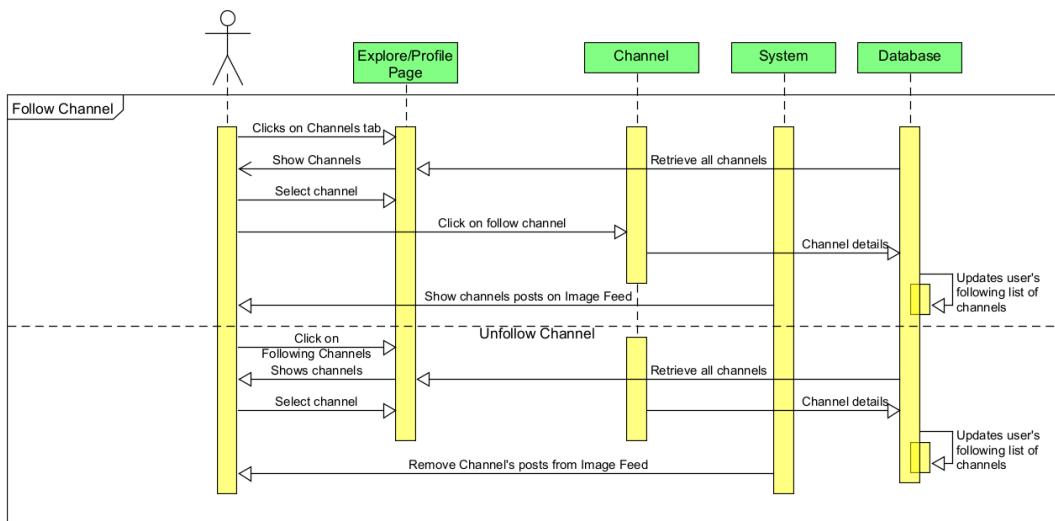
Sequence Diagram - Block User

Above is the sequence diagram for how to block and unblock a user. A user will visit another user's profile page and will click on the "Block user" button. The database will then add the blocked user to the blocked users list. Both users will now not be able to view each other's profile. To unblock a user, the user must search for that user and click on unblock. The database will remove the unblocked user from the blocked list and now both users can view each other's profile and send friend requests.



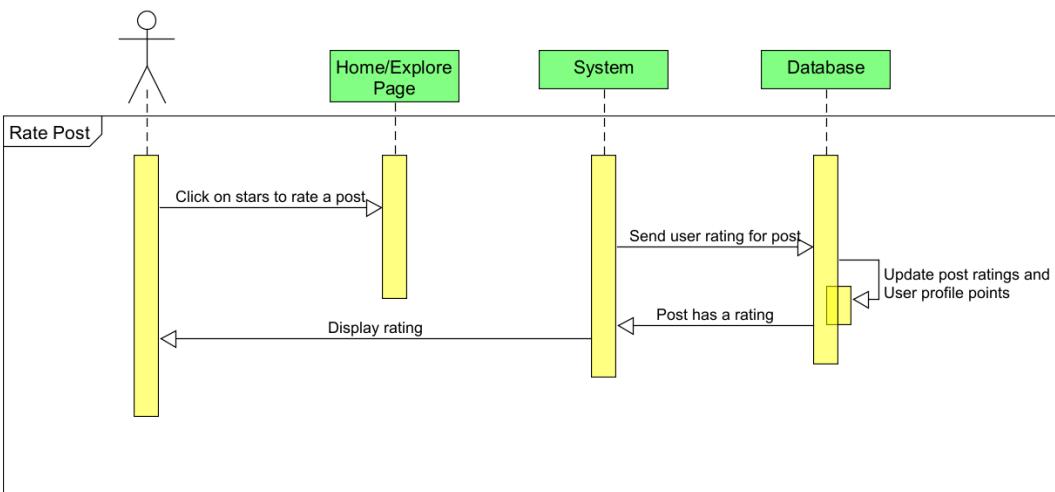
Sequence Diagram - Chat

Above is the sequence diagram for the chat system, the user navigates to the chat section by clicking on the icon on the footer of the page. The chat interface is displayed to the user and they can search for a user who is added as their friend. A new chat room is created in the database and the user can send a message to their friend. Both users can chat with each other now.



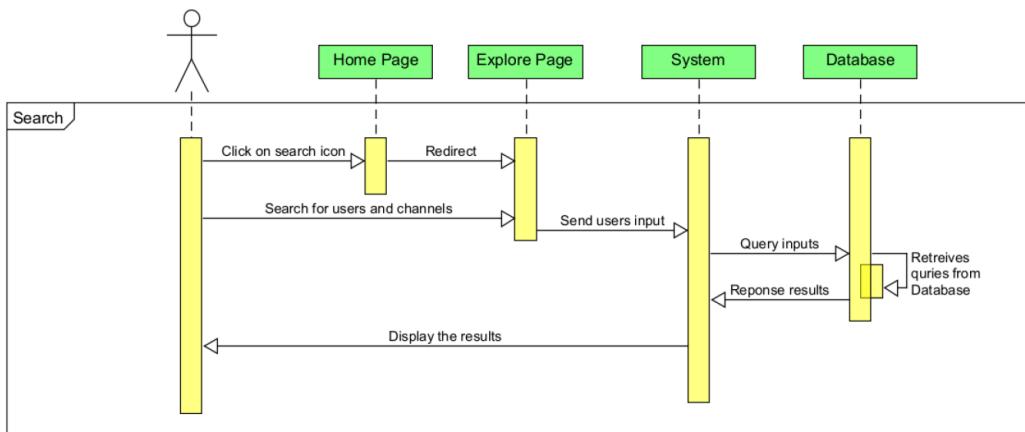
Sequence Diagram - Follow Channel

Above is the sequence diagram for following and unfollowing channels, to follow a channel the user can visit the channels tab in the Explore page and then click on any channel they want. The user can select a channel and clicks on follow channel, the database will then update the following list for the user after which the user can view all posts of the channel in the Image Feed. To unfollow a channel the user can go their profile and click on Following Channels, the database will retrieve of all channels being followed by the user. The user can then visit that channel and click the unfollow button. The database will then remove that channel from the user's following list and the app would no longer show those posts in the user's Image Feed.



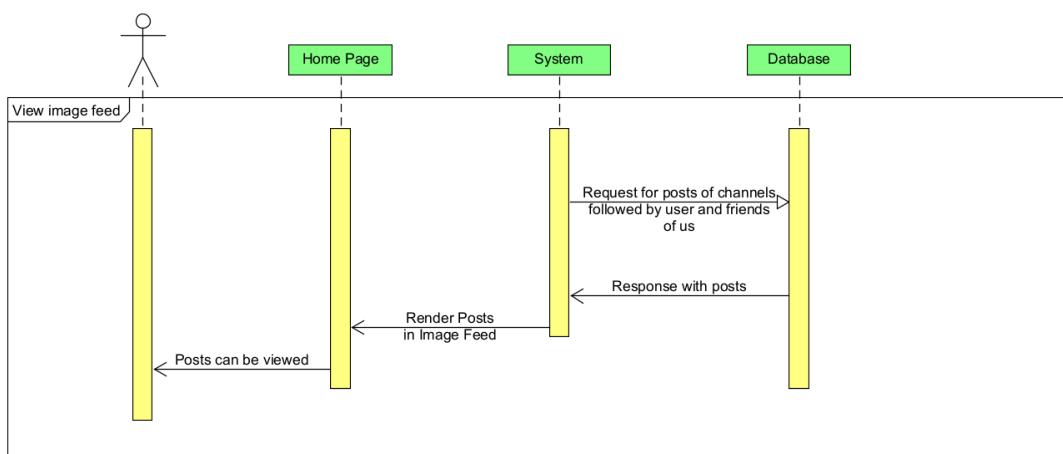
Sequence Diagram - Rate Post

Above sequence diagram outlines how a post is rated. The user can rate a post to a maximum of 3 stars, once a user rates the post, that rating value is stored into the database for that post from a specific user so on the user's feed, he/she can see what rating was given. In the background, the database adds this new rating for the post and also updates the profile points of the user which is linked with the Game Mechanics System to be completed in stage 3.



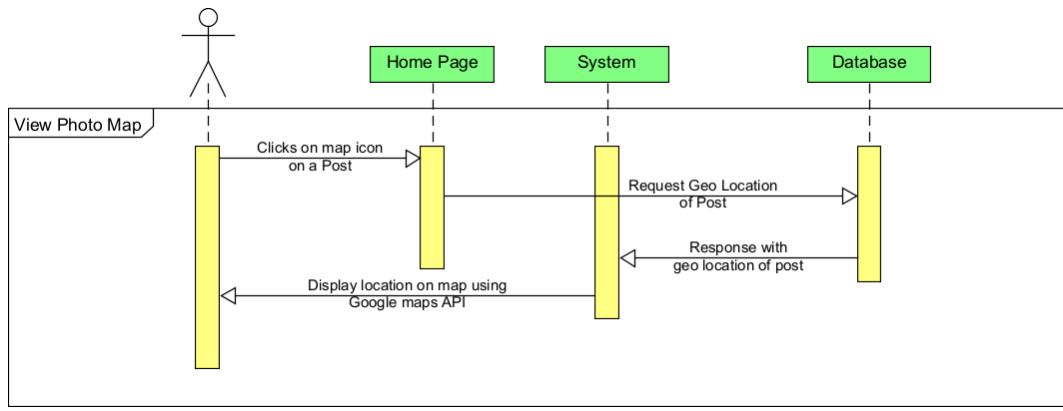
Sequence Diagram - Share Content

Above is the sequence diagram for a user searching for other users or channels, the user navigates to the explore page, discussed later with additional functionalities, the user then types the username of the user or the channel name, the database would then retrieve all the search results and display them as a list to the user.



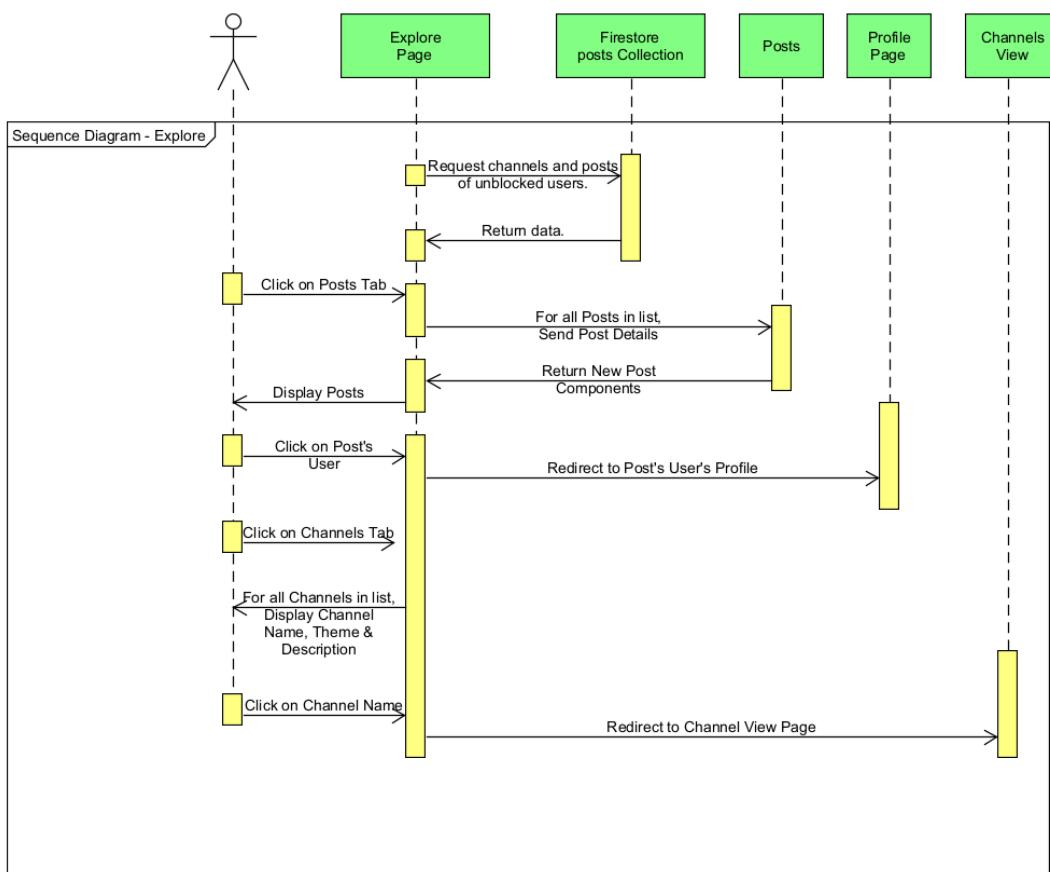
Sequence Diagram - Image Feed

Above is the sequence diagram for viewing the Image Feed of a user. The system makes a request to the database to return all public and private posts of user's friends along with all posts of all channels the user follows. The system then renders these images in the Image Feed where the user can view all posts and interact with them such as commenting or rating them.



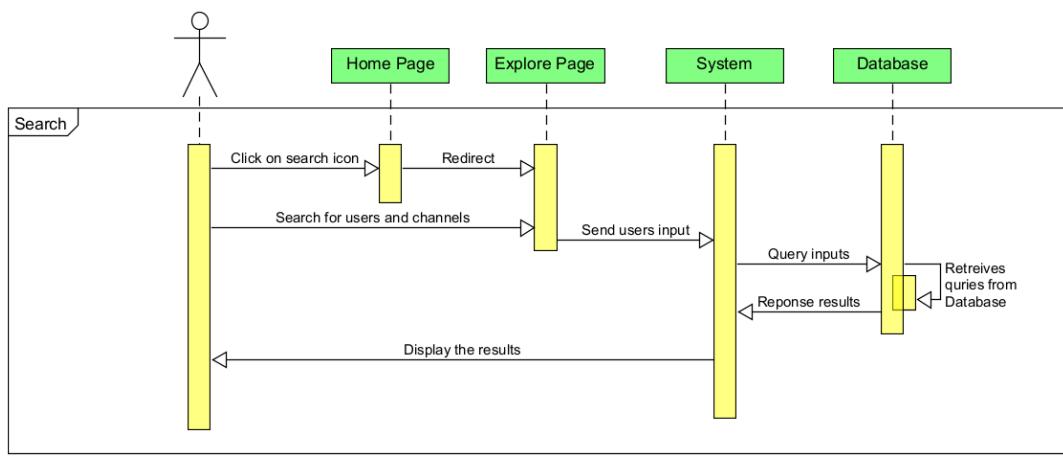
Sequence Diagram - View Photo Map

Above is the sequence diagram for viewing the "Map View" of a post/photo. The user will click on the map icon of a post which will send a database query which will retrieve the geo location of where the post was taken. That location is shown in a map view using Google Maps API.



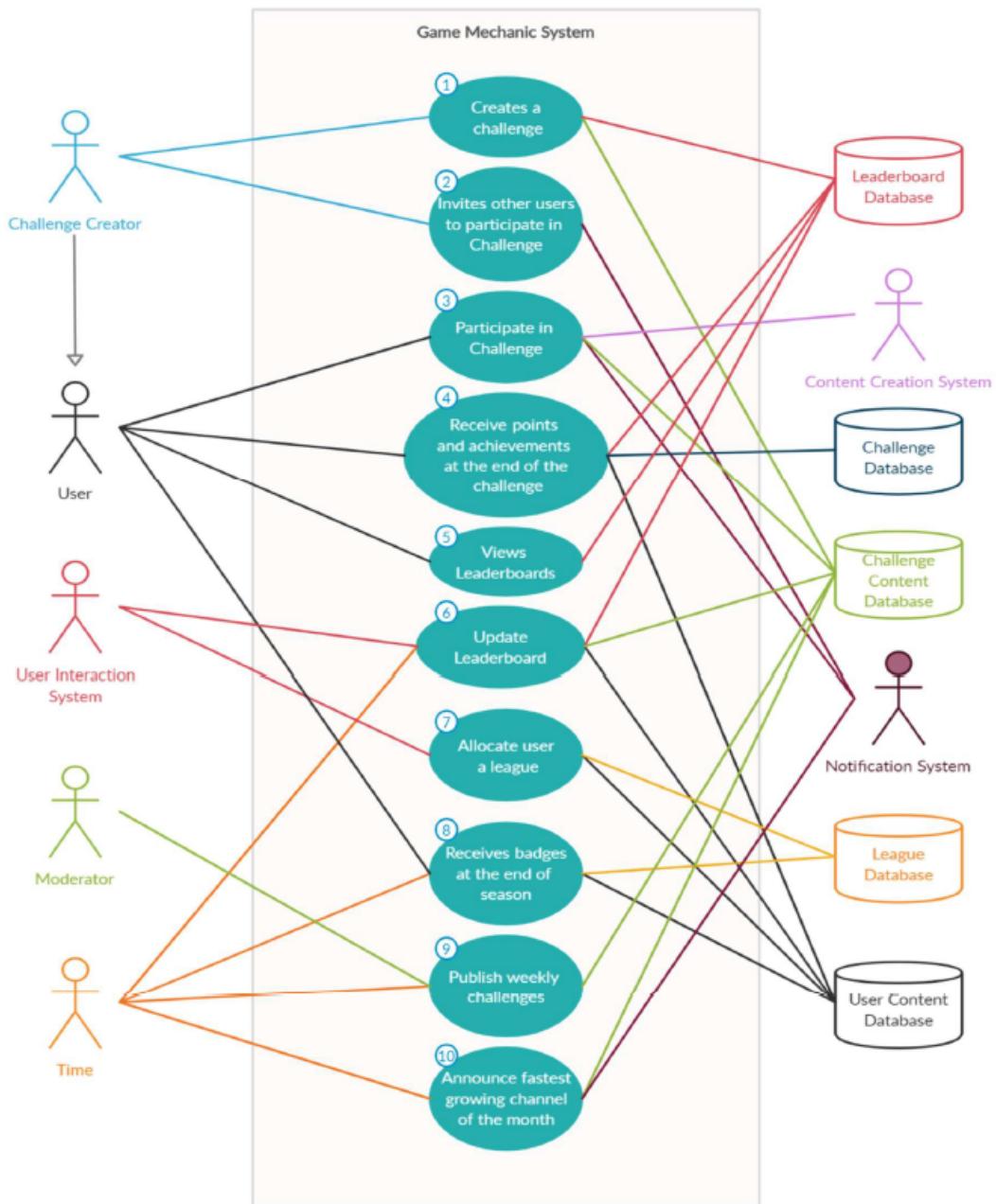
Sequence Diagram - View Explore Page

Above is the sequence diagram for the Explore page which consist of 2 tabs and the search functionality already discussed. The Explore page retrieves a list of channels and public posts from users who are not blocked or have not blocked the user in question. If the user clicks on the Posts tab then all public posts would be visible, if the user clicks on the Channel tab then all the channels would be visible. The user can then click on the usernames to visit the user's profiles or click on the Channel names to visit the channel.



