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Contributions Table

Team member name	Detailed contributions per chapter	Percentage contributions overall	Signature
Michael Parker UP2263259	Chapter 1: Problem specification Chapter 2: Design Chapter 3: Implementation Chapter 4: Testing Chapter 5: Critical analysis	33.33%	
Lewis Ryan UP2277906	Chapter 1: Problem specification Chapter 2: Design Chapter 3: Implementation Chapter 4: Testing Chapter 5: Critical analysis	33.33%	
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Our Problem

The problem we are trying to solve is the struggle society members experience in accessing information and interacting with their society. We propose an app that collects social news and places it into a single platform. This app will also sync societies' calendars and events to users' phones. Additionally, the app will allow users to RSVP, raise queries to the committee, and receive alerts about any changes to events they have RSVPed to. There will also be a system to like and comment on posts made by the committee.

Requirements Gathering Methodology

To develop requirements, we utilised a semi structured interview, with an additional set of questions designed for society committee members – collecting qualitative primary data. This allowed us to gain a comprehensive understanding of our participants' experience as both members of a society, and members of their committees.

We made use of an opportunity sampling method – and for the majority of our interviews we attempted to keep our sample representative by limiting our sample frame to people sitting down in the following buildings: Eldon, Park, University Library

We interviewed 11 members (4 of whom were on a committee) who were members of a wide range of societies, on average for 7 minutes each, recording each one as it happened. The interviews were then transcribed for us to analyse, allowing us to see patterns to inform our requirements.

We later carried out some product reviews, informing our design approach – based on the key competitors in the market.

Interview 11 was conducted with an alternative question set as it was completed pre-split. This served as the basis of our below question sets, designed for more useful results.

Question Sets

1. How many societies are you a part of?
2. How many different apps do you have for society news?
 - Would you be interested in something to put all of these in one place?
3. When you are missing information, how do you get in touch with your societies?
 - How long does it take for them to get back to you?
4. Do you find you miss events due to messages getting lost?
5. What type of posts do the societies make on social media?
6. What is your favourite social media app that you use for societies and why?
7. How many social media apps do you use, and of these which do you use the most and why?
8. How many societies where you interested in, and how many have you actually gone to?
 - Why did you miss their events?
9. What's your best way to interact with a society's event?
10. Do you prefer seeing the details first, chatting to someone before deciding or being able to

reserve a spot through an app?

11. If you were to share an event with friends, what would be the easiest way for you to do that?

12. If you're deciding whether to attend an event, does viewing a guest list help?

1. How do distribute news to your members?

- Why do you use this method

2. How would you say members engage with your announcements?

3. What is the biggest hurdle to engage with your society?

4. What forms of media (E.g. text, images, video, polls) do you distribute and why?

5. Have you set up a shared calendar? If not, do you believe this could be useful?

6. Do you send out communication over more than one channel already?

7. Do you manage your society on multiple social media accounts, if so, how difficult is this

8. When managing queries related to the society, how long do you typically take to reply

9. When posting about events, what information do you typically include?

10. What is your typical event turnout, and how do you think it might be improved?

Reflections on Methodology

Largely we believe our methodology to have been successful, through the nature of our semi structured interview format, we avoided many of the pitfalls of structured and unstructured interviews. The use of an opportunity sample may have been problematic, as it would have given rise to investigator effects and so our data may not be as representative as we hope, potentially lacking external validity.

On the other hand, our research may also lack internal validity, with our 3rd question perhaps being too leading – giving way to demand characteristics; with all our participants replying positively.

Whilst most of the individual questions were suitable for prompting participants, question 11 proved to be less useful, as finding out the details was ultimately a must for all participants – and so we would change this if we did this again.

Our 9th society member question was also too vague, requiring us to add clarification which should have been there to begin with.

Reflections on Results

As mentioned above, all participants were positive (though Interview 5 had doubts) about the potential application.

The insights regarding the numbers of societies people were a part of (average 4) and seeing the majority indicating their initial interest in joining more, indicated the troubles societies have with member retention – with this being somewhat demonstrated by interviews with committee members (Interviews 4 and 10 suggest briefly how our app could improve turn out)

There were however some concerns about notifications being overwhelming. This is consistent with the notification heavy nature of WhatsApp and Instagram – which were noted as being the apps people use most for societies.

The information we received about people's favourite apps (TikTok and Instagram) ultimately reinforced our understanding of the prevalence of doomscrolling (see Interviews 7 and 9), which

we will be taking on board as we progress to the design of our user interface. Equally, the generally speedy response time for members contacting societies will need to be something we enable with our UI.

The most common way people interact with posts is likes (or affirming reactions), across Instagram Posts, Stories and WhatsApp messages – with the posts mainly being text/image, though polls and videos also seem to factor somewhat into preferences.

Calendar posts also seem to be a common way societies outreach to members – supporting our core calendar sync feature. Many expressed support for a guest list, and so we'll ensure our UI integrates this.

The process was not linear, and through carrying out product reviews, we were able to adjust our requirements to reflect on the interesting features which applications such as Instagram offer, which will no doubt factor into our development of the project next semester.

