**Online Pictionary Game With Flask And SocketIO**

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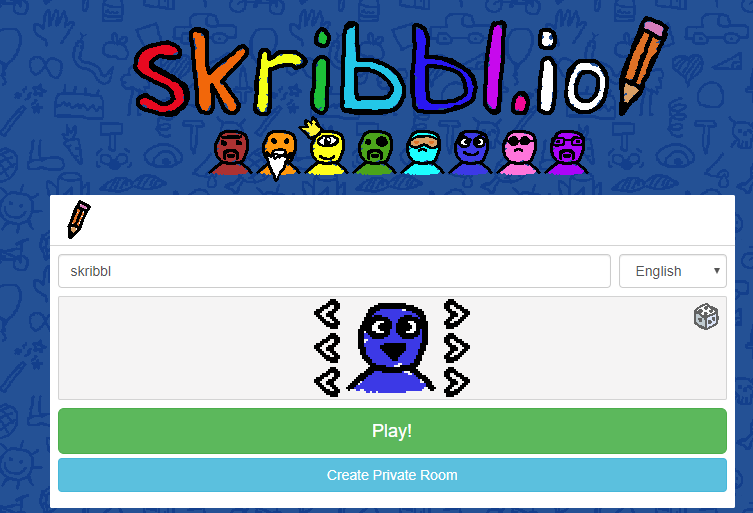
**Analysis**

**Abstract**

The project is a web-based implementation of Pictionary, a popular party game in which players take turns drawing things, and other players try to guess what the person is drawing. The aim of the game is to guess what the current artist is drawing. Once the game ends, the person with most correct guesses wins.

**Research**

There are already quite a few Pictionary websites, and I decided to peruse some of them, to find areas in the market that could do with improving, as well as to get some ideas for areas in which my game could differentiate from its competitors.

One of the most popular Pictionary games out right now is <https://skribbl.io/>. Skribblio lets players choose a username and character, then either join a random public game or make a private room for them and their friends. I liked the fact that players could make custom rooms, so I decided to implement this on my website. I didn’t feel like the avatar creation added much to the game and decided to not implement it to my project as to not overwhelm the user with useless features. I also decided to improve on the username aspect, as on Skribblio users choose a one-time username to play with, but I decided to add a login system which will let players create permanent accounts they can use to play the game and store their high scores to compare with friends.

Another popular Pictionary website is <https://www.drawize.com>, which was an interesting one as I noticed that it advertised as an online, multiplayer game however upon playing a game I realized that all the other players were bots, with very standardized names and putting unrealistic phrases in chat. I found this cheesy and thought it harmed the user experience to advertise as a multiplayer game then have all the players be bots, so I decided not to implement that into my program, even though it would be quite easy to hard code some drawings given my implementation.

There is also the Mattel board game Pictionary, which is a physical implementation of the game, in which players roll a die then move their piece on the board, with the colour they land on corresponding to a category that they will draw from. The player then draws a card and draws the word from the category that’s on the card, while the other player guesses what they are drawing. While this is an interesting take on the classic game, I feel like there is a lot of unnecessary complexity in the game, and so I decided to not take any parts of this game, as I want my game to be more casual, for players who are just looking for some fun without thinking too much.

**Objectives**

* Let users log in
* Users can join rooms
* Users can draw
* Users can chat
* Users can see others’ drawings
* Users can guess drawings
* Users can play full games
* Leader boards showing user stats
* The website looks nice
* More than one game can be played at once
* The website is easy and intuitive to navigate

**Design**

Following my research, I have decided on some mechanics for my game that will differentiate it from the competition. Most of the games I saw let multiple people guess the word in a single round, with decreasing scores for each subsequent person that guessed the word. In order to make the game faster-paced, I decided to only let one user guess the word per round. I also sometimes found it frustrating when a hard-to-draw word would show up, and people would either just write the word out and spoil the fun, or not draw anything and hold the game up. To avoid this, I am going to let the artist press a button which will randomise the word until they find one they are happy with.

I will be using Flask for the back end, along with the Flask-SocketIO library to enable use of web sockets. The log in system will make use of the Flask-Login library and SQL databases to store things like user passwords, usernames, high scores, etc. These databases will also be used to populate leader boards on the site.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

[Fig 1] Flowchart for

what happens when a

user presses the join

button

**Implementation**

The

**Testing**

I hosted multiple games in my computer science lesson in order to gather feedback on the game and to find bugs, the following are the testing sessions and the feedback gathered from them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Test Date** | **Feedback** | **Action** |
| 27/01/2022 | “The website is hard to navigate” | Added buttons to the login, register and join game pages to navigate to other pages |
| 27/01/2022 | “The game is very confusing as to who is drawing, who guessed the word, etc” | Added a period after someone guesses the word where chat displays who guessed the word before switching artists |
| 27/01/2022 | “The spacing on the game page looks bad” | Amended the margins of the different elements on the game pages to make them look better |
| 27/01/2022 | “You can register with an empty password” | [TODO – FIX THIS] |
| 27/01/2022 | “You cannot send chat messages by pressing the enter button” | Added functionality that lets users send messages by pressing enter |
| 31/01/2022 | “When there are multiple games running, one game can influence another” | [TODO – FIX THIS, MAJOR ISSUE] |
| 31/01/2022 | “Feels a bit empty without sounds” | [TODO – THINK ABOUT ADDING SOUNDS] |
| 31/01/2022 | “You can’t do SQL injection on the register page” | This is a good thing, and therefore I did not change this. |
| 31/01/2022 | “There aren’t very many words” | [TODO – ADD A LOT OF WORDS] |