**Problem Statement and Project Proposal**

**Software Squad**

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**Abstract**

Star List is centered around the buying and selling of used items between users. Each user will have an account where they can post items for sale, or search for wanted items to buy. This application is similar to that of Craigslist with minor changes and improvements.

**Description**

There are many buy-sell sites and applications that provide the basics of what many consumers want: gently used items for a discounted price. These avenues of purchasing goods allow users to post items on a platform, and then allow other users to purchase said items. However, many of the platforms are either poorly designed or only do the bare minimum of what the user wants.

Of course, the sole purpose of this type of application is to create a forum for a person to connect with another in order to agree on a purchase. Star List will create a user-friendly environment that makes it quick and easy to search for items under specific categories. Categories such as sports, pets, clothing, furniture, etc. will give buyers the opportunity to search for something specific and have a more direct way of purchasing items. These categories also allow for sellers to connect with a buyer more effectively and efficiently. When a user posts an item to be sold, they must select a pre-set category for it to fall under before the post can be finalized.

In order for someone to have the ability to sell one of their items, they must create a secure account. The information that they will need to provide is as follows: name, phone number, and email address. The profile of a user is only required to display the name publicly; however, the user can give permission to display the phone number and/or email address based on personal request. Their profile will also list all of the items they are currently trying to sell and their ‘rating’. This enables buyers to continue to purchase from the same person due to a credible selling record.

Once a purchase is made, the buyer has the ability to rate the seller based on a 5-star system that allows the seller to build credibility on Star List. The rating system creates a reliable environment for a buyer to feel comfortable with the person they are purchasing from. Many people are scared or nervous about meeting a random stranger in order to buy something they want or need. This type of system makes the user more willing to trust a seller if they have said amount of stars for a rating.

Someone may ask why this type of application needs to exist when a buyer could just go to the store to purchase whatever they want. It may sound easy enough to drive to the local shopping mall or nearest Walmart when someone wants to buy something that is brand new. However, the other perk of this type of application is how the items on the marketplace are generally at a discounted price because they are second-hand goods. Many users will sacrifice the condition of an item for the price, which makes this site an appealing option for users. These gently used items may often be limited-edition, sold out, or rare pieces that you cannot find anymore in stores. If an item is no longer available in stores, a place like Star List is the only option for a serious buyer to find what he or she wants.

Not only will Star List be used for purchasing items, it will also be a place for job listings. Whether it is for babysitting, car repair, or career options, Star List will be a hub for professional users to offer and/or accept job requests. A company, or even an individual, may post an ad for an open job offer on Star List for the public to see. This enables users to not only look for possessions but to find a job, or further a career. Countless families need babysitters, and if they can rely on a place where ratings are given, parents will be more comfortable with choosing the right one. Also, small companies that need employees could use this as a source of employment rather than spending more money on advertisements or temp agencies.

Location is everything when it comes to Star List. Instead of searching for items or jobs from all over the United States, users will be able to limit location settings for better convenience. Once a user logs into their account and begins to search for an item, they must choose in which area they are looking. If a user is in Omaha, Nebraska they have no use for a bookshelf in San Diego, California. This feature allows users in the same community to connect quicker and easier, while getting a good deal on second-hand items or finding careers in the area.

Now, it is possible for a user that does not want to create an account to shop as a visitor. They will still be able to browse through the categories and job listings as a secure user would be able to do. The only difference between a secure user and a visitor is how he or she contacts a seller. A user would just be able to contact the seller through the application by requesting an email address if not already provided. A visitor would do the same thing, but have to provide his or her email address as well. Along with providing an email address, the visitor must give his or her name and phone number so the two can connect outside of the services provided by Star List. It may be easier to just create an account and communicate back and forth on the Star List web application, but people do have the option to browse as visitors.

Overall, Star List can benefit a community in more ways than one. From selling a used couch to offering a young programmer a potential career, Star List gives opportunities to those who are looking. This free to use, user-friendly web application can be a source of endless possibilities for its users by creating an avenue for purchasing goods and services in a convenient way.