User Requirements

Society Member requirements

(Interview Reference is as follows – Ix/Qy: Question number (y) maps to interview (Ix) in Appendix)

1. Users should be able to log in / register (All – implied by account usage)
2. Users should be able to join multiple societies (All – implied by average society count)
3. Users should be able to contact a societies' committee (All – implied by experience contacting them, see I5/Q5, I6/Q6, I8/Q5, I9/Q5)
4. Users should be able toggle on/off notifications for a societies' feed (I1/Q13, I11/Q8-9, I8/Q12)
5. Users should be able to interact (vote in polls / like / tag (invite) friends to event) with posts (Explicit in all bar I2, I7 and I11, implied in I2/Q10 and I11/Q12)
6. Users should be able to add a single societies' event to their device calendar (I8/Q8)
7. Users should be able to add all a societies' events to their device calendar (I1/Q17, I4/Q25, I10/Q19, I11/Q13)
8. Users should be able to view a guest list (I1/Q11, I2/Q12, I3/Q19, I5/Q17, I8/Q16, I9/Q14)
9. Users should be able to RSVP to an event (required for above)
10. Users should be able to add society members as their friends (All – implied by deference to use other apps)
 - users should be able to see a list of society members (required for above)

Committee Member requirements – see Committee Interviews 1/4/10/11

11. Users should be able to manage posts (create / modify) (required by nature of system)
 - users should be able to link their post to an event (supports UserReq 9)
12. Users should be able to manage (create / modify) events (required for UserReq 6 and 7)

- switch an event's status (to public / private / scheduled) (implied I10/Q21)

13. Users should be able to respond to a society member (required for UserReq 3)

System Requirements

Concepts

SM – Society Members
CM – Committee Members
MIDS – Multi-item Data Structure
ID – A String
File Path – A String

SM (Society Members) Users have:

An Email [must be a valid port.ac.uk email address | not-null, unique] (String)
A password [minimum 8 characters | not-null] (String)
List of societies [nullable] (MIDS, composed of IDs, with settings)
List of friends [nullable] (MIDS, composed of IDs)

CM (Committee Members) Users have:

An Email [must be a valid upsu.net email address | not-null, unique] (String)
A password [min 8 chars | not-null] (String)
Society ID [not-null] (string)

Societies:

List of posts [nullable] (MIDS, composed of IDs)
List of events [nullable] (MIDS, composed of IDs)
List of members [nullable] (MIDS, composed of IDs)
List of settings [not-null] (MIDS)
Message Inbox (MIDS)

Posts:

List of Likes [default 0 | not-null] (List of IDs of people who have liked the post)
Post Data [not-null] (MIDS, see below)
Linked Event [nullable] (String)
Post Configuration [not-null] (MIDS)

Events:

Post Data [not-null] (MIDS, see below)
Linked Event [nullable] (String)
Event Configuration [not-null] (MIDS)

Post Data:

Description / Text [max 2,200 chars | not-null] (String)
List of Images [nullable] (MIDS, composed of file paths)
Poll [nullable] (MIDS, see below)

Poll:

List of Options [min 2 items | not-null] (MIDS, composed of Strings, with sets of votes (IDs))

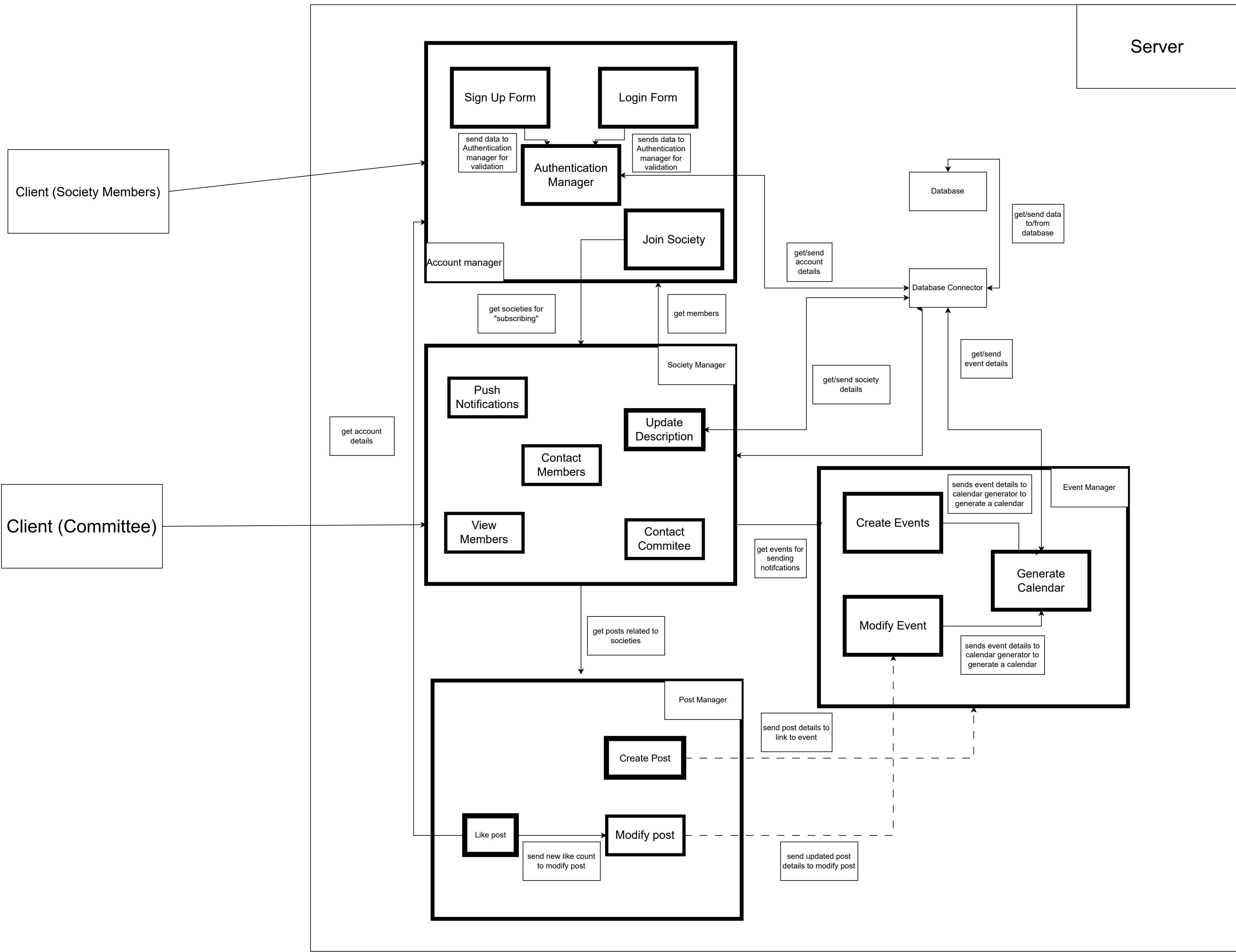
Functional requirements (User Requirement Ref)