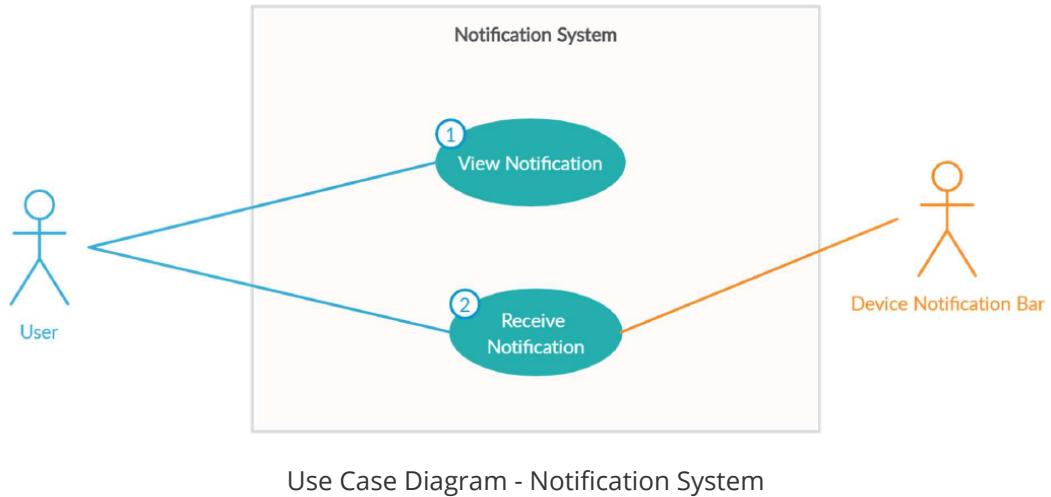
Sequence Diagram - Search

4. Game Mechanics System

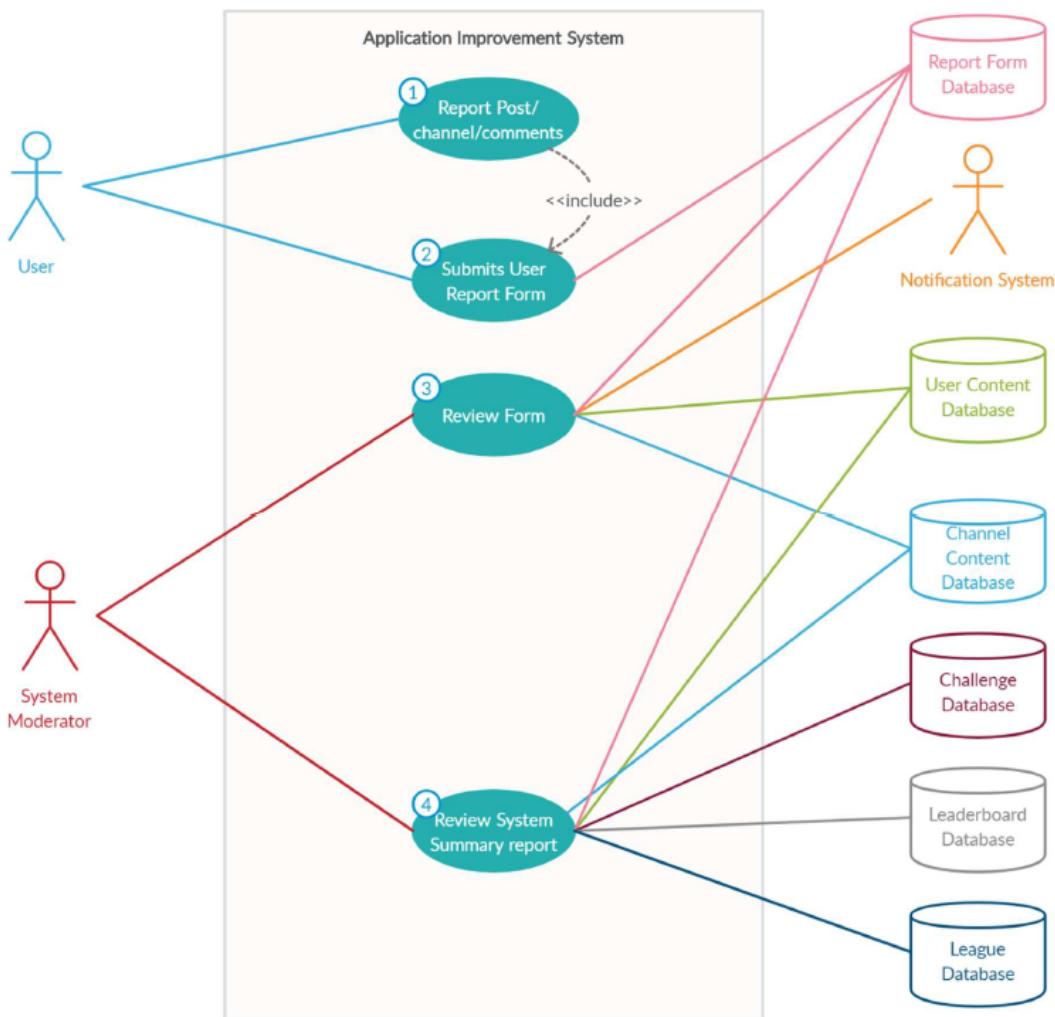


Use Case Diagram - Game Mechanics System

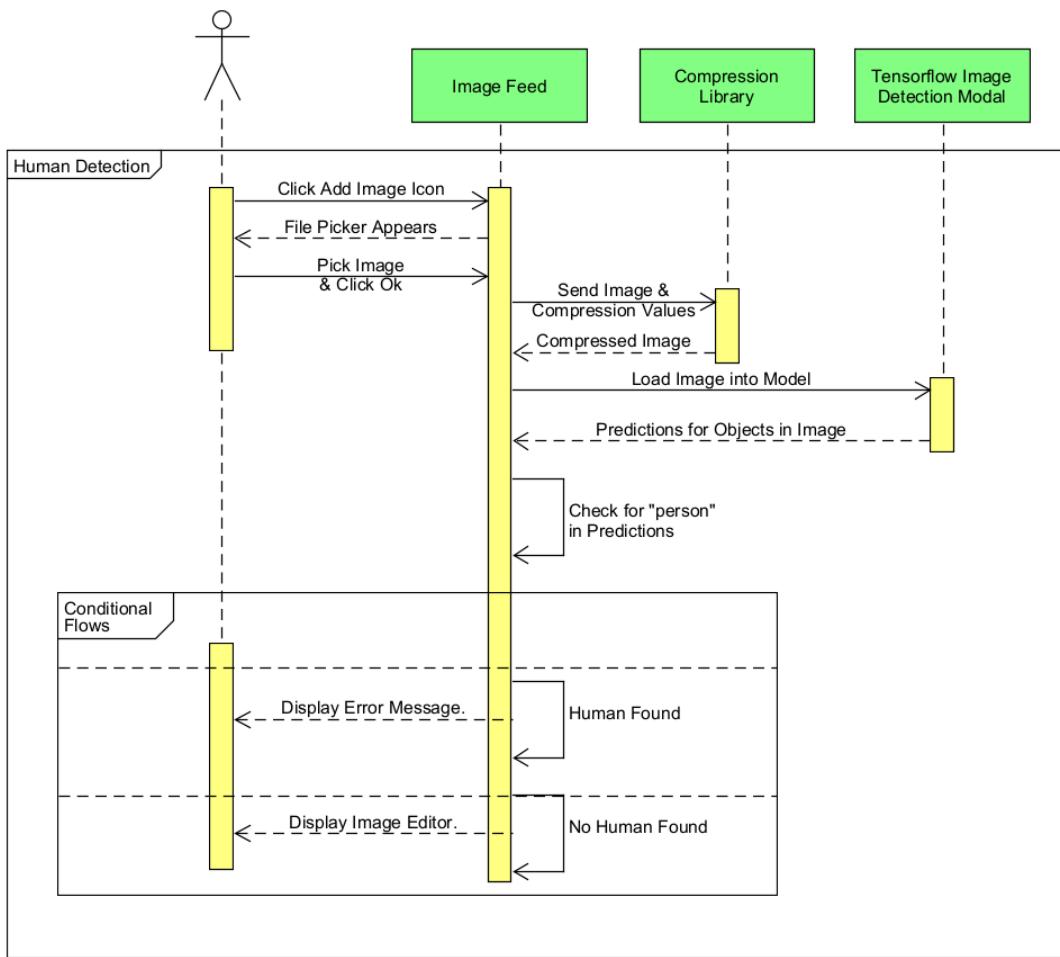
5. Notification System



6. Application Improvement System



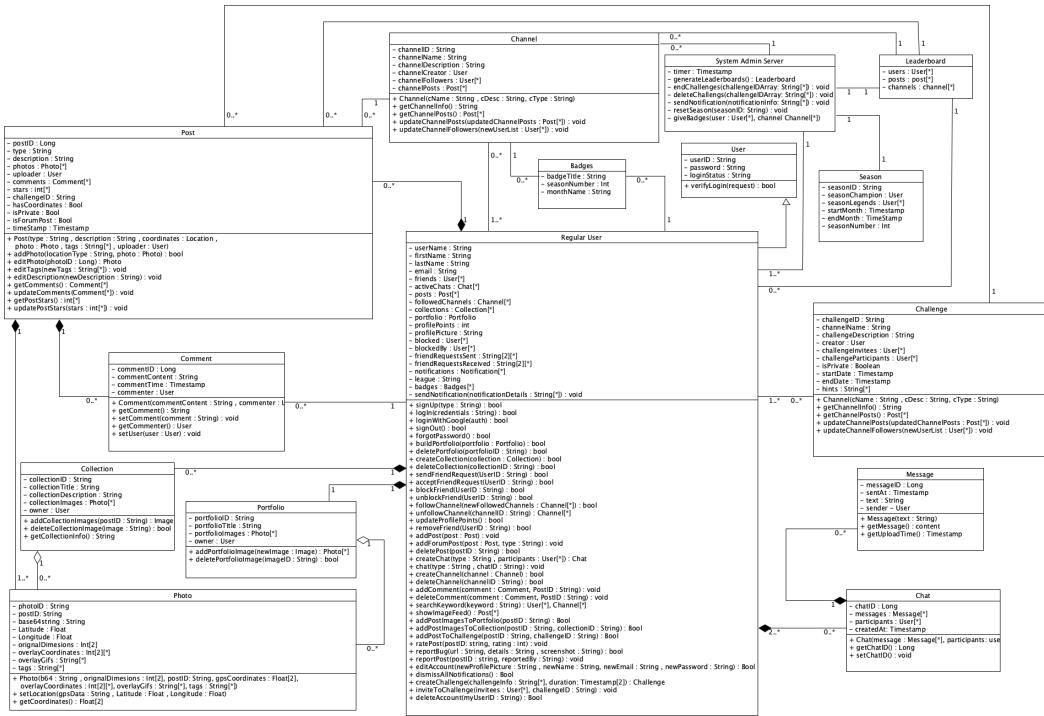
Use Case Diagram - Application Improvement System



Sequence Diagram - Human Detection

Above sequence diagram shows the process of how a human is detected in an image a user is trying to upload. The user will click on the “Add Image” icon in the Image Feed and then choose a photo, a compression library then compresses the image which sends the compressed image to the Tensorflow Image Detection Modal. This model will scan the image and displays an error message if a human is detected, otherwise the app will allow the image to be edited and posted.

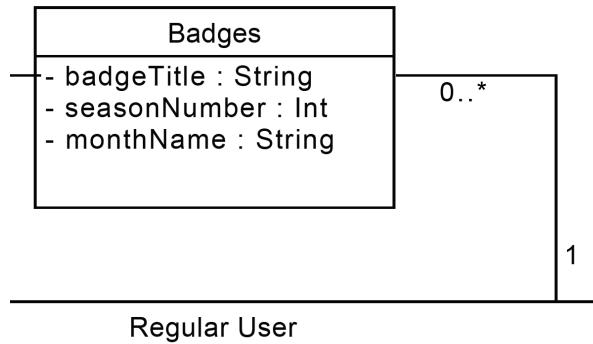
Class Diagram



Class Diagram

Note: Class Diagram relations are read like shown below.

For Example, the below part of the class diagram is read as, "a Regular User can have 0 to many Badges, and 0 to many Badges can be earned by 1 Regular User".



Read Class Diagram Example

Please visit [\[link\]](#) for a high-resolution file of the class diagram.

[MORE ...](#)

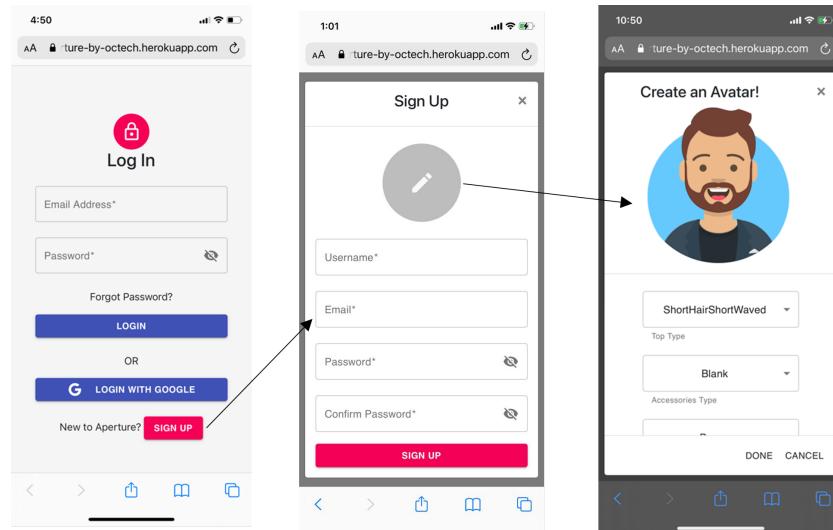
3. Final Interface Design

This section in addition to design elements and thoughts behind the final product, captures approaches that were taken and milestones reached along the way. Also included is a brief description of testing methods adopted to ensure technical correctness and a short guide to application installation, setup, maintenance and usage.

3.1. Application Layout & Navigation

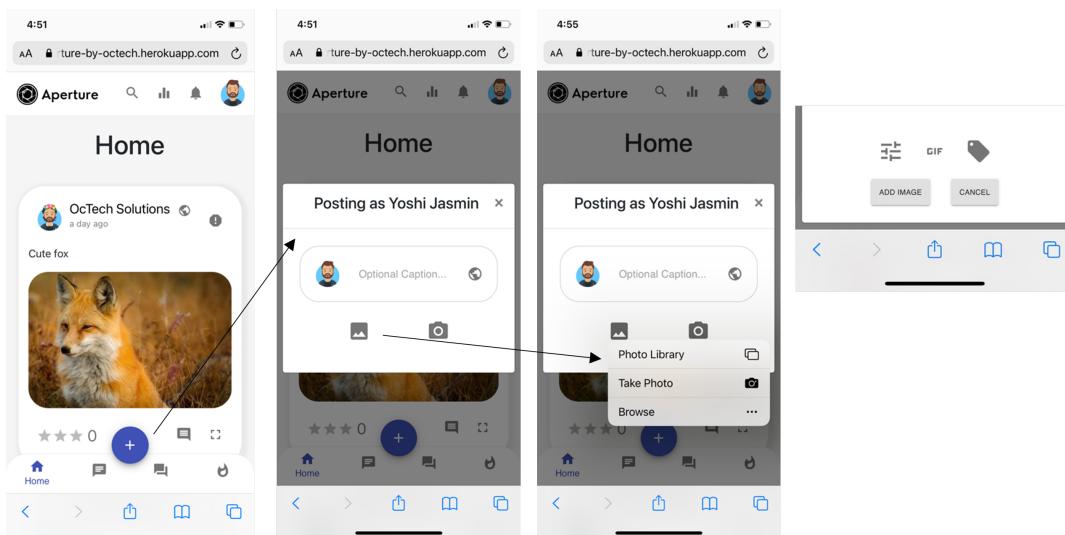
Layout and navigation of the application or applications.

This section boasts screenshots of the application user Interface (UI) with brief explanations about the view and where it lead to.



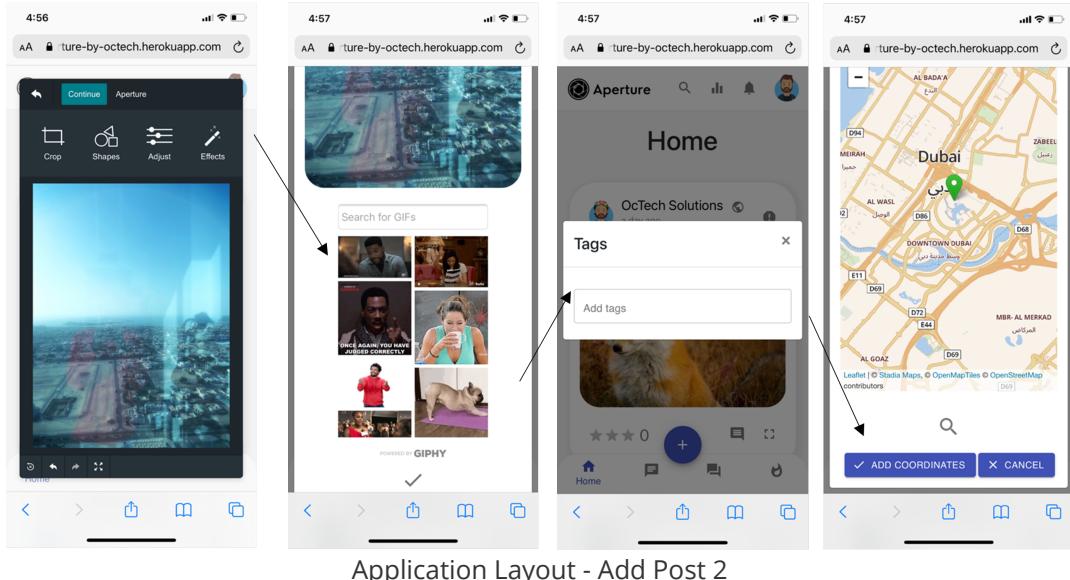
Application Layout - Login/SignUp

Here is the login/ sign up page where the user can enter their existing details and login into their account or sign up by pressing the sign-up button that leads to the page. The user can also customize their profile avatar once they press the big edit icon.

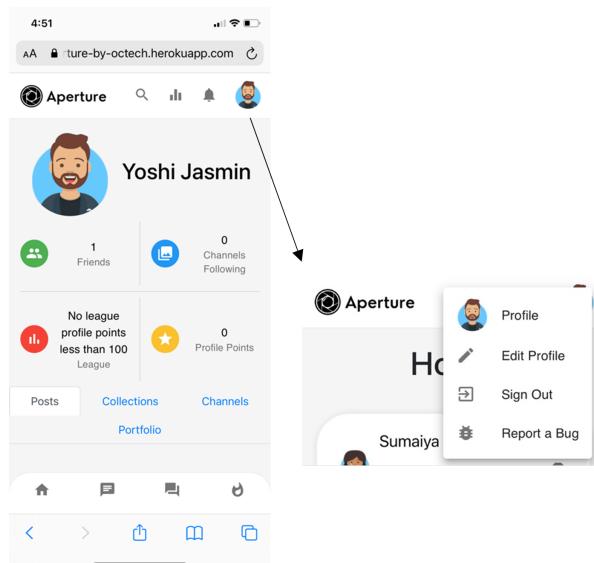


Application Layout - Add Post 1

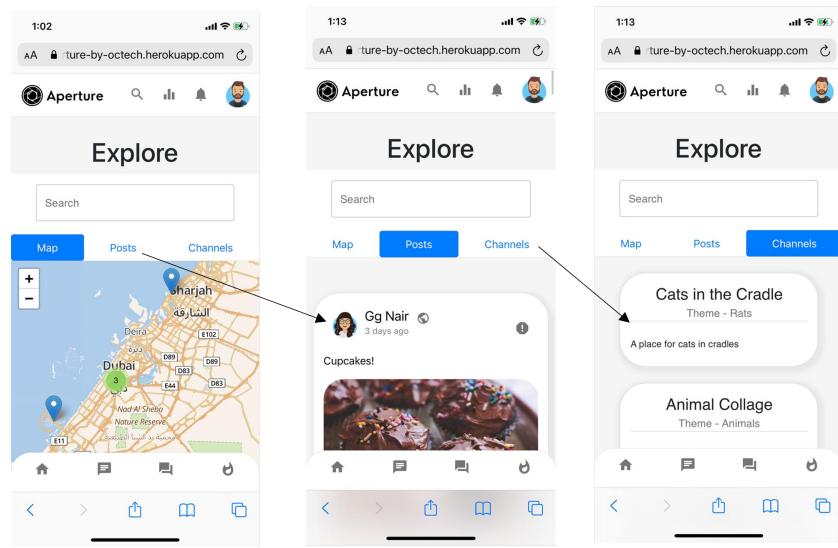
Here the user has options to modify their uploaded pic and add tags. Once the user is logged-in they can press the plus icon to redirect them to the post popup.



