

Shycat

Vision Document

Project Concept

Events for the Harvard and MIT community are scattered across dozens of websites and mailing lists. Keeping track of all of them to find what intersects with your interests is a herculean task, and you don't have time for that while grinding your problem sets.

Shycat solves that problem. Our service consolidates relevant events like conferences, discussions, networking events, and meetups in one spot and helps you to find the best opportunities, even if you're an introverted software engineer.

Near Vision

In the near term, Shycat will launch a responsive website for both desktop and mobile users with a consolidated events listing for the Harvard and MIT community. Events can be added manually by the admins or trusted users, particularly for events organizers, but the primary function will be to automatically gather new events from the various Harvard and MIT events calendars and organize them in one place. Users can sort and filter events to aid in discoverability.

Users will register with a valid Harvard or MIT academic email address and become verified to gain full access, so events not intended for the general public can be published safely. Once registered, users can favorite events, comment on events, and ask for reminders via email when an event is starting.

Far Vision

At scale, Shycat will service academic communities beyond the Harvard and MIT ecosystem across the United States and abroad. Expanding from our web presence, we will add dedicated mobile app options for additional convenience. We will also partner with universities to provide direct listing management for their events, where possible, and continue to offer independent consolidated event information otherwise. By limiting Shycat access to users with a relevant academic affiliation, we act similarly to early Facebook, providing a high trust platform centered around each user's school exclusively for students, faculty, and affiliates.

As an extension of that, Shycat's social features will become more useful as adoption increases within each community. Interest groups and clubs can form on Shycat directly, making coordination and event hosting simple and secure.

Stakeholder Types

Shycat is designed specifically for the Harvard and MIT academic community, including:

- Students and alumni
- Faculty
- Staff

Within each of those groups, we will see segments of users interested in:

- Discovering events to attend
- Promoting events they're coordinating or hosting