1. The system should authenticate users if their email and password match in the database (1)
2. The system should check the database to ensure no other account exists if a user attempts to register an email which is already in the database (1)
3. The system should add a societies ID to a user's list of societies upon user confirmation (2)
4. The system should update to demonstrate to the user they've joined a society (2)
5. The system should offer the user a text field to send their query directly to the society (3)
6. The system should alert the society that they have a query in their inbox, and update it with a response (3)
7. The system should update the database with a user's per-society notification settings (4)
8. The system should update the database to reflect a user's like (or removal of), on a post (5)
9. The system should update the database to reflect a user's vote in a poll. (5)
10. The system should demonstrate the present of a user's like of a post (5)
11. The system should demonstrate a user's vote in a poll (5)
12. The system should generate an ICS file for either a single event or a society's upcoming events, through data fetched from the database (6, 7)
13. The system should direct the user to their calendar app of choice to save the event, or save the ICS file should no appropriate app be installed (6, 7)
14. The system should update to demonstrate to the user that the event was added (6, 7)
15. The system should query the database to return a list of attendees for an event (8)
16. The system should update the database with a user's RSVP (Boolean, attending / not) (9)
17. The system should update to demonstrate to the user their RSVP status (9)
18. The system should query the database to return a list of members within a society for users to view (10)
19. The system should verify the target user is accepting friend requests (10)
20. The system should update both users' outgoing/incoming requests, notifying target users of new requests (10)
21. The system should notify a target user that they have been invited to an event (5)
22. The system should verify that all post details are filled with valid data (11)
23. The system should send an API request to the backend with the verified post data (11)
24. The system should then add this post to the database via the database connector. (11)
25. The system should fetch an event ID from the database using the restAPI. (12)

26. The system should fetch a Post object from the database and then send a new request to the database manager inserting the eventURL to the posts row in the database. (11)
27. The system should verify that all event details are filled with valid data. (12)
28. The system should send an API request to the backend with the verified event data. (12)
29. The system should then add the new event record to the database via the database manager. (12)
30. The system should fetch the existing event object from the database using the restAPI to populate the fields. (11)
31. The system should verify that the modified text boxes contain valid data. (11, 12)
32. The system should send an API request to the backend with the updated data and the event ID. (12)
33. The system should update the specific event row in the database via the database manager. (12)
34. The system should send an API request to the backend containing the event ID and the selected status tag. (11)
35. The system should query the database manager to locate the specific event. (12)
36. The system should update the status column for that event in the database to reflect the user's selection. (12)
37. The system should fetch the ID of the raised concern from the database using the restAPI. (13)
38. The system should verify that the response text box is filled with valid data. (13)
39. The system should send an API request to the backend linking the new response to the concern's ID. (13)
40. The system should insert the response text into the database via the database manager. (13)

Non-Functional requirements

1. The system should not take more than 3 seconds to load the event dashboard.
2. The system should not take more than 3 seconds to complete the upload of a standard text post.
3. The system should be able to fetch and display a specific event's details within 3 seconds of the user's request.
4. The system will have login information saved, allowing logins to be reused (session persistence).
5. API requests should complete within 2-3 seconds under normal load
6. Maximum file size of 10MB per image
7. Users must be authenticated before creating, modifying, or linking posts/events
8. All input data must be sanitized to prevent SQL injection and XSS attacks