The user can apply different photo filters, add GIFs overlays, tags, and the location where the picture was taken. The user can also write a caption for their post and preview the image they have uploaded and modify. This is the whole process a user goes through to post an image on our application

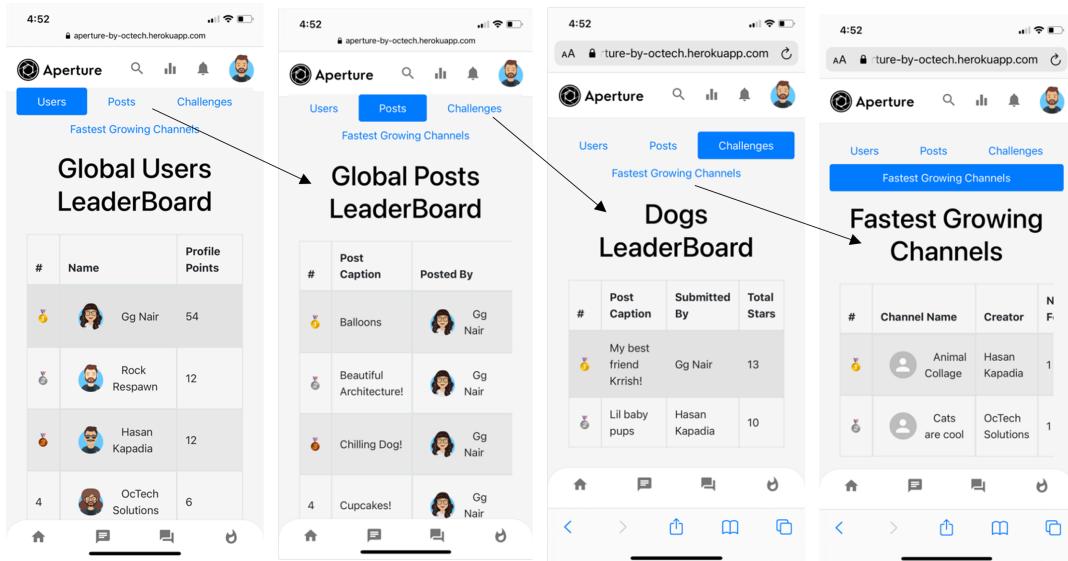


This is the users profile page where the user can see their posts/collections/channels/portfolios they have made. As well as their friends list, which channels they are following/ leaderboard league they are in, and how many profile points they have. The user can view this by clicking on their avatar and then clicking profile.



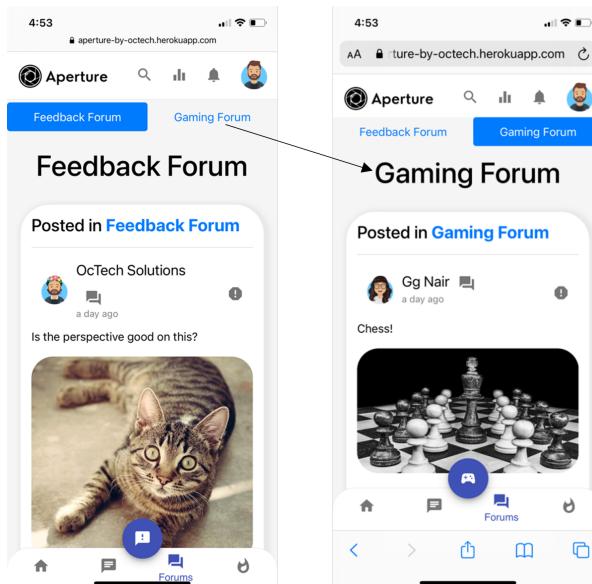
Application Layout - Explore

Here is the explore page where users can explore different post from other users. This is accessed by clicking on the search icon on the top of the app.



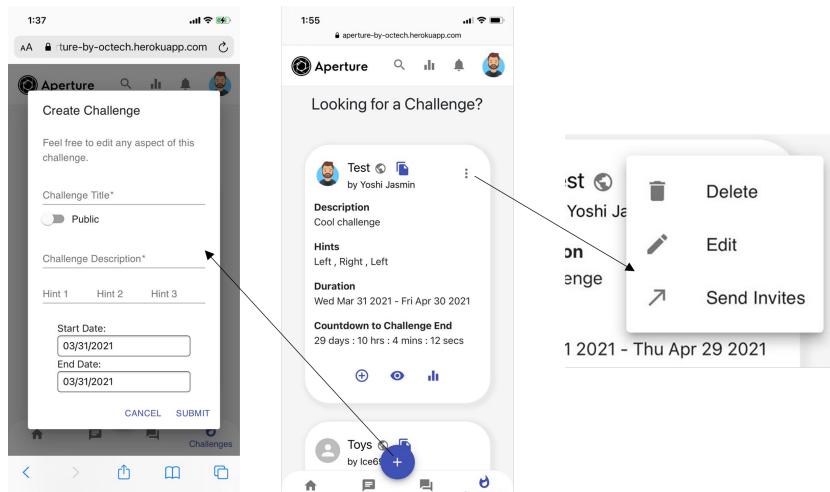
Application Layout - Leaderboards

This is the leaderboard section of the app. This is accessed by clicking on the podium icon. Here the user can view several different types of leaderboards for users, posts, challenges, and fastest growing channels. Each leaderboard displays 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with medals.



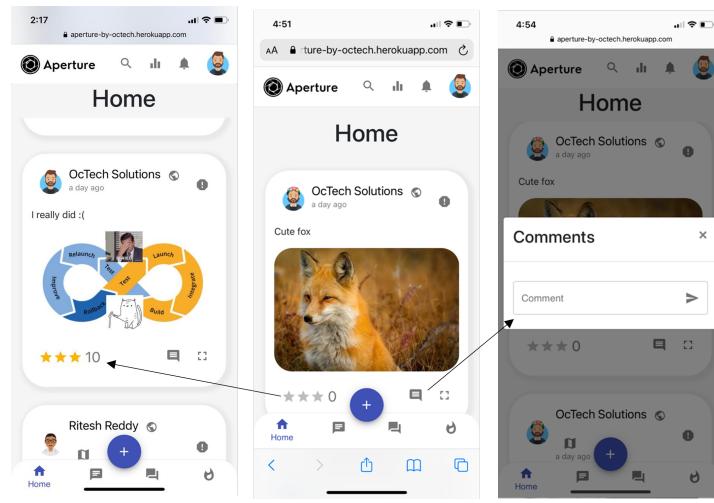
Application Layout - Forums

This is the forums page. It is separated into two sections which are “Feedback Forum” and “Gaming Forum”. In the feedback forum, the user is able to post any of his/her images and ask questions or receive feedback on them from other users who may have more knowledge. In the “Gaming Forum” on the other hand, the user is able to post images of a game they play and other users can comment on their posts with tips and tricks or fun Easter eggs about the game.



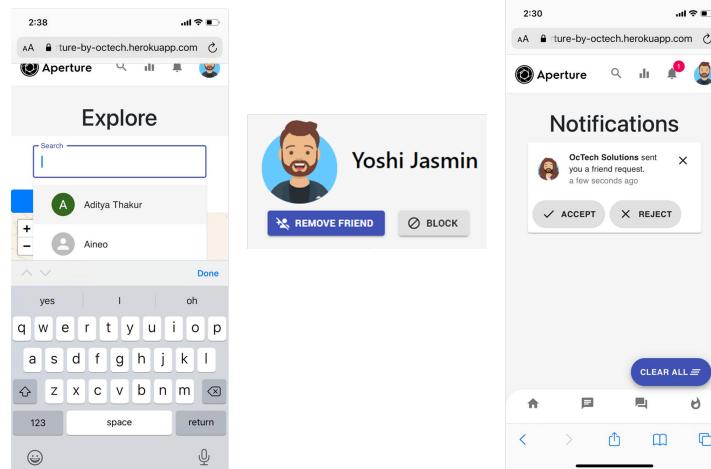
Application Layout - Challenges

Moving on to the “Challenge page”. The user is presented with other people’s challenges and he/she is able to participate, view entries to the challenge as well as look at the leader board for that challenge. The user can also view the participants of the challenge if the challenge is public. The user is also able to edit the details of the challenge and send invites to the challenge. They can also delete the challenge if they wish to.



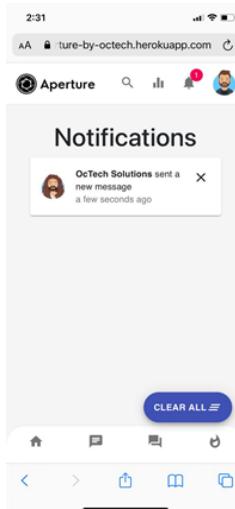
Application Layout - Rate and Comment

Users are able to rate posts from 1 to 3 stars which are located at the bottom left of the post. Users are also able to leave a comment on posts. There is a comments button that is located at the bottom right corner of a post where users can leave a comment on a post.



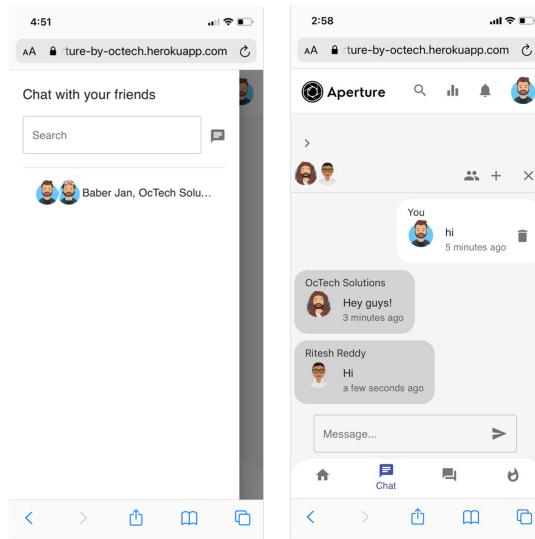
Application Layout - Friends

Users are also able to search for friends to add in the explore page. Once a friend is sent a friend request the request will pop up on their notifications page and they can accept or reject. Later on, a user can also remove that friend as well as block that person if they wish to.



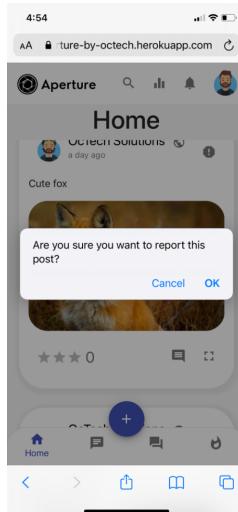
Application Layout - Notifications

Users can receive all kinds of notifications such as friend request notifications, chat notifications, post rating notifications, league placement notification and more. These notifications can be cleared once read by the user.



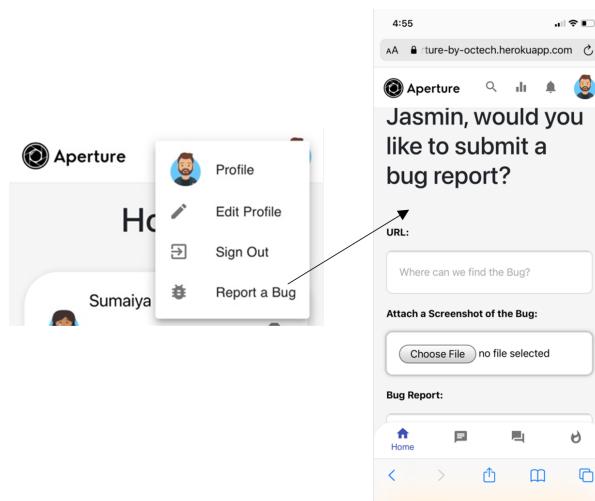
Application Layout - Chat

Users can also chat with their friends through the app's chat functionality. Once two users are friends, they can start a chat with one another. If a user wishes he/she can chat with multiple friends at once using the group chat. They simply invite any additional friends they would like to chat to or create a new chat with more than one user.



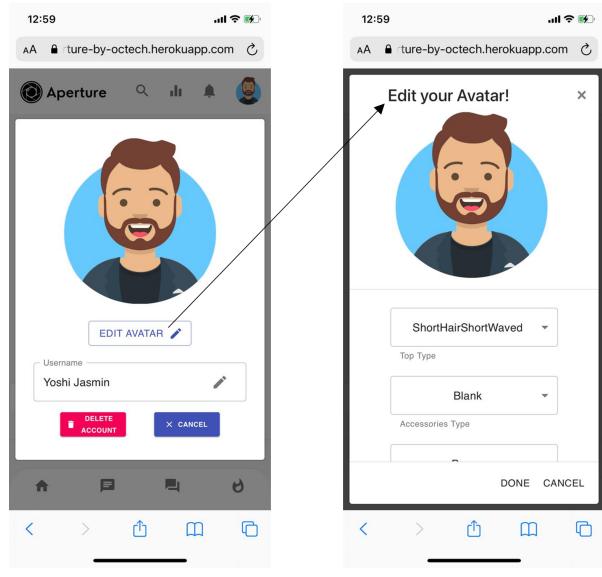
Application Layout - Report Posts

Users can reports posts that may contain content that contains inappropriate content by clicking the report post button at the top right corner of a post.



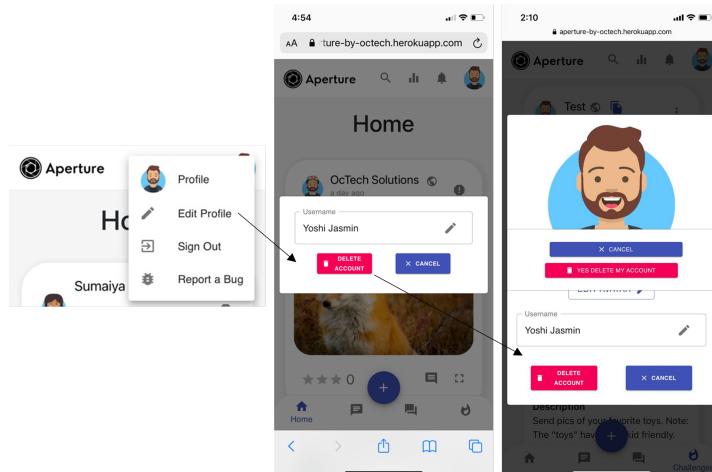
Application Layout - Report Bugs

If a user discovers a bug with the app, they are able to easily report that bug so that it may be brought to the attention of the development team and fixed. They do so by clicking on their avatar at the top right of the screen and navigating to the "Report a Bug" Page. A user can then attach the URL of the page where the bug occurred. They are also able to attach a screenshot of the bug to better illustrate it as well as provide a description of it.



Application Layout - Edit Avatar

If a user is not happy with the way their avatar looks. They can easily edit the look of the avatar by clicking on their avatar at the top right of the screen and navigating to the "Edit profile" Page. They can then click on the Edit Avatar button which pops up and they are presented with the avatar customization screen again. They can re-customize their avatar and then click done once they are happy with the way it looks.



Application Layout - Delete Profile

If a user decides that they would like to delete their account. They can do so by clicking on their avatar at the top right of the screen and navigating to the "Edit Profile" Page. This will ensure to delete all posts, comments and any content the user had on the app.

3.2. Implementation Methodology

Iterations/Scrum/Other agile techniques?

(William Malsam, 2018) (Alexandra Altvater, 2017) (Simplilearn, 2020) (Development That Pays, 2019)

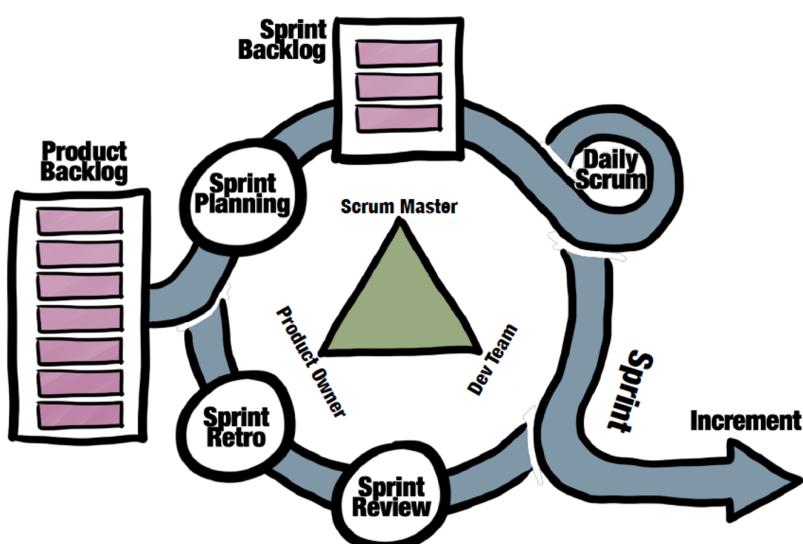
For implementation and Project Management, it was decided that **Agile** would be the best approach for the following reasons...

- It allows for incremental development. A large application with many user interactions like Aperture would be best tackled by breaking it down into smaller components and then implementing each part one at a time, building up the complete application.
- It's iterative in nature. Iterations are an excellent way to schedule work as they establish a common system following which and a set time interval within which a functionality is to be implemented.
- It grants adaptability. Agile allows components to be revisited and fixed or improved at later iterations. This means that if a system was not fully implemented in one iteration, the team need not be discouraged as they may have an opportunity to revisit unimplemented parts of it and finish them in the later iterations.
- Agile means that after every iteration, it is highly likely that a part of the application would be implemented, tested and available for review. This instills a sense of accomplishment in team members and product reviewer alike.

There are several agile frameworks out there like the Feature Driven Development, Lean Software Development etc. But, **Scrum** was chosen as best for this product due to following reasons ...

- It encourages good communication among members and requires great transparency within the group. As a team were majority of the members have no worked with each other before, scrum would ensure that all members are aware of all progress/disruptions and would aid in building an environment of trust.
- Presence of a scrum master to ensure that scrum is followed is a necessary force that can help ensure that every member contributes, are reminded to focus on the task at hand and are never lost as a result of scrum getting implemented well.
- Daily scrum reports are a great way to ensure that work is done regularly and wakes a sense of duty/responsibility in every member.
- Scrum has been proven to bring teams together towards a common goal. It is also very popular in the industry as is evident from large and successful tech companies like Google, Apple, Adobe etc, opting for this approach. As students who hope to enter the industry, it exciting to explore an implementation approach that is implemented by the titans of the tech world!

The following is a diagram that depicts a sprint's structure.



Sprint Structure (Development That Pays, 2019)

Note: Above image "Sprint Structure" is from a sprint cheat sheet that can be obtained from the description of YouTube Video, "[Scrum Overview - \[Scrum Basics 2019\] + FREE Cheat Sheet](#)" by ["Development That Pays"](#).

This is how our sprints went ...

