Chat Away

# Software Design Template

Version 1.0

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## Document Revision History

| Version | Date | Author | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 | Sep 12 2025 | Raynaldo Young | Pilot Release |

## Executive Summary

Chat Away is a social media company with a thriving website. To expand their reach, they want to develop a mobile app that will be available in both the iPhone and Android app stores, helping them reach a larger audience and increase revenue. They have requested that our firm manage this project while keeping cost under control through outsourcing.

## Requirements

**Business Requirements:**

* Expand Chat Away’s customer reach and increase revenue by moving beyond the website to a mobile app.
* Keep development costs within the set budget by outsourcing the project.
* Release the app in a timely manner to stay competitive in the market

**Technical Requirements:**

* Develop an app that runs on both iOS and Android platforms.
* Ensure the app integrates with the existing website’s backend so users can log in, sign up, and manage their accounts without duplication.
* Provide core social media functions such as posting, interacting with posts, and maintaining a friends list.

## Design Constraints

**Cross-Platform Development:**

* The app must work on both iOS and Android. This constrains the choice of programming languages and frameworks (e.g., native development in Swift and Kotlin vs. a cross-platform framework like Flutter or React Native).

**Budget Limitations:**

* The client requires the project to stay within budget. This constrains development by limiting the number of features that can be included initially, influencing whether outsourcing or open-source tools are used.

**Integration with Existing Website:**

* The new mobile app must align with and connect to the existing Chat Away website. This constrains design to ensure compatibility with the current database, backend systems, and user accounts.

## Rationale

**Cross-Platform Development:**

* Because the client requires the app to be available on both iPhone and Android, we must either build two native apps or use a cross-platform framework. This is a technical constraint since it limits what tools and programming languages can be chosen.

**Budget Limitations:**

* The client’s request to outsource and remain within budget directly impacts how the project is designed. It may restrict the team size, tools, and features implemented in the pilot release. This is a business constraint.

**Integration with Existing Website:**

* The app cannot be developed in isolation. It must communicate with the existing website’s backend systems and user database, which constrains the architecture and technology choices. This is both a business and technical constraint since it ties the project to what already exists.