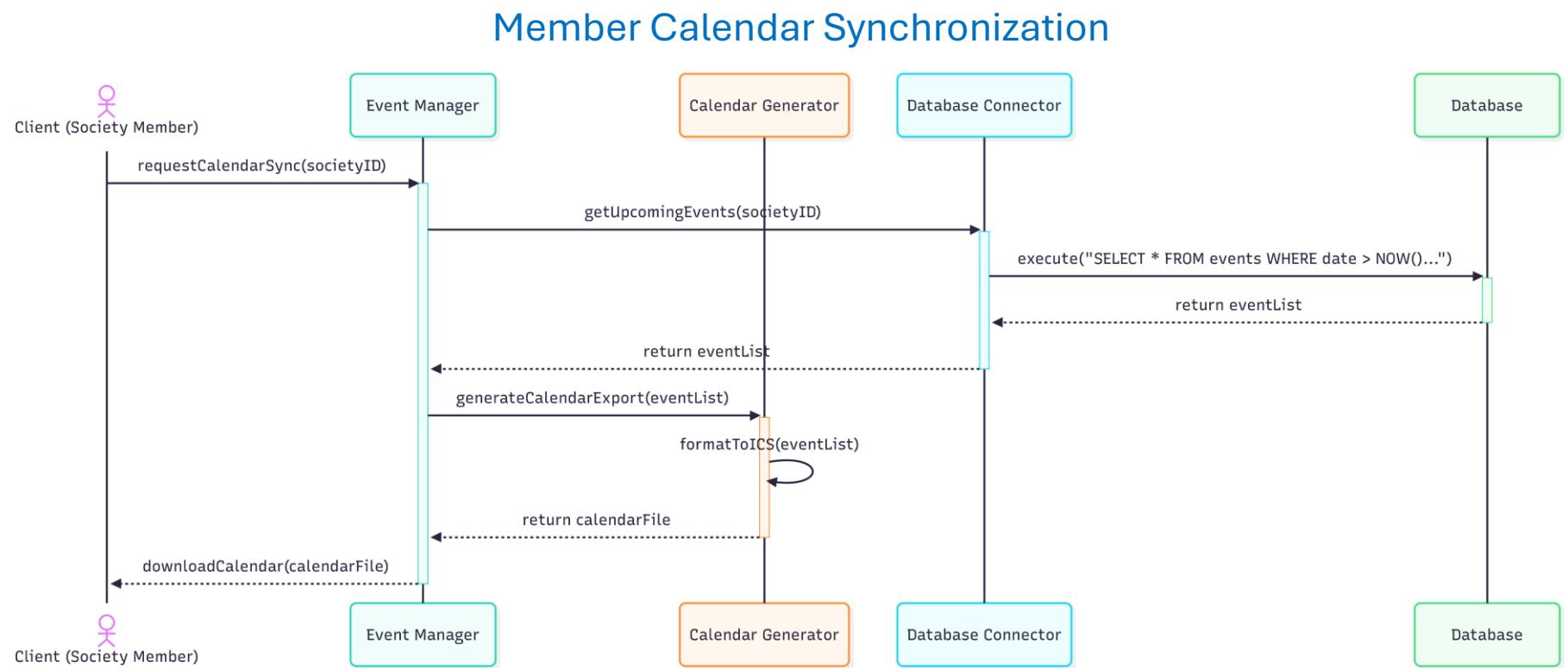
The system diagram outlines a client-server architecture designed to manage a university society application. The structure is divided into two main areas: the client side, which includes the user interfaces for "Committee" members and "Society Members," and the server side, which handles all the processing, logic, and data storage. The server is organized into four main sections that handle specific tasks: authentication, society management, event management, and post management.

The Account Manager, which contains the "Sign Up" and "Login" forms. When a user enters their details, the data is sent to an "Authentication Manager" to check if the information is correct. There is also a "Join Society" feature here, allowing users to become part of a specific group once they are logged in.

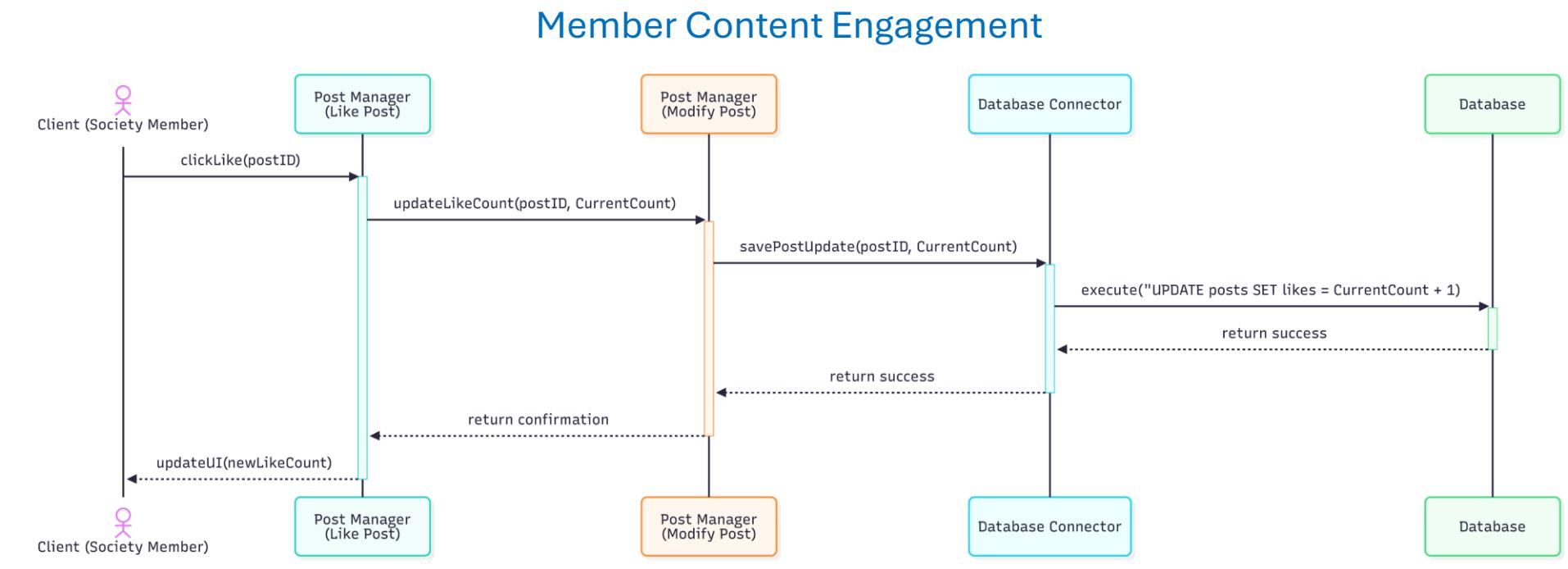
The society management. This part of the system handles the information for the society. It includes features for viewing the member list, contacting other members, and contacting the committee. It also allows administrative users to update the society's description and send push notifications to users. A "Society Manager" controls this section, handling requests such as getting the list of members or finding societies for a user to subscribe to.