- The implementation schedule took place in **sprints** where a single sprint would typically span **a week**. It was decided that a sprint would be short and just 1 week since that would allow for more opportunities to retrospect and identify what went right/wrong and what to fix. A stage of development was expected to be complete in 8-9 sprints which was indeed the case for all 3 stages of design & development. For the few sprints that were shorter than a week, some activities like building code was done in parallel to testing and producing documentation.
- Every sprint would begin with the **sprint planning meeting** on MS Teams / on rare occasions via chat and deciding what to put in our sprint backlog from our product backlog for the next week and what to focus on more. product backlog was based off of the functional requirements that we had compiled features that the client absolutely required were marked as MUST and would be at the top of the product backlog and then other less important features would be in the middle and the bottom. Any functionality that was partially or done as a basic version would be in lowered in priority.
- Based off of discussions, that night or latest by next morning which would be the 1st day of sprint. The scrum master would officially list down allocated tasks in the Scrum WhatsApp Group. The team would post **daily scrum reports** every morning with updates.
- At the end of each sprint we would have produced at least 1 or 2 **increments** in addition to few partially implemented functionalities or maybe 1 that was implemented but didn't work out too well. These would be rescheduled for later.
- By now, it would be time for the weekly meeting with our line manager and all happenings of the scrum, future plans and increments would be presented. Often Dr. Hani Ragab, would give us good feedback and let us know what could improve. This meeting along with discussions that the team would have later after our line manager left would be a **scrum review**.
- Later that evening the team would decide what to carry forward into the next sprint and how it could be done in a better way than in last sprint in a **sprint retrospection** session.

This process **repeats** with an MS Teams sprint planning meeting again.

3.3. Iteration Achievement History

What was achieved in each iteration/sprint?

Following are 3 tables that summarize all achievements from every sprint for stages 1, 2 and 3 respectively.



Aperture Sprint Achievements Summary

Stage 1	Achievements
Sprint 1	# Implementation plan decided. # Team roles identified via SWOT analysis. # Reviewed specifications. # 11 systems that the application can be broken down into identified.
Sprint 2	# FRs and NFRs identified and written down. # Company/App logo and name ideas generated. # Designs for website presented. # 6 core systems identified from original 11 systems.
Sprint 3	# FRs and NFRs refined and new possible extra features added. Sorted the FRs and NFRs as per MoSCoW prioritization. # FRs and NFRs grouped under the system they would belong to. # Risk analysis draft document produced. # Plan for stage 1 report drafted.
Sprint 4	# An early version fo the report with all necessary headings was produced. # Prototype and mock ups made. # Identified which extra FRs we would keep for sure and which ones would best be avoided.
Sprint 5	# Set up firebase account and created collections. # Decided to use Heroku as website hosting platform. # Use cases identified and use case and other UML diagrams made. # More mock ups made and a mock up video made.
Sprint 6	# All member's work compiled. # Mohammad Assad Khan is new leader. # Usability study questionnaire created. # Class diagram made.
Sprint 7	# Usability tests done. # Project costing done. # Traceability Matrix done. # Report revised and put together.
Sprint 8	# Usability test froms closed and results analysed. # Report further refined and made ready to submit.

Achievements Summary Stage1



Aperture Sprint Achievements Summary

Stage 2	Achievements
Sprint 1	# Planned sections of company website. # Determined terms and conditions, privacy policy and that we would need no cookies. # Website development (landing section, about us section, recent projects section and navigation bar done). # Website tested for responsiveness on various size windows. # Work on stage 2 report started. # Members began looking up ReactJS and firebase.
Sprint 2	# Website implementation done (our services section, our team section and the footer). # Website hosted.
Sprint 3	# React app boiler plate "create react app" tweaked to remove unnecessary things and added basic components like the Aperture logo to the app. # 3 systems implementation started (Login and Account, Content Creation, User Interaction System). # Functionality started are accessing the camera, login, gif overlays, map view, creating/deleting/sharing a post, uploading an image and portfolios.
Sprint 4	# Work continues on implementing the 3 subsystems and new functionalities like photo editing, validation etc were added to implemented portions. # Firebase db collections structure was improved.
Sprint 5	# Newsfeed page was set up. # Human detection, channel posting, forgot password functionality, chat system and post rating was implemented. # Testing and fixing of all features thus far was done.
Sprint 6	# Partially completed tasks from sprint 3 was completed. # Map view, post rating, channels and CSS was implemented/improved. # Becoming friends/blocking and the group chat was implemented along with channel subscription/unsubscription. # Uploading of images was refined.
Sprint 7	# Little pending work from sprint 6 on maps and channels and chat sprint was completed. # Work began on trying to implement the feedback and gaming forums. # Stage 2 report was edited and refined. # Final tests were done and fixes were implemented.
Sprint 8	# Stage 2 report was made ready for submission.

Achievements Summary Stage2



Aperture Sprint Achievements Summary

Stage 3	Achievements
Sprint 1	# Thorough testing of features implemented so far was done.
Sprint 2	# Improvements to existing components and remaining bugs were fixed. # Work on feedback forum continued. # Notification system was implemented. # Security rules for Firebase collections were put in place.
Sprint 3	# Group chat was finished. # Challenge creation/deletion along with the challenges display was completed. # The leader, Muhammad Assad Khan who was tasked with ensuring report gets done underwent multiple eye procedures and thereby will no longer be able to contribute as his eyes are to recover so cannot be exposed to screens. # Remaining part of challenges completed. # Notification system done.
Sprint 4	# More Firebase rules done. # Points tracking and awarding was implemented. # Leaderboards done. # Implementation of the forums were undertaken.
Sprint 5	# Logic of game seasons, player leagues, rewards done. # Pending work from sprint 4 done. # Baber Jan took over as acting team leader since Assad is recovering.
Sprint 6	# All features so far were tested and fixed. # Leaderboards improved. # New Firebase rules added. # Seasons logic and final features of challenges were completed. # Fastest growing channel done. # Tagging in images logic done.. # Report was handed over from Muhammad Assad Khan to Gayathri Girish Nair on account of him still recovering. Report started. # Map view improved and Google Maps billing issue was fixed. # What was/yet to be completed was reviewed and a new more intense plan was created. # CSS at portions were fixed. # An Ubuntu server was leased for the team to use by our line manager Dr. Hani Ragab.
Sprint 7	# Functionality where a user can report bugs and inappropriate content done. # Map view was made better by allowing user to view their as well as others' posts on the map. # Some more CSS fixes were done (portfolio page especially). # Server side logic (check for updates every periodically, say 24 hrs for challenge completion) was implemented. # Any pending work from previous sprints was finished. # Work on report continued and project evaluation was undertaken. # Updating leaderboards daily functionality implemented.
Sprint 8	# Cleared the db of all data and populated with useful data. # Made app available on Heroku. # Made plan for demo. # Rehearsed for demo. # Reviewed the app and implemented small fixes and improvements. # Continued with Project Evaluation. # Compiled other report parts like the design overview, components overview etc. # Created usability forms/questionnaires and ran usability test/study.
Sprint 9	# Tabulated/analyzed usability test results. # Finalized the report and made ready to submit.

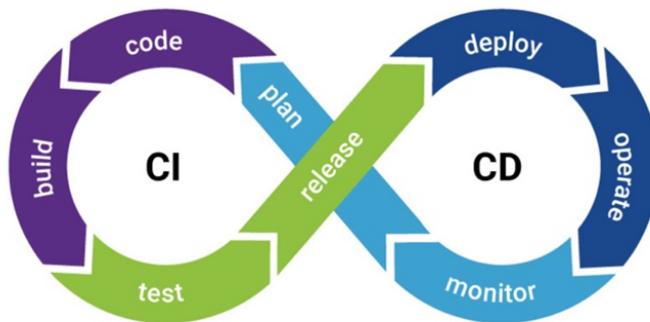
Achievements Summary Stage3

3.4. Testing Regimen

(Synopsis, No Date)

How was the final system tested for technical correctness?

During the development of the application's functionality throughout stages 2 and 3, every functionality was tested each time a new functionality was added into the application. Using firebase console, it would be possible to see the collections and documents in the database and check if the data entered was correctly stored and later, correctly retrieved from firebase as JSON objects.



Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (Synopsis)

The testing method adopted is of **Continuous Integration & Continuous Delivery** (CI/CD) as per which, features are released by periodically integrating code changes into the main software branch, testing them as early and as frequently as possible, and incorporating feedback/fixing bugs and relaunching them. This continuous cycle of automating the product delivery pipeline ensures that features are made available to users quickly, efficiently, and sustainably. CI/CD makes for an un-compromising practice in the Agile software development and project management lifecycle.

Testing was also done across a variety of web browsers, in particular Google Chrome, Edge, Brave and Safari. The app was tested thoroughly at every point of development, for example login and sign-up functionality were very important features of the User Account System which had to be tested for accuracy and technical correctness concerning the new user entries made along with user details verification and user account verification. The firebase database was frequently checked after every new user entry was made to ensure that the data stored was accurate and each user was correctly verified before logging in, and they completed their one-time email verification before they could login for the first time.

Usability tests conducted via questionnaires ensured that different users tested our app and gave feedback. These opinions and feedback from stage was used to determine possible improvements and identify issues, that would be corrected for the final version.

Test Plan in Brief

The main objective of the test lies in testing the usability and the functionality of our application. Any needed change was made or attempted to be made for final system.

The given feedback would highlight key areas for corrective action to take place and improve our application and high levels of usability as well as identify features that need to be added to the functionality and possible optimization.

Test	User Requirements	Expected Results	Actual Results	Pass/Fail	Corrective Action
Login and Sign Up	Allow Users to Login (M) User can login with username/email and password or via their Google account Allow Users to Sign Up	Users can sign up with their details and they can login with their email/password or google account	As expected	Pass	None
Comments	Allow users to comment on post or delete their comment from a post	Users can comment and delete a comment on other users post	As expected	Pass	None
Explore Page & Search Bar	Allow user to search for user/channel/challenge Allow Users to checkout user profiles/ channels	Users can explore all other user profiles and channels User can also search for users/channels/challenges	User can't search for challenges	Fail	Recode the search bar to allow users to find challenges
Post Image	Allow users to share a post of photos (M) A post must contain one photo but can have up-to 10 photos Allow Users to upload photos of objects or animals on the platform	Users can share a post of photos Users can upload photos of animals or objects Users can share multiple photos	As expected	Pass	None
Leaderboards	Have a leader board for the challenge(M) Update leader board when there is a change in the rating of any photo in the challenge	There is a working leaderboard for challenges and other aspects	As expected	Pass	None
Chat system	Allow users to chat with other users (M) Users can chat with other users or a group of users on the platform	Users can chat with other users or a group of users	As expected	Pass	None
Home Feed	Have an image feed for each user(M) Each user will have a news feed that will show them: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posts from their friends• Posts from the channels they follow	Each user has a feed of posts from their friends and posts from the channels they follow	As expected	Pass	None
Report Feature	Allow users to report inappropriate content and give general feedback to the system moderators on the platform	User can report bugs in the app or report a post with inappropriate content	As expected	Pass	None
Notification System	Allow users to receive notifications from the system Send notifications to user (S) Notify users on <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chat Notifications• Channel managers will get notified when their channel gets followed• Channel which they follow uploaded a photo• Starting of events• Feedback received• Comments• Rating• Update on reports• Profile Points• New Challenge in their area• Invitation received for a challenge• Challenge finished• Badges and achievements	User will receive notifications on multiple aspects	As expected	Pass	Some aspects there was no time to finish

Test Plan

3.5. Install - Setup - Maintain

Documentation on how to install/setup/maintain the final system.

3.5.1. Installation

Our application is developed using React . So the client needs to have a JavaScript environment and a Package Manager so that we can download and install libraries including React.

To install and build our application Aperture the client should follow these steps:

- Download and install Node.js. The client can download Node.js from its official website : <http://nodejs.org/en/> and follow the given instructions on how to install Node.js on their device.
- Use Node Package Manager to download and install required packages for the app. This is to be done by :

Running **npm install --legacy-peer-deps** command inside the project's **/octech** folder .

- Use Node Package Manager to deploy our app Aperture. This is to be done by :

Running **npm run build** command inside the project's **/octech** folder. This will create a build directory with an optimized production build of our app.

- Upload the **build** folder to the client's HTTP sever.
- Serve the incoming user requests with **index.html** file inside the build folder.

3.5.2. Set Up

The client will have to set up:

1. Firebase

- Create a firebase account on <https://firebase.google.com/>
- Create a firebase project and register our app by following Step 1 and Step 2 from <https://firebase.google.com/docs/web/setup#node.js-apps>
- Go to **Authentication** from **Firebase console**.
- Open **Sign-in Method** tab and enable **Email/Password** and **Google** providers.
- Go to **Project Settings** from the **Firebase console**.
- In the Your apps card, select the nickname of our app.
- Select **Config** from the **Firebase SDK** snippet pane.
- Copy the config object snippet and replace it with value of variable **firebaseConfig** in **/octech/src/firebase.js** file in our project directory **Aperture**.
- Open **Cloud Firestore** from **Firebase console**.
- Go to **Indexes** tab and create following **indexes** for the following **Collections**:

Collection ID	Field ID	Order/Type	Query Scope
forumPosts	type	Ascending	Collection
	timestamp	Descending	
posts	isPrivate	Ascending	Collection
	timestamp	Descending	
posts	channelBy	Ascending	Collection
	name	Ascending	
	timestamp	Descending	
chatRooms	participantNames	Arrays	Collection
	chatStartedAt	Descending	
posts	name	Ascending	Collection
	timestamp	Descending	
posts	isPrivate	Ascending	Collection
	totalStars	Descending	
posts	type	Ascending	Collection
	timestamp	Descending	
challengePosts	challenge	Ascending	Collection
	totalStars	Descending	

Cloud Firestore Collections Indexes

2. Google Map API

- Sign In to the Google Cloud Platform Console on <https://console.cloud.google.com>.
- Create a new project and enable the Google Maps JavaScript API for the project.
- Copy the API key and paste it as the value of **GoogleMapsAPI** constant in **/octech/src/components/Body/Map/client-config.js** file.

3. GIPHY API

- Create a developer account on GIPHY at <https://developers.giphy.com/docs/api>.
- Create an API key for our app by clicking "Create an App" on the developer dashboard.
- Copy the API key and paste it as the value of **GiphyApiKey** constant in **/octech/src/components/Body/Feed/giphy-config.js** file.
- Upgrade the API to production level by clicking on **Upgrade to Production** button in the **Developer Dashboard** and complete the instruction that follow.

4. Time Based Job Scheduler

- Setup a time based task scheduler on their server. The application will be different for different operating system e.g linux uses cron to schedule tasks.
- Open **Settings** in **Firebase console** of your account. Then open **Service Accounts**.

- To generate a private key for your service account click on **Generate New Private Key** and then confirm by clicking **Generate Key** button.
- It will ask you to download the JSON file containing the key. Securely store this JSON file.
- Set the path of the JSON file as the **argument** to **credentials.Certificate** method in **/timeBaseTasks/daily.py** and **/timeBaseTasks/monthly.py**
- Setup daily task to run Python script **/timeBaseTasks/daily.py**.
- Setup monthly task to run Python script **/timeBaseTasks/monthly.py**.

3.5.3. Maintenance

We have developed the app such that the maintenance of the app will be effortless.

Throughout the development we have followed React's file structure and naming conventions. So, to add a feature or fix a bug on the feed page we will go to the **feed.js** inside the **/Feed** folder of our app and do the required changes. All our code is well commented which makes the understanding of the code unchallenging.

For general maintenance the client must do the following tasks :

- Check the **bugReports** collection of db. This contains information about the bugs or information of posts reported by the users. These bug reports should be analyzed and necessary actions should be taken.
- Use **Firebase Analytics** to track the engagement of the users with the app. This can be accessed by from **Firebase console**.
- Use **Firebase Crashlytics** to prioritize and fix stability issues. This can be accessed by from **Firebase console**.
- Use **Firebase Overview** to get insights on current read and writes to our database. This can be accessed by from **Firebase console**.
- Create weekly global exciting challenges.

Octech Solutions will be providing 3 maintenance packages to the client which include:

1. Base package (1-year limited support): We will provide the first year of support for the product after its deployment for free. This will include providing security updates for the product. As well as providing patches for any bugs or instabilities that may arise.
2. Extended package (2-year support): Will provide the same level of support as the base package but, for two years. Will also work on a number of features that users or the client may want added to the product. 50 hours will be allocated throughout the 2 years (not including support and maintenance) for adding extra features.
3. Deluxe package (3-year support): Similar to the extended package but, this time for 3 years. And 120 hours will be allocated for adding features to the product throughout the three years (not including support and maintenance).

Other details of these packages such as costing have been already given to client in the Project Costing section of the proposal document for our application "**Aperture**".

3.6. User Guide

Short user guide.

[MORE ...](#)

4. Project Evaluation

Assess project as a whole.

This section, after an overall analysis of the production process and final product, lays out organizational approaches taken, the development journey and value of the final product (includes descriptions of functionality achieved, limitations, unique elements and usability test results).

4.1. Organization

4.1.1. Organizational Structure

How was your group organized?

The group was organized such that every member would contribute to all parts of design and development.

Some possible languages/technical skills which would potentially be needed in the project were identified and members were required to grade themselves and assign points reflecting their confidence levels in these areas. This was a good exercise in ascertaining capabilities of team members that would prove crucial in assigning team roles.

SELF ALLOCATED CONFIDENCE POINTS (MAX 5 & UNSURE/NOT CONFIDENT= #)								
TECH SKILLS	MEMBERS							
BackEnd	Gaurav	Tasneem	Baber	Hasan	M.Elfarash	Yoshi	M.Assad K	Gayathri
Django	1	1	#	2+	1	#	#	#
NodeJS	2	1	2	2+	#	2	1	2
MongoDB	#	#	1.5	2+	#	#	#	1
SQL	1	2	1.5	2+	3	1	2	2
PHP	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	1
FrontEnd	Gaurav	Tasneem	Baber	Hasan	M.Elfarash	Yoshi	M.Assad K	Gayathri
JavaScript	3	2	1.5	2	2	1	2	1
ReactJS	2	#	#	2	#	#	#	1
CSS	1	3	1	2	#	1	1	3
HTML	2	3	1	2	#	1	1	3
Photoshop	#	3	#	#	#	#	#	#

Confidence Points

In order to ensure optimum deployment of team members, a **SWOT analysis** was carried out.

SWOT SQUARE	
STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
# 2 Proficient Front End Developers. # 2 Proficient Back End Developers # All members acquainted with HTML, CSS, JS.	# Line manager available for guidance. # F29SO lecture materials provide insights into group management. # All members are eager to learn. # Online Platforms like MS Teams and WhatsApp available for online contact.
WEAKNESSES	THREATS
# All members are students and lack expertise. # Members are working with each other for the first time.	# Covid-19 prevents team from meeting in person. # Other academic commitments that will demand team's attention.

