

28th July 2025 (Monday)

After the weekend, today's class focused on implementing User-to-User Chat Lists and refining user data management. The trainer introduced the concept of maintaining a "Recent Chats" screen — a feature similar to the main interface of popular messaging apps.

During the first hour, we created a new activity that displayed a list of all users the current user had chatted with. Using Firebase queries, I fetched all unique user IDs that had chat records with the logged-in user. The data was then displayed in a RecyclerView with the user's name, last message, and profile image. I wrote a helper function to fetch only the latest message for each chat to display as a preview.

In the second hour, I added click listeners on each chat list item to open the detailed chat screen for that user. This required careful handling of Intent extras to pass user information between activities. The mentor encouraged adding a "last message time" field to make it more realistic. I used a time formatting function to display relative times like "5 min ago" or "yesterday."

Testing this feature made the app feel complete and practical. The mentor praised the progress and explained that building modularly like this — adding one logical feature at a time — results in clean, scalable architecture.