The event management section. This module is responsible for scheduling. Users can "Create Events" or "Modify Events." Once an event is created or changed, the details are sent to a "Generate Calendar" component, which generates an ICS file. This entire process is overseen by the "Event Manager." Connected to this is the post management section at the bottom in red. This allows users to create and modify posts on a feed. It also includes a "Like post" feature, which sends updated like counts back to the modify component. Arrows connecting the event and post sections suggest that posts can be linked directly to specific events.

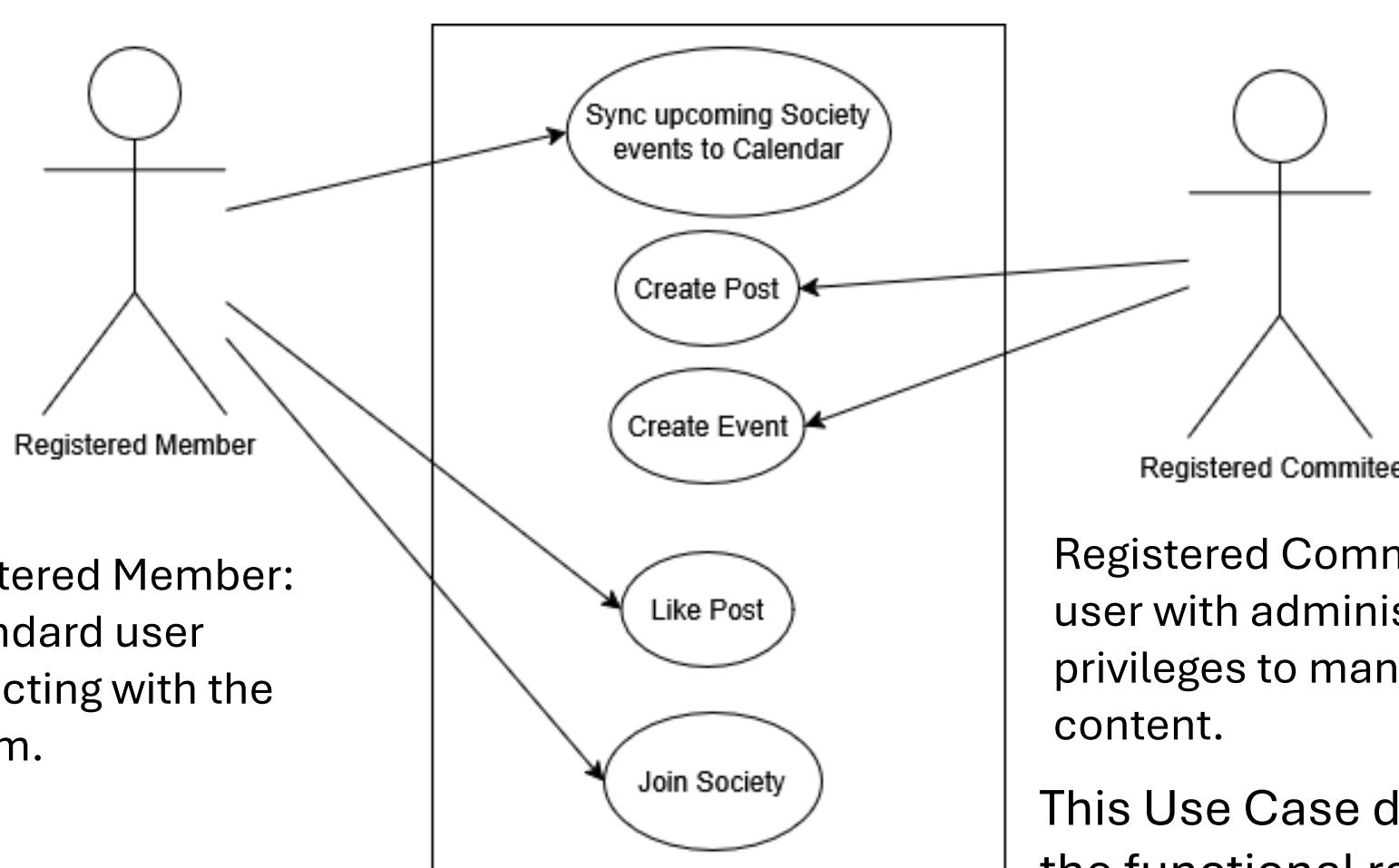
Finally, all the data from these different sections is stored in a central database on the far right. The system does not connect every single component directly to the database. Instead, it uses a "Database Connector." This acts as a central hub. The Account, Society, Event, and Post Managers all send their data to this connector, which then handles the actual reading and writing to the "Database."



When a user clicks to sync, the system finds all future events in the database. It converts these records into a standard file format that personal calendars understand. The user then downloads this file to import the schedule into their own app.