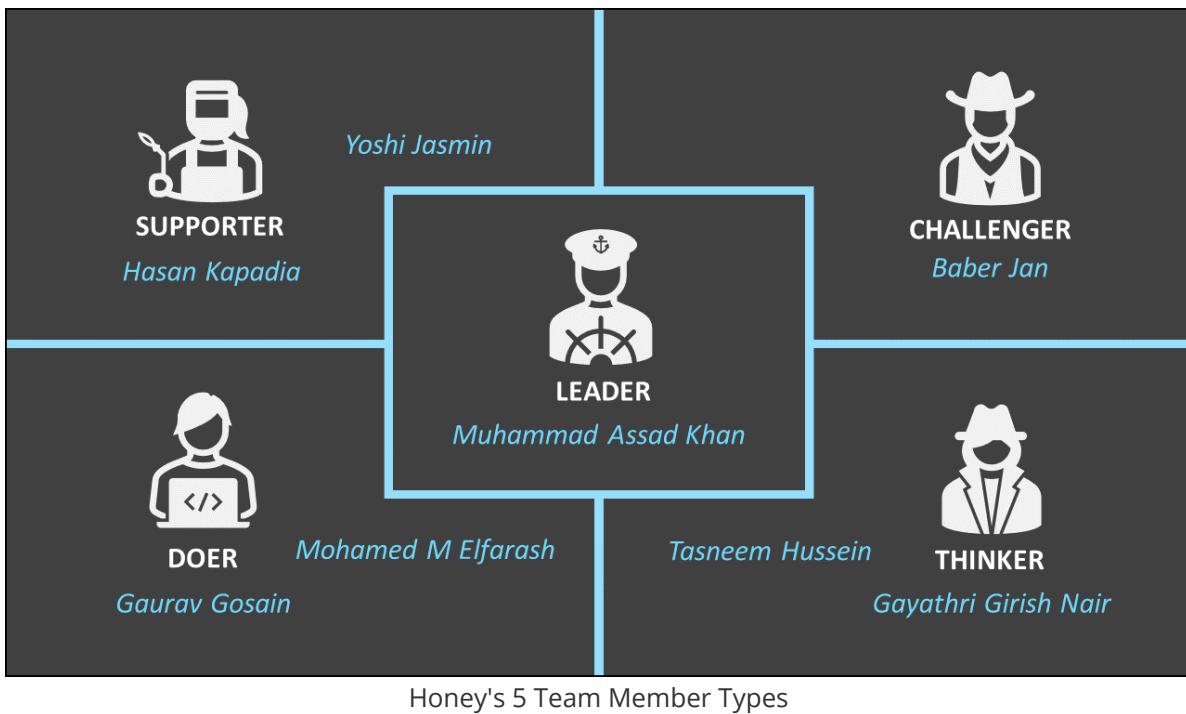
SWOT Analysis Square

Based on observations and after discussion, following roles were initially decided upon. However, it was decided that all members would contribute to all areas of developments. The allocated roles would mean that every member would oversee/guide activities that would fall under his/her role description.

- Baber Jan - Back-End Lead Developer & **Scrum Master**
- Gaurav Gosain - Front-End Lead Developer
- Gayathri Girish Nair - Programmer & Designer
- Hasan Kapadia - **Team Leader** & Database Lead Developer
- Mohamed M Elfarash - Programmer & Documentation In Charge
- Muhammad Assad Khan - Programmer & Report In Charge
- Tasneem Hussein - Graphic Design Lead & Programmer
- Yoshi Jasmin - Application Testing In Charge & Programmer

Towards the end of stage1, it was a collective decision to appoint Muhammad Assad Khan as the new leader as the previous leader was unable to fully commit to oversee the team due to personal issues. Later during stage 3, Baber Jan who is our scrum master, was appointed as the project manager/acting team lead since Assad was unable to contribute on account of having to stick to a recovery regimen following medical eye procedures. As we worked together, each members' true strengths surfaced and it became clearer where each member's primary capabilities were.

Following is a categorization of members as per their primary aptitude adhering to **Honey's 5 Team Member Types**.



Honey's 5 Team Member Types

- **Leader:** Ensures clear objectives, collective involvement and commitment.
- **Challenger:** Questions effectiveness, presses for improvement and results.
- **Doer:** Is practical, reminds team to keep moving and thereby drives team forward.
- **Thinker:** Produces carefully considered ideas and critically reflects upon other ideas/achievements.
- **Supporter:** Maintains team harmony and helps carry out/complete tasks.

That said, it was observed that collective efforts undertaken by the team led to all members qualifying to befit many of the above categories at various stages of design, development and documentation.

4.1.2. Team Work

Was the group organization successful? How well did your group collaborate?

Throughout development, all members were willing to collaborate and have always tried to produce good work. Even though members were allocated primary roles(see section 4.1.1), the group shared responsibility fairly equally. Challenging situations like when the leader was re-appointed and when the leader got sick was thus, less damaging and the team was still able to produce good work during these situations.

Having members who had fine tuned programming skills as well as those who were proficient at organizing work, making plans, producing documentation, creating diagrams, critical analysis, coming up with designs and presenting content meant that the team was well balanced. This mix of skills allowed for members to compliment each other well.

A team member skilled at a particular task would guide others and draft a plan as to how to approach that task and all members would collaborate and contribute their portions to aid in completion of that task. A notable example of this system in action is the report generation process. One member who was skilled at organizing content, visualizing data and presenting information would be appointed to draft and oversee the report. This member would begin work on the report early on, decide what to put in it and appoint other members to contribute some parts of the report. Every member would submit their parts to the report in-charge and this person would go on and compile the report, ensure uniformity and get it ready to submit. Since scrum was already used by the team in software implementation, it was decided that we would

use scrum to produce documents, plans and the report by identifying their parts and dividing the work and monitoring our daily progress along the way in short sprints.

In all instances where one member had tried to implement a feature but failed/if it needed improvement, either another member would go ahead and complete that task or would act as a guide helping complete it. For example, the functionality of creating/deleting/sharing collections was implemented in stage 2 by a member. Whilst functionality was achieved, it was a raw version with very basic CSS and styling. This was later in stage 3, improved by another member to adhere to the theme of the application. Also, by stage 3, the team had gained more experience and a member had implemented a new layout for image upload. Since this was superior to what was already in place, the team decided that this member would go ahead and replace the current mechanism in the app with this better one thus improving the overall quality of the application.

[**MORE ...**](#)

4.1.3. Overcoming Problems

How did you handle any problems which arose?

Following are few problems that the team had faced and methods that were adopted to combat them.

1. Lack of Communication

Problem

Since we intended on following the scrum framework that implements the agile approach of project management, it was required that 4 key meetings or in the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, online meetings were to be held consistently to review work, share updates and make plans. It was observed early on that all members were unable to make it to these meetings on Microsoft Teams due to various issues (network related/health related/academic pressure). Although the team took efforts at having at least 1 meeting per sprint, 4 meetings (sprint planning meeting, daily scrum meeting, review meeting and retrospection meeting) was not taking place. After the 1st 2 sprints of stage 1, this issue was evident. It was recognized that since academic pressure would only increase as the semester progressed and that later stages (stage 2 and 3) being software implementation heavy, demanded following scrum with good, regular communication in order to successfully produce a working application. Thus, something had to be done.

Solution

Regular meetings are a key part of the scrum framework. It ensures that members are aware of the progress made, what to and by when to do it at all moments in development. It was decided that since the reasons for not being able to commit to meeting via MS Teams 4 times a sprint and daily for the daily scrum were legitimate an alternative approach to discuss needed topics, one that was sustainable and reliable in the long run had to be set.

The team decided to create 2 specialized work only WhatsApp groups that would be a means of information exchange every day. The 1st group was a "Discussion" group where members were allowed to discuss any ideas / implementation techniques / problems faced with a tasks / possible solutions to problems with each other. The second group was called the "Daily Scrum" group where every member would report their daily scrum reports (what was achieved yesterday, what will be achieved today) every morning and the scrum master after having discussed with the group in previous MS Teams meeting as well as in the Discussion group, will assign tasks to each member at the beginning of a new sprint. The WhatsApp

groups had the added advantage that chats could be exported and viewed to review discussions or decisions that were previously taken.

Also, the team at this point decided to take 2-3 days time to learn to use GitHub well and push all work to our GitHub repository regularly.

2. Unable to Find Files

Problem

All stages of development involved production of various files (documents, images, excel sheets etc.). These files were shared via the WhatsApp discussion group and thus would get lost amongst conversation. This meant that files shared in the past were hard to find among conversations.

Solution

This problem was addressed though the simple yet effective decision to create one more WhatsApp group for the sole purpose of sharing files only. Web WhatsApp allowed file to be uploaded from and downloaded to our laptops/PCs with ease. Also, for parts of development that required a lot of common files like code/the report, it was decided that these files may also be stored on GitHub repositories where members can easily access and update them.

3. Too much of a good thing, a bad thing?

Problem

Because every decision was discussed and because every member always had inputs and wanted the best, there were often a lot of different approaches to solving a particular problem and clash of ideas/opinions was frequent. There was a tendency to overthink and get stuck thinking about details which would lead to decision paralysis and one idea could not be chosen over another as both would be possible ways to implement a feature.

Solution

Such problems became less prevalent as the team continued to work together. Soon there was more trust amongst members and one member simply trusted the other to implement the best possible solution to a problem. An understanding was reached where it was decided that every member would try and implement their appointed feature within the sprint upholding minimum standards. If the member managed to finish the feature before the sprint ended then he/she would spend time improving it. Else, that member was to move on to the next task until there came an opportunity when this feature could be improved either by the same person who first implemented it or by someone else in a later sprint. Decision dilemmas would also be solved via voting or asking for the line manager's view.

4. ReactJS Learning Curve

Problem

ReactJS is a powerful tool as it allows for the creation of reusable components and implement complex html, javascript, css interation via JSX. But Learning it proved very difficult as concepts of states, life cycle functions, hooks etc in ReactJS in conjunction with google firebase services was hard to understand and grasp at enough depth to be able to achieve a functionality.

Solution

It was decided that trying to implement a feature with little knowledge would inevitably result in mistakes that would ultimately be costly. So, it was decided that it would be better in the long run for members to take up-to a week or two to learn React and how it works before implementing core functionalities/complex functionalities. This meant that some time would be lost and the pre-planned initial schedule for implementation designed in scrum 1 would not be able to be strictly followed. But the agile approach meant that later sprints

could be tweaked to account for this necessity and hence the team proceeded to implement the simplest features / features using concepts grasped first before tackling more complex systems.

5. Need to Update Database after Regular Intervals.

Problem

For some parts of the app like challenges, there was a need to check after regular intervals say 24 hours, if whether a challenge was still open or not. In such scenarios an action such as loading of the challenges was what was used to trigger the checking. This is not the best way since if a challenge closed after 24 hours while a user was viewing already loaded challenges, then this change would not show up.

Solution

To combat this issue as well as to implement all other periodic testing like checking for user content / bug report regularly, an ubuntu server was leased and programmed to regularly do this.

GIVE MORE DETAIL IN SERVER PART ...

4.1.4. Sticking To Schedule

How successful were the timings in your original plan?

The initial schedule drafted in Stage 1 was based off of speculated dates and approximations as to when we would have our demo, how long it would take to learn ReactJS, how successful we would be at implementing a particular core system within the application would be. These dates were not expected to be hit precisely as it was expected that not every iteration would result in a functional increment. Thus, there was quite a bit of deviation from the original plan as if a sprint resulted in partially implemented features then those would be pushed to next sprints and this would deviate from the original plan even more.

PRE-PLANNED Vs IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OBSERVATIONS TABLE						
Stage 1	Main Tasks	No. of Days Ahead of Schedule	No. of Days Behind Schedule	No. of Days On Schedule	No. of Scheduled Days	Deviation (In a perfect world = 0 days)
	Team Building	0	6	5	5	6
	Requirements Engineering	0	0	28	32	4
	Prototype Development	0	1	24	24	1
	Usability Tests and Mock ups	0	1	17	16	2
	Design UML diagrams	15	0	19	20	16
	Project Costing	0	12	0	10	22
	Risk Analysis	9	0	0	10	19
	Review and Changes	0	0	3	6	3
	Stage 1 Submission	0	0	1	1	0
On Average :		3	2	11	14	8
Stage 2	Main Tasks	No. of Days Ahead of Schedule	No. of Days Behind Schedule	No. of Days On Schedule	No. of Scheduled Days	Deviation (In a perfect world = 0 days)
	Group Meeting for Stage 2 Discussion	0	6	5	5	6
	Task/Role Allocation	0	0	28	32	4
	Company Website	0	2	5	5	2
	User Account System	1	14	7	7	15
	User Interaction System	0	14	15	15	14
	Content Creation System	13	7	10	10	20
	Overall app review with line manager and group	0	1	5	5	1
	Preparation for demonstration	0	0	1	3	2
	Demonstration	2	0	1	1	2
Report Final Touches		NEW (this task was not scheduled)				2
Stage 2 Submission		0	0	1	1	0
On Average :		2	4	8	8	6
Stage 3	Main Tasks	No. of Days Ahead of Schedule	No. of Days Behind Schedule	No. of Days On Schedule	No. of Scheduled Days	Deviation (In a perfect world = 0 days)
	Group meeting for Stage 3 Discussion	0	0	2	2	0
	Task/Role Allocation	0	38	0	8	46
	Game Mechanics System	0	24	0	8	32
	Application Improvement System	0	31	0	8	39
	Notification System	0	20	0	5	25
	Documentation	6	18	6	6	24
	Usability Tests and Mock ups	0	13	0	15	28
	User Interaction System	NEW (this task was not scheduled)				28
	Project Evaluation	0	6	1	4	9
Final app review with group		0	1	1	2	2
Pending Work Completion and Refining		NEW (this task was not scheduled)				8
Overall app review with line manager		2	0	0	3	5
Preparation for demonstration		0	0	2	7	5
Demonstration		5	0	0	1	6
Stage 3 Submission		0	0	1	1	0
On Average :		1	12	1	5	17

Pre Planned Vs Implementation Schedule Observations Table

From above table, it can be observed that the in stage 1, implementation of every Main Task saw an average deviation of 8 days per task, stage 2 of 6 days and stage 3 of 17 days. Note that this deviation takes into account both instances where a task was started ahead of schedule, where one was stretched behind schedule and where one finished earlier.

With this in mind, stage 1 was the most successful as it only had 1 main task that was completed behind schedule with a 12 day deviation and the other 2 tasks behind scheduled had a deviation of 6/only 1 day.

Stages 2 and 3 however saw more deviation. This was expected as these stages involved more code implementation and few functionalities in almost every sprint would only be partially achieved or achieved at a very basic level needed improvement later. This would cause more deviation as dates for these tasks had to be reallocated.

The fact that the team had to take some time at the beginning of stage 3 to understand some more advanced ReactJS concepts like async functions, higher order components etc and some basic features that weren't yet fully understood better, led to the major deviation from the original plan. Moreover, our leader being unable to contribute due to medical eye procedures and thus a prescribed curb of screen time also led to few deviations.

The choice to adopt scrum and extra efforts by all members in stage 3 is what led to successful implementation of the application. All core functionalities that had remained was eventually implemented in iterations via revised implementation plans made after every sprint.

This journey can be observed in detail in the 4.2.1 (Implementation Schedule) section of this report.

From this experience the team has reflected that the initial plan made in stage 1 had underestimated the learning curve that members had with respect to ReactJS and didn't have much wiggle room. Also, from above table it can be seen that 3 main tasks were added that were not accounted for in the initial plan.

Opportunities for learning and completion that agile provided and the team's commitment to it made it possible to complete all planned tasks. In stage 3, it was observed that after the team took the time to learn and practice react, that in combination to the fact that the team was by now used to the scrum framework let to members being more productive. This boost in performance achieved though learning and cooperation is what led to a final finished product.

4.2. Implementation

4.2.1. Implementation Schedule

What was your implementation schedule? How did the implementation schedule differ from the original plan?

The implementation schedule drawn from the "**Aperture Project Diary**" can be viewed below in 3 tables. One for stage1, stage2 and stage3 respectively. The "Success Measure" column ranging from 1 to 3 stars depict how successful/effective at getting work done, each sprint was.



Stage : 1							Duration :								
Sprint #	Task #	To Do	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Completion Status	Task Category	Increments/Achievements		Sprint Start Date	Sprint End Date	Success Measure				
N/A	1	Communication Setup	27-Sep-20	27-Sep-20	✓	Team Building	# Team got Aquainted # Discussed development plan # Discussed possible technology # Flutter? / Dart? / NodeJS? / Django?/ React? Etc # Leader = HASAN KAPADIA		27-Sep-20	4-Oct-20	★★★				
	2	1st Group Meeting	28-Sep-20	28-Sep-20	✓										
	3	Group Leader Election	30-Sep-20	30-Sep-20	✓										
	4	SLDC Model Discussion	1-Oct-20	1-Oct-20	✓										
1	1	Team Discussions	6-Oct-20	7-Oct-20	✓	Team Building		# Fixed meeting dates and times # More discussion about what technology.	5-Oct-20	11-Oct-20	★★				
	2	Reading & Understanding Spec	10-Oct-20	11-Oct-20	✓	Requirements Engineering									
	3	Designing FRs & NFRs	11-Oct-20	11-Oct-20	✗										
2	1	Reading & Understanding Spec	12-Oct-20	13-Oct-20	✓	Requirements Engineering	# Determined team roles # FRs & NFRs identified # Design and Logo discussions undertaken # Company name determined		12-Oct-20	18-Oct-20	★★★				
	2	Designing FRs & NFRs	13-Oct-20	15-Oct-20	✓										
	3	Group Discussion Regarding URs	16-Oct-20	17-Oct-20	✓										
	4	Initial Low Fidelity Prototype Design	15-Oct-20	17-Oct-20	✓	Prototype Development	# Divided app into subsystems								
3	1	Compile All URs from each member	20-Oct-20	22-Oct-20	✓	Requirements Engineering	# FRs & NFRs established # Use Cases determined		19-Oct-20	25-Oct-20	★★★				
	2	Combine URs & Sub-Urs	23-Oct-20	24-Oct-20	✓		# Risk Analysis done								
	3	Risk Analysis	22-Oct-20	25-Oct-20	✓	Documentation UML Diagrams	# Division of work for report complete								
	4	Determine Use Cases	23-Oct-20	25-Oct-20	✓										
4	1	Refine FRs & NFRs	26-Oct-20	1-Nov-20	✓	Requirements Engineering Prototype Development	# Rough version of the final report produced # Designed Prototype # FRs & NFRs refined		26-Oct-20	1-Nov-21	★★★				
	2	Created Prototype	29-Oct-20	1-Nov-20	✓										
5	1	Prototype to Upload Photos	2-Nov-20	4-Nov-20	✓	Prototype Development	# Discussed possible data storage options # Discussed possible website hosting options		2-Nov-20	8-Nov-20	★★★				
	2	Prototype for Usability Tests	5-Nov-20	8-Nov-20	✓		# Use Cases refined # Mock Up created								
	3	Refine Use Cases	6-Nov-20	8-Nov-20	✓	UML Diagrams									
6	1	Create Questionnaires & Surveys	9-Nov-20	12-Nov-20	✗	Usability Tests & Mock Ups	# Compiled every member's work. # Leader Change, new leader = MUHAMMAD ASSAD KHAN		9-Nov-20	15-Nov-20	★★				
	2	Conduct Usability Tests with GDPR	13-Nov-20	15-Nov-20	✗		# Usability Studies development begun								
	3	Refine Use Cases	9-Nov-20	11-Nov-20	✓	UML Diagrams	# Class Diagram created								
	4	Compile & Assess Work	11-Nov-20	12-Nov-20	✓										
	5	Create Class diagrams	12-Nov-20	15-Nov-20	✓										
7	1	Create Questionnaires & Surveys	16-Nov-20	17-Nov-20	✗	Usability Tests & Mock Ups	# Designed usability Tests # Started usability report		16-Nov-20	22-Nov-20	★				
	2	Conduct Usability Tests with GDPR	17-Nov-20	19-Nov-20	✗		# Project costing drafted								
	3	Tabulate Test Results	20-Nov-20	22-Nov-20	✗										
	4	Project Costing	18-Nov-20	22-Nov-20	✓	Documentation UML Diagrams	# Refined Report								
	5	Refine Use Cases	16-Nov-20	19-Nov-20	✓										
	6	Create State Machine, Sequence Diagrams, etc	15-Nov-20	22-Nov-20	✓										
8	1	Create Questionnaires & Surveys	23-Nov-20	23-Nov-20	✓	Usability Tests & Mock Ups	# Questionnaires created # Usability testing undertaken		23-Nov-20	25-Nov-20	★★★				
	2	Conduct Usability Tests with GDPR	24-Nov-20	25-Nov-20	✓		# Refined Report								
	3	Tabulate Test Results	24-Nov-20	25-Nov-20	✓	UML Diagrams									
	4	Compile, Review & refine UML diagrams	23-Nov-20	25-Nov-20	✓										
	5	Review and Changes	23-Nov-20	25-Nov-20	✓	Documentation									
N/A	N/A	Submission	26-Nov-20	26-Nov-20	✓	N/A	N/A		26-Nov-20	26-Nov-20	★★★				