A user clicks the like button on a post. The system calculates the new total and saves the update in the database. The screen immediately refreshes to display the new number of likes.



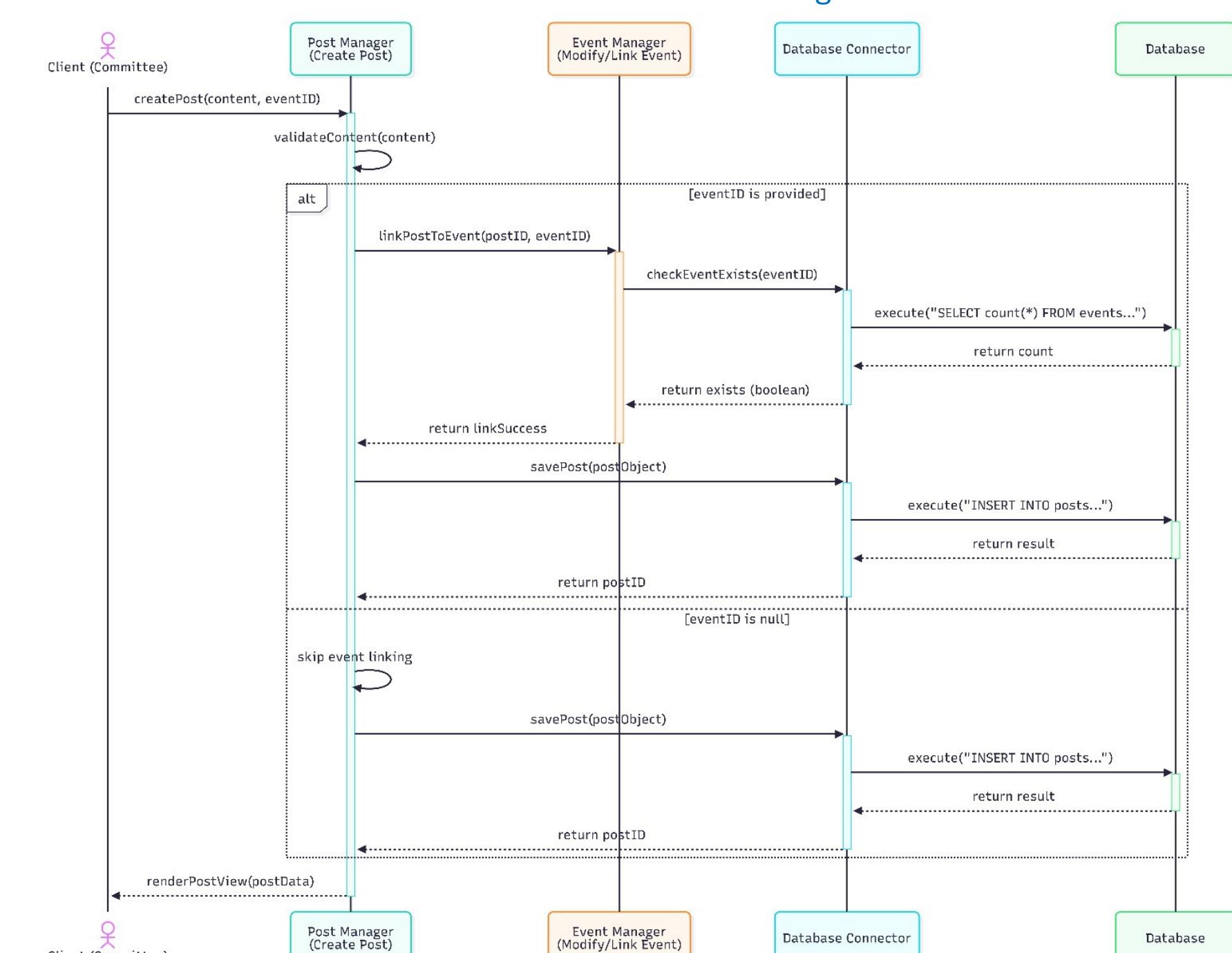
Registered Member:
A standard user interacting with the system.

Registered Committee: A user with administrative privileges to manage content.

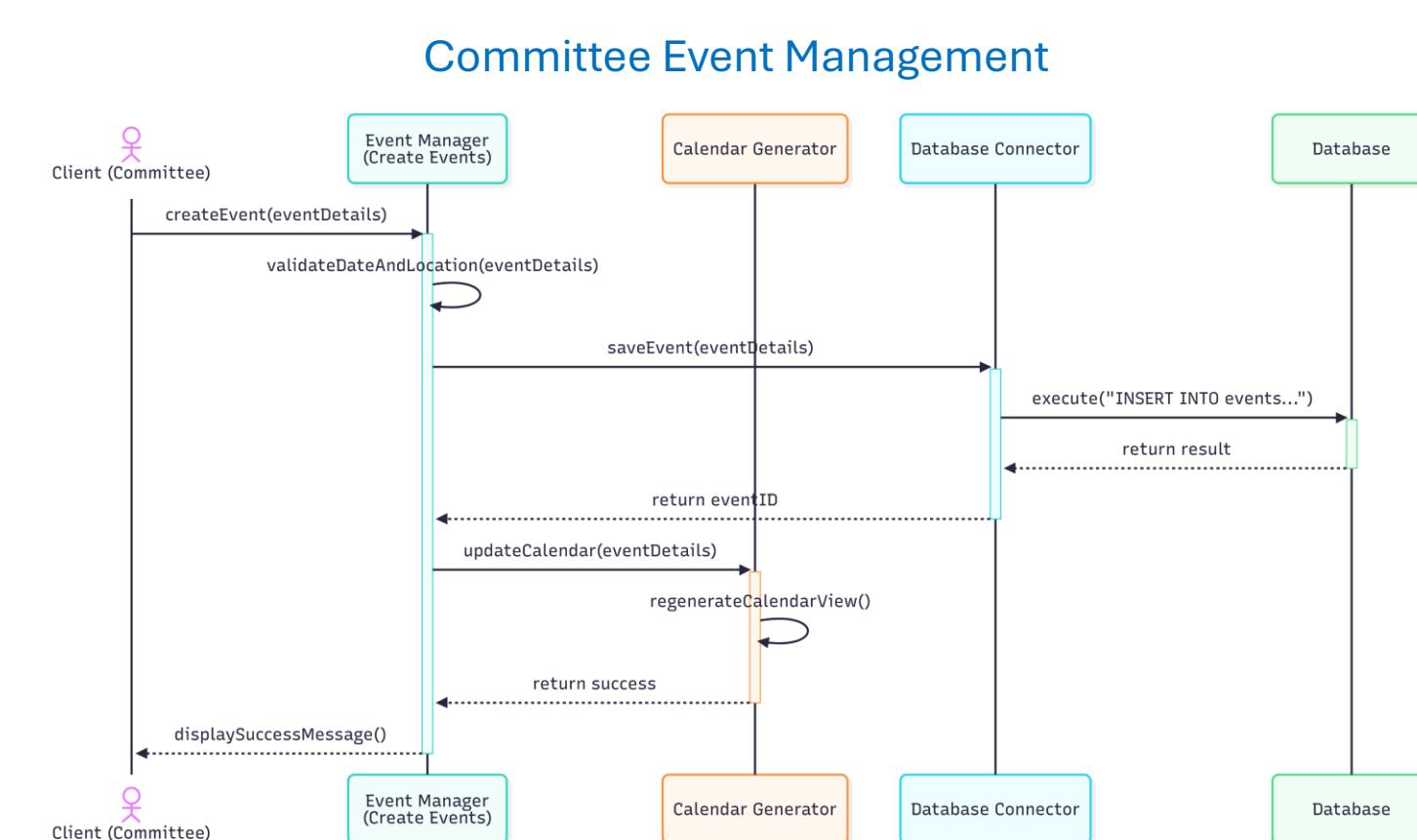
This Use Case diagram outlines the functional requirements for a society management system involving two distinct actors. Registered Members engage with the platform by joining societies, liking posts, and syncing upcoming events to their personal calendars. The Registered Committee holds administrative privileges, focusing on content generation by creating posts and scheduling new events for the society.

Registered Member can:
Join Society: Enrolls the user in a specific society.
Like Post: Allows the user to engage with content posted on the platform.
Sync upcoming Society events to Calendar: Exports event data to the user's personal calendar.

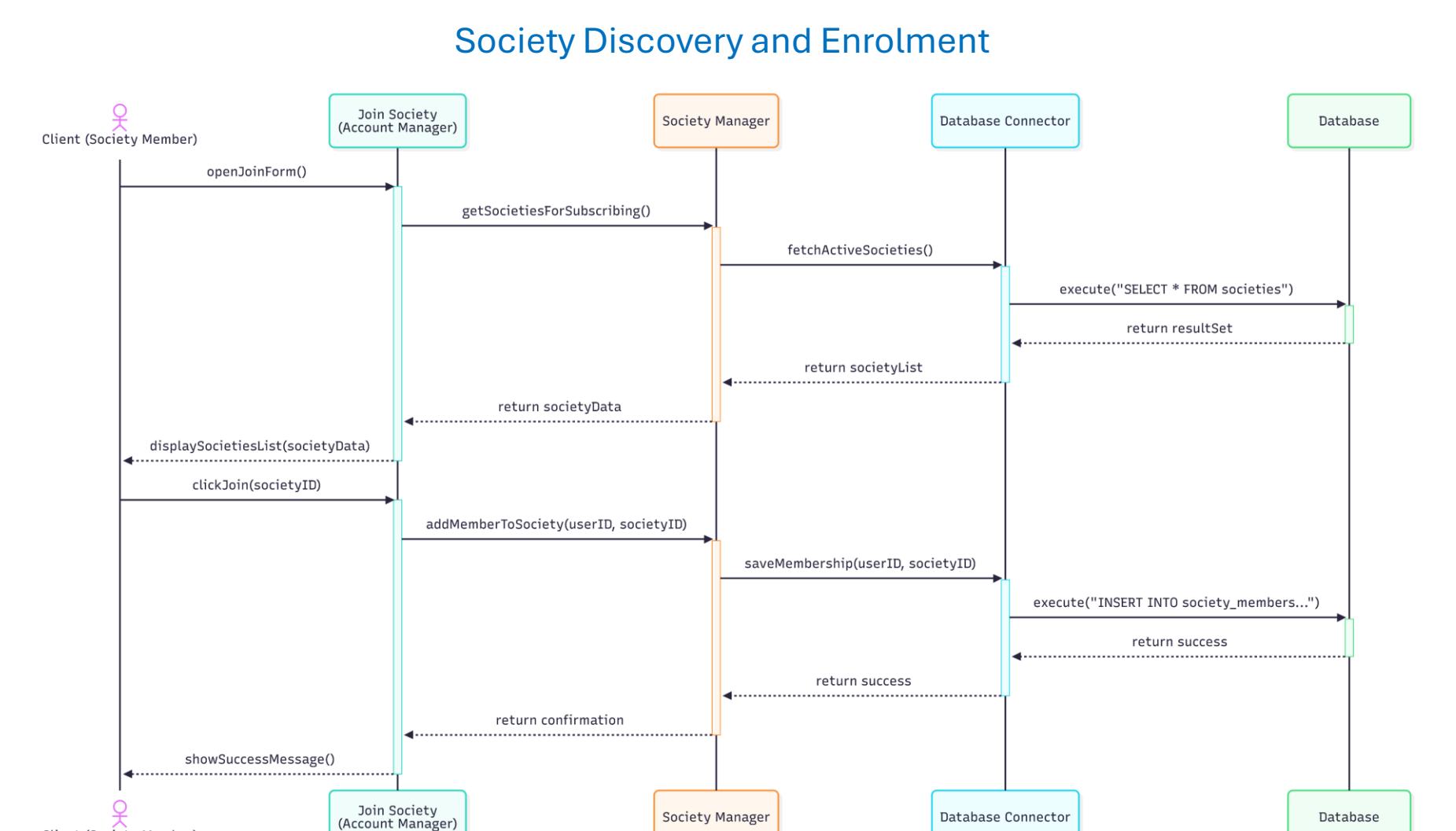
Registered Committee can:
Create Post: Publishes announcements or updates for members to view.
Create Event: Schedules and publishes new society activities.