Project Diary Stage 1



Stage : 2							Duration :			17-Dec-20	to	04-Feb-21	
Sprint #	Task #	To Do	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Completion Status	Task Category	Increments/Achievements		Sprint Start Date	Sprint End Date	Success Measure		
-	1	Group Meeting for Stage 2 Discussion	17-Dec-20	17-Dec-20	✓	Stage Initialization	# discussed plans for stage 2 # created website plan = Home page, About us page, Contact us page, Projects page		17-Dec-20	18-Dec-20	★★★		
1	1	Website Design Discussion	19-Dec-20	19-Dec-20	✓	Company Website	# technology to use for website finalized. # discussed website look and feel # discussed Legal requirements # discussed Terms & conditions # discussed Security policy # discussed Privacy policy # discussed Cookies # discussed w3c rules and GDPR # decided and implemented the website theme # website development began # testing was done in parallel # stage 2 report started # everyone began familiarising themselves with ReactJS and Firestore	19-Dec-20	25-Dec-20	★★★			
	2	Website code Implementation	19-Dec-20	25-Dec-20	✓								
2	3	Account Database Implementatio	26-Dec-20	28-Dec-20	✓	User Account System	# continued development	26-Dec-20	1-Jan-21	★★★			
	4	Account Database Testing	28-Dec-20	29-Dec-20	✓								
	5	Account Database Documentation	30-Dec-20	30-Dec-20	✓								
3	1	Homepage Implementation	3-Jan-21	5-Jan-21	✓	User Interaction System	# created React App boilerplate # work began on the 3 systems: Login and Account, Content Creation, User Interaction System # basic image editing done # accessing camera part done # login functionality implemented # overlays done # map view implemented	2-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	★★			
	2	User content Database Implementation	5-Jan-21	6-Jan-21	✓		# creating/sharing/deleting a post logic implemented # uploading a photo to a post from device storage or accessing the device camera and taking real time photos implementation started						
	4	Map View	5-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	✗		# portfolio view implementation started # gdpr regulations reviewed # explored react routing # signup implementation started # user profile implementation done # add/delete collections implementation done						
	3	Coding Channels	5-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	✗								
	5	Uploading Photos	7-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	✓	Content Creation System	# multiple image posts feature added						
	6	Coding Photo filters/effects	7-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	✓		# continued stage 2 report # validation implemented # firestore & google auth set up refined						
	7	User Portfolio	5-Jan-21	8-Jan-21	✗								
4	1	Login/Signup Form Implementation, Testing Documentation	9-Jan-20	13-Jan-20	✓	User Account System	# completed pending portfolio, channels, GPS # continued implementing edit photo, login, sign up	9-Jan-21	15-Jan-21	★★			
	2	Coding Photo filters/effects	9-Jan-21	12-Jan-21	✓	User Interaction System	# multiple image posts feature added						
	3	Implementation of comments/liking/rating	10-Jan-21	12-Jan-21	✗		# continued stage 2 report # validation implemented						
	4	Testing	15-Jan-21	15-Jan-21	✓		# firestore & google auth set up refined						
	5	Map View	13-Jan-21	15-Jan-21	✗								
5	1	Implementation of comments/liking/rating	16-Jan-21	17-Jan-21	✗	User Interaction System	# newsfeed page set up # human detection implemented	16-Jan-21	22-Jan-21	★			
	2	Chat system coding	16-Jan-21	21-Jan-21	✗		# channel post added # continued report						
	3	Map View	17-Jan-21	18-Jan-21	✗		# forgot password added # testing and fixing done						
	4	Documentation	17-Jan-21	17-Jan-21	✓	Content Creation System	# chat system added						
	5	Coding Collections	18-Jan-21	21-Jan-21	✓		# rating implementation started						
	6	Coding Channels	22-Jan-21	22-Jan-21	✓								
6	1	Coding Channels	23-Jan-21	23-Jan-21	✓	Content Creation System	# completed pending portfolios, GPS, ratings, channels # fixed CSS # implemented follow and unfollow users	23-Jan-21	29-Jan-21	★★			
	2	Uploading Photos	22-Jan-21	23-Jan-21	✓								
	3	User Portfolio	25-Jan-21	25-Jan-21	✗								
	4	Testing	24-Jan-21	25-Jan-21	✓								
	5	Documentation	26-Jan-21	27-Jan-21	✓	User Interaction System	# implemented subscribe to channels # refined user upload images # group chat refined						
	6	Map View	24-Jan-21	24-Jan-21	✓								
	7	Implementation of comments/liking/rating	23-Jan-21	24-Jan-21	✓								
	8	Overall app review + fixes	28-Jan-21	29-Jan-21	✓	Overall app review with line manager and group	# implemented become friends functionality						
7	1	Overall app review + testing + fixes	30-Jan-21	1-Feb-21	✓	Overall app review with line manager and group	# user consent form added # feedback forum implementation started	30-Jan-21	2-Feb-21	★★			
	2	Preparation for demonstration	1-Feb-21	1-Feb-21	✓	Preparation for demonstration	# gaming forum implementation started						
	3	Chat system coding	30-Jan-21	31-Jan-21	✓	User Interaction System	# continued pending chat system						
	4	Forums	31-Jan-21	3-Feb-21	✗	Content Creation System	# add comment functionality implemented						
	5	User Portfolio	1-Feb-21	2-Feb-21	✗		# stage 2 final testing and fixing done						
N/A	N/A	Demonstration	2-Feb-21	2-Feb-21	✓	N/A	N/A	2-Feb-21	2-Feb-21	★★★			
8	1	Report Final Touches	3-Feb-21	4-Feb-21	✓	Report Final Touches	# stage 2 report refined	3-Feb-21	3-Feb-21	★★★			
N/A	N/A	Stage 2 Submission	4-Feb-21	4-Feb-21	✓	N/A	N/A	4-Feb-21	4-Feb-21	★★★			

Project Diary Stage 2



Stage : 3							Duration :							
Sprint #	Task #	To Do	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Completion Status	Task Category	Increments/Achievements		Sprint Start Date	Sprint End Date	Success Measure			
-	1	Group meeting for Stage 3 Discussion	5-Feb-21	6-Feb-21	✓	Group meeting for Stage 3 Discussion Task/Role Allocation	# app made installable as a native app through all major browsers.		5-Feb-21	6-Feb-21	★★★			
	2	Task/Role Allocation	6-Feb-21	6-Feb-21	✓		# app made installable as a native app through all major browsers.							
1	1	Testing	7-Feb-21	10-Feb-21	✓	Stage Initialization	# Testing & fixing done # Learning ReadJS continued		7-Feb-21	13-Feb-21	★★★			
2	2	Documentation	11-Feb-21	13-Feb-21	✓		# Testing & fixing done # Learning ReadJS continued							
3	1	Testing	14-Feb-21	19-Feb-21	✓	Stage Initialization	# Testing & fixing done # Learning ReadJS continued		14-Feb-21	20-Feb-21	★★★			
4	2	Documentation	20-Feb-21	21-Feb-21	✓		# Testing & fixing done # Learning ReadJS continued							
3	1	Notification System Implementation	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✓	Notification System	# Implemented the feedback forum # Implemented using device camera for mobile device		21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	★★★			
	3	Implement Group Chat	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✓		# notification system implemented # Firebase security rules set up							
	4	Challenges Implementation	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# Group Chat implemented # challenge creation implemented							
	5	Leaderboard Implementation	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✓		# challenges page implemented # leaderboard section started							
	6	Implement Firebase Security Rules	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✓	Backend	# MUHAMMAD ASSAD KHAN = leader + in charge of stage 3 report undergoes surgery :(
	7	Notification System Implementation	28-Feb-21	4-Mar-21	✓									
4	2	Forums implementation	1-Mar-21	3-Mar-21	✓	User Interaction System	# continued implementing challenges		28-Feb-21	6-Mar-21	★★			
	3	Leaderboard Implementation	28-Feb-21	6-Mar-21	✗		# continued implementing notification system							
	4	Points Logic	2-Mar-21	5-Mar-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# continued leaderboards # points logic added							
	5	Challenges Implementation	28-Feb-21	6-Mar-21	✓		# forums implementation started							
	6	Stage 3 Report	21-Feb-21	27-Feb-21	✗	Documentation	# continued implementing firebase rules							
	7	Implement Firebase Security Rules	28-Feb-21	6-Mar-21	✓									
5	1	Leaderboard Implementation	7-Mar-21	11-Mar-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# continued pending leaderboards # continued firebase rules		7-Mar-21	13-Mar-21	★★			
	2	Implement rewards	8-Mar-21	13-Mar-21	✓		# seasons logic added # leagues & badges based on profile points added							
	3	Stage 3 Report	7-Mar-21	13-Mar-21	✗	Documentation	# Due to previous leader still recovering, new acting leader/project manager = BABER JAN.							
6	1	Testing + Documentation	14-Mar-21	17-Mar-21	✓	Notification System	# did app testing & fixing		14-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	★★			
	2	Implement Firebase Security Rules	17-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✓		# continued leaderboards							
	3	Leaderboard Implementation	14-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✓	Backend	# continued firebase rules							
	4	Implement rewards	17-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✗		# completed pending season logic							
	5	Challenges Implementation	15-Feb-21	16-Mar-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# continued challenges # announcing the fastest growing channel of the month FR added							
	5	Points Logic	17-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✓		# fixed CSS # continued ranking system							
	6	Implement Tagging in photos	14-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✓	User Interaction System	# added location to a challenge							
	7	Overall app review with line manager	20-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✓		# made a report about what is accomplished and what is left							
	8	Stage 3 Report	14-Mar-21	20-Mar-21	✗	Documentation	# checked that implementation is in sync with frs and use cases							
7	1	Stage 3 Report	21-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	✓	Documentation	# tags in a photos added		21-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	★★			
	2	Implement rewards	21-Mar-21	24-Mar-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# google maps billing issue fixed							
	3	Implement server side logic	21-Mar-21	24-Mar-21	✓	Backend	# MUHAMMAD ASSAD KHAN still recovering. So report handed over to = GAYATHRI GIRISH NAIR.							
	4	Implement database for user reports	22-Mar-21	22-Mar-21	✓	Application Improvement System	# An ubuntu server was leased for the team by our line manager, Dr. HANI RAGAB.							
	5	Report content/bugs	21-Mar-21	23-Mar-21	✓	Game Mechanics System	# continued pending seasons logic							
	6	Testing + Documentation	24-Mar-21	24-Mar-21	✓	Project Evaluation	# work on report continued							
	7	Testing + Documentation	21-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	✓	Pending Work Completion and Refining	# project evaluation							
	8	Project Evaluation	21-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	✗	Project Evaluation	# implemented server side logic							
	8	Complete pending work and refine work from previous sprints	21-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	✗	Pending Work Completion and Refining	# updating leaderboards daily functionality implemented							
N/A	N/A	Demonstration	28-Mar-21	28-Mar-21	✓	N/A	N/A		28-Mar-21	28-Mar-21	★★★			
9	1	First Report Touches	29-Mar-21	31-04-2021	✓	Final Report Touches	# finalized report		29-Mar-21	31-Mar-21	★★★			
	2	Tabulate Usability Test Results	30-Mar-21	30-Mar-21	✓	Usability Tests and Mock ups	# analysed usability test results							
N/A	N/A	Stage 3 Submission	1-Apr-21	1-Apr-21	✓	N/A	N/A		1-Apr-21	1-Apr-21	★★★			

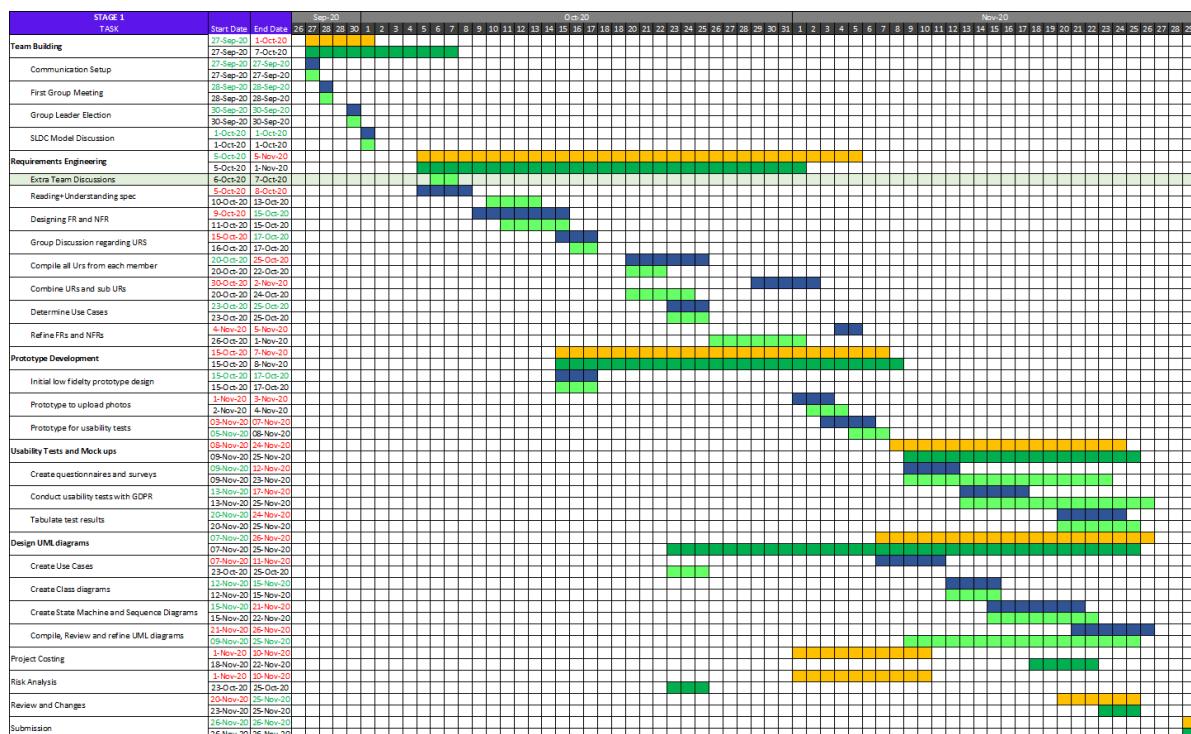
Project Diary Stage 3

It can be observed that stage 1 was successful for the most part with all functionalities tasks completed. Then stage 2 was less successful than stage 1 since there were more tasks that had to be rescheduled as can be seen from sprints 4 and 5. Also gaming and feedback forums could not be fully functional at the end of the stage. They were functional but were very basic versions with just basic functionality and no CSS styling at the end of stage 2. This did not meet the definition of "done" as this late stage in sprint 7 since only one sprint was left. Thus these 2 forums were held from officially becoming part of the submitted version for stage 2 and became integrated into the application after being fully functioning at stage 3.

Below are the charts with the plan for each stage made in stage 1. The dates from actual implementation schedule was added to this in order to view a comparison.

Notes to consider when reading the charts

- The days marked in orange and blue are from the original plan with the orange dates corresponding to main tasks and blue ones to sub tasks.
 - Similarly, all green/red colored squares stand for days from the actual implementation schedule that followed agile. Dark green squares correspond to main tasks and light green ones to sub tasks that were successfully implemented. Red squares show tasks that could not be implemented (the forums in stage 2).
 - The rows colored a pale green are tasks that were added in the implementation plan and didn't exist in the original plan.
 - The dates in green are dates from the original plan that was exactly hit by the dates from the implementation plan. and the red date are those that were not.



Implementation Comparison Chart Stage 2

Implementation Comparison Chart Stage 3

The above comparison chart data was used to extract the Pre Planned Vs Implementation Schedule Observations Table from section 4.1.4 (Sticking to Schedule).

4.2.2. Path to Success

provide examples

Was your implementation approach successful (scrum, other, etc)? Why or why not? Use specific examples from your experiences to support your discussion.

Pros

- Initially the team was very lost and awestruck at the massive task that lay ahead. This is when the decision to sit down and **identify systems** that would make up our application proved helpful. Initially 11 systems were identified which was then narrowed down to 6 ...

1. User Account System
2. Content Creation System
3. User Interaction System
4. Game Mechanics System
5. Notification System
6. Application Improvement System

This breakdown of the application allowed the team to develop a wholesome view of what the application would look like and what it would be capable of. We then went on to tackle one system at a time, always beginning by identifying main tasks and implementing them.

- The **flexibility** that **scrum** provides allowed us to implement parts of the app that felt manageable at a given moment knowing that once the team had amassed further knowledge regarding a topic, those very basic versions first implemented in a previous scrum may be revisited, tweaked and refined in a later scrum.
- Having a **scrum master** that regularly discussed with the group and updated with allocated tasks on a weekly basis allowed for the team to always have **an idea about the next most important tasks**. At instances where the team was faced with an especially challenging system like the user interaction system with multiple components like creation/deletion of posts, collections etc, the fact that in an iteration one had to only address a small part of it led to the team being able to divide and conquer it.
- Daily scrums, Scrum Reviews and Retrospection** were a constant reminder of just how much had been and were yet to be achieved every week. Any sprint tasks not achieved this week would be reallocated next week in addition to other tasks. This succeeded at keeping the team on toes and though at variable rates, **weekly sprints ensured that weekly progress was made**.
- Every sprint would culminate in all members reviewing and testing out functions implemented thus far before suggesting fixes/improvements that would be implemented in the next sprint if deemed necessary. These **implement > test > fix > implement next** iterations ensured that the team **produced working parts** of the application almost **every week** and it would be **unlikely** that these parts **would need to be changed later** on. This approach also meant that we would have a new working feature to show our line manager at nearly every meeting.
- Opting **React JS** enabled the team to create **components** that could be **reused** and take advantage of **vast libraries and frameworks** that React supports like Material UI, React Bootstrap etc. Due to React being a popular choice amongst application developers, **finding online tutorials and reading material** on it **was not difficult**.

Cons

- Opting **ReactJS** meant that most of the team had to take the **time to learn** its key features. This resulted in some time in our development journey (Scrums 1 & 2 of stage 3) getting dedicated to learning it. Also, lack of sufficient knowledge of how to achieve a particular task had resulted in slower progress than ideal at several points in Stages 2 and 3 corresponding to implementing complex systems like the user interaction system, game mechanics system and chat feature.
- The constant pressure to produce **daily scrum reports** was at times overwhelming.
- The team was always very active and driven to produce a great product. Every member had **lots of ideas/opinions** to make the application better. Whilst this meant no shortage of options, it also meant that it took **longer to reach a consensus** and would also lead to **disagreements** that had to be resolved from time to time. This scenario was especially prevalent during the **initial stages** of development when the team was just coming together. **By Stage 3**, however, the team was **united** and had understood strengths and the value of each member.

For example...

- A debate as to whether to implement adding posts to challenges by allowing addition of previous posts to a challenge via tags as opposed to allowing new posts dedicated to a challenge to be created by a user that arose in stage 3, culminated in a well thought out blend of both ideas where old posts could be added to challenges via a copy of that post participating in the challenge whilst at the same time enabling users to create new posts exclusive to a challenge.
- A more trivial debate that occurred initially during stage 1 regarding how to represent requirements in the report (table/bullet points) lead to the team spending time discussing about a small detail. Few more similar less significant idea clashes occurred during stage 1.
- This scenario shows how a debate that occurred in stage 3 led to constructive improvement of functionality compared to petty disagreements from stage 1 showing the evolution of the team from a ragtag ensemble of passionate students to a real team that's goal oriented and focused on the betterment of the product.
- Parts of the specification given were ambiguous and sometimes vague like when it was mentioned in that the system would enable users to provide feedback and leave comments, it is confusing because comments are feedback and no further explanation of what feedback ideally looks like here was mentioned. The team understood that such inexplicit areas of the report to be intentional opportunities to allow development teams to come up with unique spins on the application and chose to do just this.

Overall, it is safe to say that our approach was successful in helping keep the team close knit and productive. When problems arose, the team was able to rise to the challenge and brave though it. The milestones we set for ourselves and achieved via sprints, gave us a sense of accomplishment and was a source of motivation in our development journey.

NEED SPECIFIC EXAMPLES...

4.2.3. Tools Used

Which languages, tools, and techniques did you use? How suitable were they?

For project planning and keeping track of progress the following tools were used.

- GitHub was used for version control of all implemented software. It also provides a log of all progress throughout all stages of development. Follow this link to visit the Aperture GitHub Repository maintained by Octech Solutions: <https://github.com/OctechSolutions/Aperature>.

Check out branches and forks to view each member's contributions and the main branch history to see the application's development stages.

- VS Code Editor was used as it can be easily integrated with git and makes pushing to and pulling from GitHub repositories easy.

[MORE ...](#)

4.3. Product

4.3.1. Functionality Achieved / Failed to Achieve

Report achieved functionality. Provide outline summary on functions and then give details. How many of your requirements did you meet? (Example = A table showing to what extent each of the numbered functional requirements have been completed.)

F-UR #	DESCRIPTION
1	Allow users to have an account on the platform. All Sub-URs 1.1, 1.1.a, 1.1.b, 1.1.c, 1.2, 1.3, 1.3.a, 1.3.b, 1.3.c, 1.3.d, 1.4 completed.
2	Allow users to create and share content on the platform. Sub-URs 2.1, 2.1.a, 2.1.b, 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 completed.
3	Allow users to interact with different features of the platform and other users on the platform. Sub-URs 3.1, 3.2, 3.2.a, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.a, 3.4.b, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 completed.
4	Allow users to engage and compete in a gaming system of the platform. All Sub-URs 4.1, 4.1.a, 4.1.b, 4.1.c, 4.1.d1, 4.1.d2, 4.1.e, 4.2, 4.2.a, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.5.a, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.10 completed.
5	Allow users to receive notifications from the system. All Sub-URs 5.1, 5.1.a completed.
6	Allow users to report inappropriate content and give general feedback to the system moderators on the platform. Sub-URs 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5 completed.
NF-UR #	DESCRIPTION
1	The product must have an accessible and diverse design.
2	Users must be able to quickly and easily interact with the platform and the relevant information that is presented.
3	Keep collected personal sensitive data secure by encrypting it.
4	The product must adhere to GDPR requirements.
5	The product should be fully responsive across all the common web browsers (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge), on all mobile and tablet devices (Android, iOS, Windows), while providing a good user experience.
6	The product development should follow W3C Standards
7	Maximum Challenge time is 1 season (3 months)
8	Product should be delivered by 1st of April 2021
9	The product should be snappy and should not take too long to load assets and different pages.
10	Compress the photos before storing them to the database
11	The product should be robust and not susceptible to crashes

Functionality Achieved

FUNCTIONALITY FAILED TO ACHIEVE (PRIORITY = MUST > SHOULD > WOULD > COULD)			
SUB F-UR #	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	REASON FOR FAILURE
2.8	Enable users to run/organize public events. User can start a new tag of events creating a new event and other users can participate by tagging the events in the photos related to the event.	SHOULD	Adding a tag to posts while posting was implemented but allowing for tagging within images was estimated to be a time consuming task. Libraries that might aid in achieving this were searched but no good option was found.
3.13	Make recommendations to platform users about channels they might be interested in. Have an AI embedded in our system that will give suggestion to the users about the channels they might be interested in based on their likes on their home Image feed.	WOULD	A suitable AI model was fairly easy to incorporate into the ReactJS based application was not found. Creating one from scratch was impractical within the given time frame. Since a search allowing users to view channels already exists, the need to invest too much time in this feature with a low priority was not felt and this feature would always be at the bottom of the product backlog.
4.9	The App could feature a "my adventures" view where users can share their adventure stories, interesting experiences and thoughts that occurred to them on their photography journey.	WOULD	This feature was not implemented simply due to shortage of time. It can be easily added in future versions.
6.4	Produce summary report for system moderators concerning overall platform usage.	COULD	Data is collected regarding user reports etc by a server regularly and the firebase db is updated. User reports were fetched from here as raw text and read. Once again, due to a shortage of time, creating a page where this fetched data would be displayed pretty was decided to be an upgrade for later versions.

Functionality Failed to Achieve

In Summary, the vast majority of the Functional Requirements were implemented successfully. The few functionalities that could not be implemented were due to time constraints and upon considering priorities.

Please refer to the Requirements Section of the Appendix to view FR and NFR descriptions in detail.

4.3.2. What's Special?

What is particularly special about your product? Have you included extra features? How robust is your final system?

The App contains Set of Special Features which could be interesting for Users such as ones given below.

- **Image Flipping animation.**

Once Users Upload multiple images to their post they can Flip to the next image smoothly.

- **Map View.**

Users can upload an image and add the GPS Coordinates to it, they will be able to see nearby Posts once they view the Map.

- **Gaming Forum**

Game players can share their photos of achievements, glitches, hints etc.

- **Feedback Forum**

Users can share their photographs/posts to get some feedback possibly from professional photographers.

- **Collections**

Users can create a collection of posts of photos to showcase their collections/variety of photographs or challenge other collectors to take photographs of objects/animals around a particular theme.

- **Portfolio**

Photographers (both hobbyists and professionals) can create portfolios to exhibit their work. It provides an opportunity for users to advertise their best posts and images and users/clients looking for photographers might recruit talent or get recruited.

- **Chat System**

Users can chat with their Friends and Create Group chats easily.

- **Toggle Public/Private Posts**

Creator of a post can toggle the public/private icon on it to make it private/public.

4.3.3. Bugs/Constraints

Are there known bugs or constraints?

Overall, our application is robust, there are currently no bugs that cause the system to crash.

However, there can be a problem with the Bug Report Functionality as some usability test participants encountered an issue while using our application on their phones where in the submit button went under the navigation bar and they found that the layout was overlapping with text fields. One other participant encountered an issue while logging in via phone as once the user refreshed the page the user got logged out. Also, few participants reported that they were able to upload human pictures “**Partially**”. Finally, a user wished that profile picture could also be edited along with other profile points.

To increase the robustness and the overall reliability of the application, most of the reported issues were fixed and taking into consideration a user's wish to edit the his/her profile pic, this was also made possible.

GAURAV, PLEASE REVIEW ...

4.3.4. Usability Test Results

How usable did your subjects find the final system? Include a brief summary of results.

Overall, Aperture received an average usability score of 8.08 out of 10. Most users agree that the app is easy to use, and that they had fun using our application.

Few users found it difficult to navigate through the app and found the chatting system a bit complicated. Also, a lot of users suggested having dark mode in the application as it will be more visually appealing.

The application was improved from the original mock-ups in stage 1. The color scheme and the layout was also changed with extra features added. User feedback has presented us with few bugs to fix and improvements to make. Aperture will continue to improve the system and make sure that all suggestions from users and clients alike are taken on board and considered for future releases.

As a result of these findings, we have successfully achieved the vast majority of the Functional and Non- Functional requirements of the final Application.

Please refer to the Usability Evaluation Section in the Appendix for the Usability Test Plan more data and statistics.

4.4. Project Evaluation Reflection

The experience of developing an app from scratch was an incredible one. Working in a team consisting of people with whom one has never worked before was a unique experience for every member. The team was familiar with the process of developing code from experience gained through the course of their academic life and otherwise. But handling project and team management was a new experience and thus was the most challenging part of the project.

What went well?

- The decision to adopt agile and follow scrum was what ultimately helped account for unexpected outcomes and events and still produce a good, finished product at the end. The power of this approach was truly realized.
- Group collaboration went well. Every member contributed to almost every area of development. Regular brain storming sessions via chat both bought the team closer and led to great ideas for the application.
- The choice to use ReactJS whilst resulting in a learning curve, was still a good one. It allowed for members to create a common component that could be reused in the app. Also, availability of great learning material and many ReactJS compliant libraries and APIs made it possible for the team to develop skill in it and helped to avoid scenarios wherein one had to create every component from scratch.
- The decision was made to use Material UI framework. A lot of thought was put into the look and feel of the application. This was reflected by positive comments regarding the overall feel of the app in that it was "simple and clear" etc, as can be seen from what users liked most in the Usability Evaluation part in the Appendix.

What could have gone better?

- Testing was done after each sprint. All members would simply test their newly implemented code for robustness and correctness. Then each member would do the same after combining the new functionality with the old. Then members would test each others' parts before finally combining them all and testing the whole thing together. This was effective. Few bugs were reported by users during usability tests. But having developed a more elaborate test plan may have helped us to do this testing more efficiently and in lesser time.
- More thought could have been put into the system architecture. Although a basic high level overview was drafted with sub-systems identified and UML diagrams created to aid in understanding them better. More emphasis could have been made on more specific components of the application and how they interact with each other. Scenarios where in similar components like a post component was implemented twice in different regions of the app (main post & challenge post) while instead they could have shared common features and drawn from the same component could have been avoided. Moreover having a detailed components overview would prove useful for the client or any other third party to understand the application better.
- Usability testing for stage 3, could have been done a bit earlier giving more time to implement features that users would like to see. Nonetheless, some requested features like allowing for editing of profile pics after profile relation was still implemented at the end of stage 3.
- While preventing download of post images was an effort at ensuring no copyright violations, the team realizes that not enough thought was put into the legal aspects of the app like "What would the status of a posted image be in terms of the post creator's copyright regarding it?".

Identified means of amendment

- In the event wherein Aperture would be a continuing project, the team hopes to first create a more detailed overview of its components and their relationships with each other. The organized code structure would be used to reverse engineer a detailed overview that would then be inspected for scope of improvement. Once improvements are made, these may be reflected in code. This overview would then be shared with the client thus allowing him/her/them to fully grasp the underlying structure of Aperture. This would also come in handy whilst trying to pinpoint the location of a bug within the application.
 - Usability tests would be conducted right after a working version is available in order to determine possible upgrades/fixes.
 - After discussion with a legal adviser, a copyright policy that Aperture shall set for its users would be drafted. A possible idea could be to allow users to set the copyright license for each post as they create/edit it which would be stored in the database and use of post images would be exercised accordingly.
 - A detailed Test Plan would be drafted and established such that development of all future versions of Aperture would follow this plan.
-

Conclusion

The aim and objective of this document was to highlight all the functionalities completed within the stage 3 deadline and our implementation of all functionalities thus far.

In spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the time constraints there in, we at OcTech Solutions have completed all required requirements as specified by the client with regards to all 6 systems comprising Aperture along with supportive additional functionalities.

Aperture has grown into a successful social media platform where users may both wind down and enjoy sharing photos with each other/showcase their talents and compete with each other in challenges for a thrilling time!

We believe that all the requirements as laid out by the client and his associates have been met. In the future, we hope to upgrade and expand operations of maintenance to cope with the heavy traffic flow through our servers and the databases needed to accommodate new influx of users every day. The concept of "gamification", as specified by our client, has more potential than initially thought by our software development and design team, we feel that the meaningful interactions between people because of this feature and this application is the cornerstone of Aperture!

We at Octech Solutions are ready to Keep Developing the application, and we have the resources to ensure Aperture becomes a global icon.

Visit our company website to find more information about the future of OcTech solutions and the amazing team behind it at <https://octech.herokuapp.com/>.

Visit our deployed Aperture web application as well which is now also a progressive web application on all mobile phones and tablets at <https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>.

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- Simplilearn. (2020, Feb 27).** YouTube Video, "Agile Project Management Tutorial | What Is Agile Project Management? | Simplilearn" visit at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thsFsPnUHRA>
- Development That Pays. (2019, Jan 24).** "Scrum Overview - [Scrum Basics 2019] + FREE Cheat Sheet" and 7 more videos in playlist. Visit at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCJghFbXSPk&list=PLngnoZX8cAn9dlulsZMtqNh-5a1lGGkLS&index=1>

Appendix

Appendix of Supporting Documentation. Any other supporting documentation that might be relevant (Examples = project diaries/report, original implementation plan, marketing material, etc).

Requirements

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

F-UR1 : Allow users to have an account on the platform

F-UR1.1: Allow Users to Sign UP (M) Details Required for Sign Up:

- Name
- Username
- Email
- Password
- Contact Number

- Profile Picture which can be pre-defined avatar picture or their own uploaded photo for which they must give consent to the system

F-UR1.1a: Validate the User Details (M) Verify:

- Username is unique
- Email address
- Password meets the minimum requirements

F-UR1.1b: Have pre-defined avatar pictures for users to choose as profile picture (S)

F-UR1.1c: Give consent forms to user to allow them to upload photo as their profile (S) picture

F-UR1.2: Allow Users to delete their profile (M) Users have the option to permanently delete their profile and erase all their data

F-UR1.3: Allow Users to Login (M) User can login with username/email and password or via their Google account

F-UR1.3a: Validate Login Details (M) Crosscheck input login details with the details in the Database

F-UR1.3b: Allow user to reset password (M) Gives the option for user to reset password, if a user has forgotten their password

F-UR1.3c: Allow user to view their own account details (M)

F-UR1.3d: Allow user to edit their own account details (M) User can update their profile details like name, password, display picture etc.

F-UR1.4: Allow user to logout (M)

F-UR2: Allow users to create and share content on the platform

F-UR2.1: Allow Users to upload photos of objects or animals on the platform (M)

F-UR2.1a: Enable users to upload real-time pictures taken directly from their (M) device camera.

F-UR2.1a1:**** Access the device camera (M)

F-UR2.1b: Enable users to upload photos from their device storage (M)

F-UR2.1b1: Access the device storage (M)

F-UR2.1c: Allow users to associate GPS data with photos (S) Users can choose to use GPS to tag the location in their photos while uploading it

F-UR2.1d: Allow users to add caption to their photos (M) Users can add a small description about the photo while uploading it. It can include model and settings of the camera that was used to take the photo

F-UR2.1e: Allow users to tag objects or public events in their photos (M) Users can associate a specific keyword to an object in the photo or an event to start/participate in the event

F-UR2.1f: Allow User to modify photo while uploading them (M) While Uploading a photo user can choose to

- Apply different photo filters
- Generate GIFs
- Add Stamp Overlays

F-UR2.2: Allow users to share a post of photos (M) A post must contain one photo but can have up-to 10 photos. User can share post on their own

- Profiles
- Portfolios
- Collection

User can share on gaming or feedback forum. Challenge Creator can share a post on their channel Challenge participator can share a post on the challenge.

F-UR2.3: Allow users to delete an uploaded post (M) User can delete their post from their own

- Profiles
- Portfolios
- Collection

User can delete their uploaded post from gaming or feedback forum Challenge Creator can remove their post from their channel Challenge participator can remove their post from the challenge.

F-UR2.4: Enable users to create channel (M)

Users can create channel and will be the channel creator for that channel. Channel will include the following details

- Channel Description
- Channel Theme
- Channel Creator

F-UR2.5: Enable channel creator to delete their channel (M)

F-UR2.6: Enable users to build/remove portfolios (M) Photographers (both hobby and professional) can create portfolios to exhibit their work. An opportunities page where users can advertise their best posts and images and users/clients looking for photographers might recruit talent or get recruited through it

F-UR2.7: Allow users to create/delete collections of photographs (M) Create collection of posts of photos to showcase their collections/variety of photographs or challenge other collectors to take photographs of objects/animals around a particular theme

F-UR2.8: Enable users to run/organize public events (S) User can start a new tag of events creating a new event and other users can participate by tagging the events in the photos related to the event

F-UR3: Allow users to interact with different features of the platform and other users on the platform

F-UR3.1: Allow users to chat with other users (M) Users can chat with other users or a group of other users on the platform

F-UR3.2: Allow users to rate post of other users (M) Users can give up to 3 stars to a post of other users. Users can re-rate a post

F-UR3.2a: Update user profile points based on ratings of their post (M) When a user receives a rating on their post that will be added to their total profile points.

F-UR3.3: Allow users to comment on post or delete their comment from a post (M)

F-UR3.4: Allow user to send or cancel friend requests to other users (M)

F-UR3.4a: Allow user to accept or ignore friend requests of other users (M)

F-UR3.4b: Allow user to remove their friends (M)

F-UR3.5: Allow user to block or unblock other users (M)

F-UR3.6: Enable user to follow or unfollow a channel (M). Users can follow a channel and then can see posts from that channel on their news feed.

F-UR3.7: Have a feedback forum (S) A forum for users to get feedback about their posts from other users (mostly professional photographers). Users can give/delete their feedback on posts on feedback forum to help other users improve their photography skills.

F-UR3.8: Have a gaming forum where users can post hints and glitch about a game (C) Users can share posts about hints and glitches about any game on the gaming forum.

F-UR3.9: Allow user to search for user/channel/challenge (M)

F-UR3.10: Allow Users to checkout user profiles/ channels (M) User can explore a profile of other user to view their profile details and their shared posts or can explore a channel and can view all its posts.

F-UR3.11: Have an image feed for each user (M) Each user will have a news feed that will show them:

- Posts from their friends
- Posts from the channels they follow

F-UR3.12: Have a map view of that will show all the photos near the location of the user (C) Will display a map with all the photos near the location of the user. This is called 'Photo Map'.

F-UR3.13: Make recommendations to platform users about channels they might be (W) interested in. Have an AI embedded in our system that will give suggestion to the users about the channels they might be interested in based on their likes on their home Image feed.

F-UR4: Allow users to engage and compete in a gaming system of the platform

F-UR4.1: Allow users to create and delete challenges (M) Users can create challenges for other users to take photos around a particular theme or a particular location for a fixed amount of time. Challenge creator can add hints about the challenge to help other users complete the challenge.

Challenges can be:

1. Private: Users can only join through invitation from the challenge creator
2. Public: Anyone on the platform can participate. These can be accessed under game section.

Challenge creator can delete their challenge anytime and the challenge creator can delete maximum of 3 challenges in a week.

F-UR4.1a: Have a challenge section (M) Challenge section would display the user all the active challenge he/her has participated in and would feature all the public challenges.

F-UR4.1b: Allow challenge creator to invite other users to participate in their (M) private challenge

F-UR4.1c: Allow users to take part in challenges (M) Users can take part in a challenge by

- Accepting the invite (Private Challenge)
- Joining the challenge from the game section (Public Challenge)

F-UR4.1d: Have a leader board for the challenge (M) Users with highest rated photos will be featured in the challenge leader board

F-UR4.1d1: Show user's position compared to the rest of the users' in the (S) challenge leader board

F-UR4.1d2: Update challenge leader board (M) Update leader board when there is a change in the rating of any photo in the challenge.

F-UR4.1e: Give points and achievements to the winners of a challenge (M) Users with the top 3 position in the challenge will receive extra points on their profile and achievement certification as photo so they can share on the platform

F-UR4.2: Have a Global leader board for users (S) Users will be ranked globally based on their profile points

F-UR4.2a: Show user's position compared to rest of users' in global leader board (S) Display the ranking of the user in the global leader board

F-UR4.3: Have a Global leader board for posts (S) The leader board will show top 10 rated posts

F-UR4.4: Update Global leader board daily (S) Update global leader boards daily at 00:00 GMT

F-UR4.5: Give badges to users at the end of the Season (C) Users will receive badges according to their leagues

- Diamond = Diamond Badge
- Platinum = Platinum Badge
- Legendary = Legendary Badge
- Champion will get a Champion Badge

F-UR4.5a: Reset profile points after every season (C) Reset the profile points of all the users after a 3-month long season ends

F-UR4.6: Allocate users into leagues based on their points (C) Users will be placed into a specific league based on their profile points

- 100 - 500 = Silver League
- 500 - 1000 = Gold League
- 1000 - 1200 = Diamond League
- 1200 < = Platinum League
- Top 100 = Legendary League
- 1st = Champion

F-UR4.7: Announce the fastest growing channel of the month (C)

F-UR4.8: Allow moderator to create weekly public challenge (C)

F-UR4.9: The App could feature a "my adventures" view where users can share their (W) adventure stories, interesting experiences and thoughts that occurred to them on their photography journey

F-UR5: Allow users to receive notifications from the system

F-UR5.1: Have a notification section (S). Users could view their notifications in the notification section.

F-UR5.1a: Send notifications to user (S) Notify users on

- Chat Notifications
- Channel managers will get notified when their channel gets followed
- Channel which they follow uploaded a photo
- Starting of events
- Feedback received
- Comments
- Rating

- Update on reports
- Profile Points
- New Challenge in their area
- Invitation received for a challenge
- Challenge finished
- Badges and achievements

F-UR6: Allow users to report inappropriate content and give general feedback to the system moderators on the platform.

F-UR6.1: Allow users to report a post or comment on a post with inappropriate content (M) Users can report a post if it has a photo which contains a human in it, or they think it is inappropriate for viewership by filling the report form. User can report a comment on a post if they find it inappropriate

F-UR6.2: Allow users to report bugs in the app (M) Users will report if they find any bug in our app by filling the report form

F-UR6.3: Have system moderators to analyze report forms (M) The system moderator will review reported forms and take necessary actions

F-UR6.4: Produce summary report for system moderators concerning overall platform (C) usage.

F-UR6.5: Have an AI system that performs automated photo filtering (C) Have an AI embedded in our system that will remove posts that have photos with humans in it.

NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

NFR-1: The product must have an accessible and diverse design

NFR-2: Users must be able to quickly and easily interact with the platform and the relevant information that is presented

NFR-3: Keep collected personal sensitive data secure by encrypting it

NFR-4: The product must adhere to GDPR requirements

NFR-5: The product should be fully responsive across all the common web browsers (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge), on all mobile and tablet devices (Android, iOS, Windows), while providing a good user experience.

NFR-6: The product development should follow W3C Standards

NFR-7: Maximum Challenge time is 1 season (3 months)

NFR-8: Product should be delivered by 1st of April 2021

NFR-9: The product should be snappy and should not take too long to load assets and different pages.

NFR-10: Compress the photos before storing them to the database

NFR-11: The product should be robust and not susceptible to crashes

Usability Evaluation

Introduction

This document outlines the details for carrying out the usability tests for the Aperture application and the experiment tabulated results. This document aims to highlight areas of improvement to the development team and flaws in the core functionality and system implemented in the final Application.

The stakeholders of this document include but are not limited to:

1. The client and their representatives who fully understand the need for this experiment carried out to meet an intuitive and high usability system's demands.
2. The development team who hope to study the feedback provided and correct any design flaws pointed out to create an intuitive and user-friendly system.

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, no test will take place face to face. Instead, an online consent form, questionnaires, and a Link to the Application will be provided to the test subject so that the subjects can answer the questions provided.

Scope

There is one software application – Aperture.

It is vital that the Application is deployed and performs well in all common web browsers such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge on various operating systems such as IOS and Android. Each user will have their interface and newsfeed tailored to them, which will give the user an immersive and delightful experience.

Each system relies on an intuitive and a visually appealing yet interactive graphical interface which ensures that:

1. Each user has an enjoyable experience with the application and will continue to use it for a healthy extended period of time.
2. Everything is presented clearly and easily to use for people with various levels of computer literacy.

Participants

We expect to have 8-13 subjects from various demographics and computer literacy backgrounds. Ideally, subjects would be of legal age with knowledge of social media applications and varying degrees of knowledge in photography. It is expected that subjects who are our target users would provide more in-depth feedback regarding the application. Possible users include photographers, collectors, environmentalists, zoologists, architects, historians, academics, hobbyists, and video gamers.

TEST PLAN

A test plan contains all techniques and methodologies used to carry out the usability experiment, the different types of data to collect, how data is to be analyzed, the feedback received to improve our application and participant details like demographic, age, computer literacy etc.

Task Scenarios

Questions	Related Requirements
Q7	FR-3.1: Allow users to chat with other users (M). Users can chat with other users or a group of users on the platform
Q8	F-UR3.2: Allow users to rate post of other users (M). Users can give up to 3 stars to a post of other users. Users can re-rate a post. F-UR3.2a: Update user profile points based on ratings of their post (M). When a user receives a rating on their post that will be added to their total profile points. F-UR3.3: Allow users to comment on post or delete their comment from a post (M).
Q9	F-UR5.1d: Have a leader board for the challenge(M). Users with highest rated photos will be featured in the challenge leader board. F-UR5.1d1: Show user's position compared to the rest of the users in the challenge leader board (S). F-UR3.1d2: Update challenge leader board(M). Update leader board when there is a change in the rating of any photo in the challenge.
Q10	F-UR3.11: Have an image feed for each user(M) Each user will have a news feed that will show them posts from their friends and posts from the channels they follow. F-UR3.12: Have a map view of that will show all the photos near the location of the user (C). Will display a map with all the photos near the location of the user. This is called 'Photo Map'.
Q11	F-UR4: Allow users to engage and compete in a gaming system of the platform.

Task scenarios will receive a rating out of 7, from strongly agree to strongly disagree, on the ease of performing specific tasks and navigating throughout the application. On completing said tasks, the test subject will indicate whether they found the task easy to complete or difficult. This will pinpoint specific areas which need to be fixed and improved in the application.

Other questions will be a Likert scaling for the overall intuitiveness, ease of use, understanding, and the app's overall rating. Some questions will also prompt the subjects to provide their thoughts and feedback on the application's overall functionality, and they were also asked if they could provide any suggestion on further improving the functionality and overall usability of the app.

Metrics

Metrics include subjective quantitative data to be collected in each test subject's rating of the application using the Likert rating scale on multiple features and functionalities regarding the application. For the overall application, we shall also request subjects to rate the app out of 10 and then provide descriptive qualitative feedback, which will give us targeted feedback about specific features of the application that the subjects liked or disliked.

Please refer to the Appendix for documents like pre-test and post-test questionnaires, consent form, complete prototype mock-up etc.

TEST PROTOCOL

The test protocol maps out the flow of events the test subject undertakes to evaluate our application's usability in a real world scenario. The qualitative and quantitative data collected from the questionnaires and how each subject successfully interacted with the application will help the development team improve the application.

The following text and questionnaires were presented to users.

Aim

The aim of this experiment is for you to try our newly designed Application known as "**Aperture.**" The application is a new social media platform to interact and upload photos, create portfolios, create collections, and interact with other users while taking part in an implemented gaming aspect consisting of challenges, leader boards, and awards given for achieving a certain number of points. Your privacy is essential to us, and all data will be kept anonymous and confidential. The feedback you provide will give us critical insights regarding the usability and level of the application's intuitiveness, which will help us create a seamless and enjoyable experience

Introduction

First, you will be asked to complete a survey form before the test. It is provided to you. You will be asked to navigate through the Application, answer questions based on excerpts from the Application, and complete simple tasks mentioned in the questionnaire. This study is intended to improve our application only, and no data will be shared with any outside or third-party source. Your privacy is important to us, and your responses will remain anonymous and confidential, so they cannot be traced back to you in any way.

After the test is complete, we will be grateful if you can complete an anonymous questionnaire to collect more feedback for the application.

There is no correct or incorrect answer in the test. Feedback provided based on your interpretation will help us improve the user experience of the application.

Questionnaire

Please test the application before attempting the Questions:

<https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>

Q1. The App is easy to use

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Somewhat Agree
4. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Somewhat Disagree
6. Disagree
7. Strongly disagree

Q2. The Design and layout of the App were clear and understandable.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Somewhat Agree
4. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Somewhat Disagree

- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q3. The App layout is logical

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q4. The App is responsive and user friendly

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q5. It is difficult to navigate through the App

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q6. The App visually appealing

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q7. I can easily send and receive messages from my friends

[\(https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/\)](https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/)

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree

- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q8. I can like and comment on uploaded photos

(<https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>)

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q9. I can easily view the Leaderboards and view my current point status.

(<https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>)

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q10. I can easily view map location of the photo

(<https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>)

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q11. I can easily create and participate in a challenge and invite my friends.

(<https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>)

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree

- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Please state your level of agreement: <https://aperture-by-octech.herokuapp.com/>

Q12. I can easily create a collection of photos and add an uploaded photo from Different user to my collection.

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q13. I can easily create a portfolio to showcase my best work.

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q14. I can report a Bug or inappropriate content in the app easily.

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q15. I can easily tag photos

- 1. Strongly Agree
- 2. Agree
- 3. Somewhat Agree
- 4. Neither agree nor disagree
- 5. Somewhat Disagree
- 6. Disagree
- 7. Strongly disagree

Q16. I can easily edit my personal details.

- 1. Strongly Agree

2. Agree
3. Somewhat Agree
4. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Somewhat Disagree
6. Disagree
7. Strongly disagree

Q17. I can easily delete my account.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Somewhat Agree
4. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Somewhat Disagree
6. Disagree
7. Strongly disagree

USABILITY TEST RESULTS & ANALYSIS

A comprehensive summary will provided for the consensus on the performance of our system. The summary shall include data collection tools like Likert rating scales to quantize how successful the test subject's interaction was and qualitative feedback excerpts on improvements to be made and flaws pointed out.

Quantitative Analysis

The subjects were all Heriot-Watt University students with 10 students in Year 3 and 1 student in Year 2 and 2 students from year 1. All subjects were familiar with other photo-sharing applications, and the Mode range of uploading weekly photos is 1-4, with 7 subjects out of 13 choosing the option, so a substantial majority of the subjects are sharp in using technology. We have a gender ratio of Females to Males as 7:6. The age of our test sample is approximately 18 to 24.

The following results show the demographics and backgrounds of the subjects.

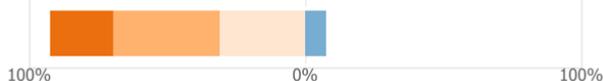
USABILITY TEST RESULTS		
QUESTIONS	OPTIONS	COUNT
Age	18-24	13
	25-40	0
	41-55	0
	55-64	0
	65 or older	0
Gender	Female	7
	Male	6
	Prefer not to say	0
Do you use photo-sharing apps (like Instagram, flicker, etc.)?	Yes	13
	No	0
How many Pictures do you upload weekly on photo-sharing apps (like Instagram, flicker etc.)?	0	5
	1-4	7
	5-7	0
	8+	1
What is your current level of study or are you a faculty member?	Selfies	7
	Photography	9
	Nature	5
	Food Pictures	5
	Fashion	2
	Educational content	1
	Art	3
	Gaming content	3
	None	0
	Other	3
What type of pictures or content do you Upload on you photo- sharing app?	DEP	0
	Year 1	2
	Year 2	1
	Year 3	10
	Year 4	0
	Postgraduate	0
	Faculty	0

Usability Test Results

Chat Page Related Results

█ Strongly Agree
 █ Agree
 █ Somewhat Agree
 █ Neither Agree nor Disagree
 █ Somewhat Disagree
 █ Disagree
█ Strongly Disagree

I can easily send and receive messages from my friends.



Usability Test Results - Chat Page

Out of 13 responses, 23.1% of the responses strongly agreed that they could easily send and receive messages, 38.5% agreed, and 30.8% somewhat agreed, 7.7% Disagreed. The majority of the users had a good experience with the chat page of the application. The consensus of all testers was that the chat page was easy to use.

Rate & Comment on Post Related Results



Usability Test Results - Rate & Comment on Post

Out of the 13 responses, 30.8% of the responses strongly agreed that they could easily rate and comment on uploaded photos, 46.2% agreed, 23.1% somewhat agreed. The majority of the users had a good experience, and the majority of the testers' consensus was that they could efficiently perform the task.

Leaderboards



Usability Test Results - Leaderboards

Out of the 13 responses, 46.2% of the responses strongly agreed to view the Points of the leader board, and 30.8% agreed, 23.1% Somewhat agreed. The consensus of all the subjects was that they found it relatively intuitive to find and view the leader board's Points.

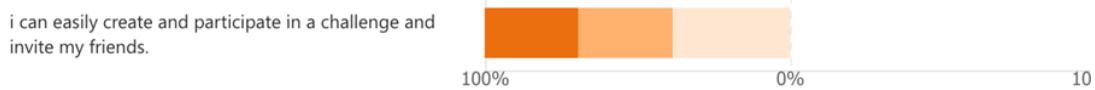
Photo Map



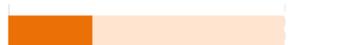
Usability Test Results - Photo Map

Out of the 13 responses, 30.8% strongly agreed that they could easily view the photo's map location on our Photo Map. 23.1% agreed, and 23.1% Somewhat agreed, 15.4% Neither agreed nor disagreed, and 7.7% somewhat disagreed. The consensus was that it was easy and intuitive for our subjects to navigate and view the photo's map location.

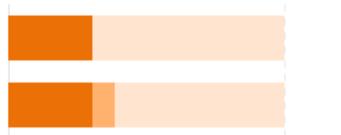
Challenges



The App is easy to use



The Design and layout of the App were clear and understandable.



The App layout is logical.



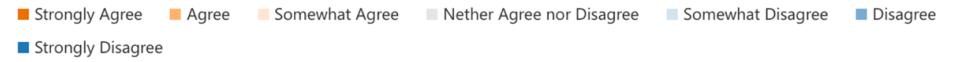
The App is Responsive and user Friendly



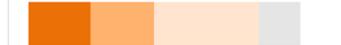
It is difficult to navigate around the App



The App is visually appealing



I can easily create a collection of photos and add an uploaded photo from Different user to my collection.



I can easily create a portfolio to showcase my best work.



I can report a Bug or inappropriate content in the app easily.



I can easily tag photos



I can easily edit my personal details.



I can easily delete my account.



100%

0%

100%

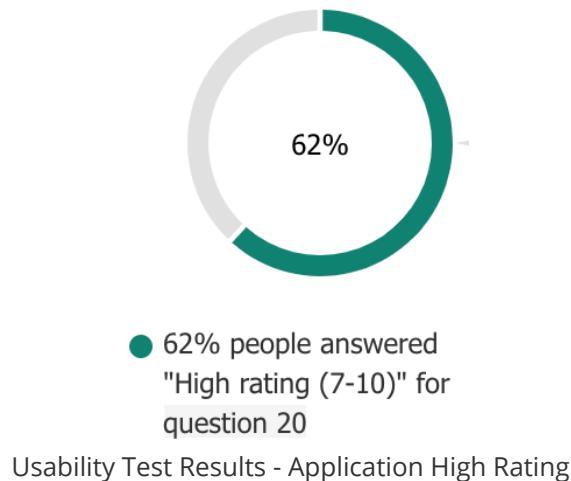
Usability Test Results - Challenges

Overall Findings

- Out of the 13 responses, 23.1% Strongly Agree can create a Collection of photos and add another user photo to their collection. 23.1% Agreed and 38.5% Somewhat agreed 15.4% Neither agree nor Disagree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 15.4% Strongly Agreed that easily Create Portfolio. 30.8% Agreed and 46.2% Somewhat agreed 7.7% Neither agree nor Disagree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 23.1% Strongly Agreed can Report Bugs and inappropriate content easily, 38.5% Agreed and 23.1% Somewhat Agreed, 7.7% Somewhat disagree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 23.1 % Strongly Agreed that they can tag photos easily, 53.8% Agreed and 15.4% Somewhat agreed, 7.7% Neither agree nor Disagree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 30.8% can easily edit their details, 53.8% agree, and 15.4% Somewhat agree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 30.8% Strongly agree that they can quickly delete their accounts, 30.8% Agrees, and 23.1 somewhat Agrees, 7.7% Neither agree nor Disagree. 7.7% Somewhat disagree.
- Out of the 13 responses, 30.8% of the responses strongly agreed to create and participate in a challenge and invite their friends. 30.8 Agreed and 38.5 Somewhat agreed.

- The consensus of all the subjects was that they found it relatively intuitive to participate and invite a friend to a challenge.
- Subjects found the application intuitive and easy to use with high usability.
- Subjects found the application intuitive and easy to use with high usability.

The below figure shows the distribution of our Application's rating on a scale from 1-10 with 10. Our Application was highly intuitive with high usability and great interactivity with a straightforward and easy-to-understand layout, while a score of 1 means the exact opposite. 62% of the responses rated our Application in the range of scores from 7-10, which means the average score is 8.08.



Qualitative Analysis

The following are a few excerpts from the responses of the question "What did you like most about the app?".

"The Design"

"The 'Playification' feature of the app looks amazing"

"The Feedback forum was nice"

"Everything. All the features worked as expected. The ai caught even small human traces. The navigation was really impressive. The bug reporting feature is a good touch. "

"Simplicity"

"The UI design and fluidity of animations, and the chat system"

"It's simple and clear"

"Color scheme is really good"

"User friendly"

"Adding GIFs to images and the challenges"

"That google account can be used to create account easily"

"The leaderboard"

The following are a few excerpts from the responses of the question "What did you like Least about the app?"

"The navigation in few pages were quite difficult."

"It can be a little confusing initially to navigate."

"Could use dark mode."

"Dark mode should be available"

"Channel page and the portfolio page"

"The human image scanning takes a bit time and so does deleting the profile. But that's not too bad."

"Feed page"

"The chatting feature. I couldn't really chat with anyone"

"The chat function was a bit confusing"

"The design."

The following are a few excerpts from the responses of the question "What Would you change in the app?"

"Probably give a tutorial in the beginning regarding the main features of the app once a person signup for the first time."

"The chats section"

"Nothing, just a native dark mode support and it's an amazing app"

"Overall, it's a great app. I would probably change the likes implementation. Home page redirection (as a new user no content is shown), and possibly add dark mode."

"The orientation automatically becomes landscape make it easier to add friends"

"Would add signup using email as well for those who don't have a google account"

"The design"

In general, the participants liked some of the features and expressed that the user interface and layout were simple to use and the system itself was easily accessible and easy to understand for them. The changes suggested by the subjects correlate with the features they least liked on the application, the need for a "dark mode," and making it easier for the users to be able to navigate to a post, making the Chatting system easier, adding more options to sign up beside the google account.

Recommended Changes and Conclusions

- Add a dark mode feature.
- make the navigation to different page easier
- improve the human-AI Scanning Feature
- Improve the chat system and make it easier.
- Add more options to log in or signup with, such as "Email."

- CSS improvements
- Add instructions for first-time users.

Throughout the entire usability test, subjects highlighted some issues but generally had an enjoyable experience. They highlighted that the user interface was intuitive and easy to use, especially the introduction of our gaming system.

The participants were able to complete the tasks with relative ease and grasped the application's ethos along with the concept of "gamification."

The issues highlighted mainly dealt with navigations in the app being hard and the chat page being confusing. Moreover, a dark mode feature should be added to make it a more enjoyable experience.

Conclusion

This section's aims and objectives were a proposed bid for the client, Dr. Richard Freedman, from OcTech Solutions to develop the photo-based social media platform known as Aperture. The section laid out a comprehensive description of each sub-section for the understanding of the client and the software development team.

A firm conclusion we can draw from the usability study based off of the consensus of test participants is that the Aperture application is well received and has the potential to expand and scale up further.

The subjects we tested were very pleased with our Application and rated it high. The most liked features included the clear and simple UI, feedback forum, AI model that scans for humans in images, fluidity of animations, chat system, adding GIFs to images, challenges feature, account creation via google, game mechanics, and leaderboards.