Committee members use this tool to write posts. If the author links an event to the post, the system checks that the event exists. Once the check passes, the post is saved to the database.



A committee member enters event details like time and location. The system validates the information and saves it to the database. This action also triggers an update to the main calendar file, so it remains accurate for future user downloads.



The system presents a list of active societies from the database. When a user selects a group to join, the system creates a formal link between the user and that society. This action instantly grants them member access.

Implementation Discussion

We will be running the backend using Python with the Flask framework alongside JWT and Flask-SQLAlchemy. Flask allows us to quickly and easily set up multiple web endpoints. JWT will provide access control for the Flutter mobile app; specifically, the authorization tokens will be created on the Flutter app and sent in the URL request to Flask.

After the endpoint has verified that the JWT is valid, it can make a request to the SQL database using SQLAlchemy, extract the relevant data, and return it via a REST API. The entire server will be run within a Docker container so it can be easily deployed onto a VM or VPS. The frontend will be developed entirely in Flutter, utilizing persistent storage to keep the user logged in using the shared storage system. When the app opens, a JWT will be created for the session, allowing the app to download the list of users' societies and check for new notifications.

We also explored alternatives for this stack. We considered using Firebase, which would remove the need for a dedicated server and SQL database by utilizing Google's serverless backend and built-in authentication. We also looked at React Native as a frontend alternative due to its ease of use and extensive set of libraries to help optimize development; however, the major advantage of Flutter is that all our members already know Dart. We will be using git as our version control system, in VS Code as all our members have experience with this working method – see our repository at <https://github.com/Team-4D2/Coursework-1/>

Testing Discussion

We will test the non-functional requirements using our tools as defined above – writing tests in Dart and making use of VS Code's development tools.

Non-functional requirements 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be tested by timing the speed of the system, passing if they do not exceed the time limit

Requirement 4 will be tested by simulating logging in and then closing the application, then reopening it and – if the user is still logged in the test would pass.

Requirement 6 will be tested by trying to upload an image over the max file size, if it fails the test passes.

Requirement 7 will be tested by trying to mutate a post while unauthenticated, if the system does not allow the mutation the test passes.

Requirement 8 will be tested by trying to execute XSS/SQL injection attacks if the attacks fail the test passes

The tests will be automatically run via Flutter unit tests; other testing methods would be harder to integrate into the system as we are already using Flutter. As it's the front end of the system, the other components can be tested with it too.

Critical Analysis

This semester we have identified a key gap in the university experience for students - one which we believe our application can fill. By designing our application with our research informed requirements, we believe we are equipped to develop our design. This process was however not straightforward, and we had to overcome various setbacks – complications challenging our teamwork skills, offering us ample opportunity to learn and achieve.

An overshadowing aspect of our teamwork this semester has been the split which occurred, noted in the progress tracker (see Appendix). This split took place roughly halfway through the semester – dramatically adjusting the timeline of completion of the 5 chapters of this work.

Pre-Split

We began tracking our progress in a simple word document, akin to the progress monitoring system advised for our Networks and Databases coursework from last year – this featured a weekly attendance tick box, and a space for notes on the session.

As we decided upon using GitHub to track our overall progress, the initial progress system began to fall away, with little need for notes reflected in our commits – and equally we noticed our former team members often making concessions regarding their attendance, marking themselves as present for instance when they missed most of the session.

Teamwork became difficult after the first week, with our project pitch being the only aspect where we had full proactive participation of all members. Our intent to rotate leadership failed, as the mixed attendance often meant we spent a significant amount of time ensuring our former team members were on the same page, and understood the weekly activities from the module. Equally, the lack of consistent communication exacerbated the matter, as task delegation became frivolous.

As a result of the lack of engagement in the project during this period, there simply was not any conflict; our former teammates generally had little disagreement with many of our suggestions. Any disagreements which did arise were generally discussed, and we came to a consensus on how to resolve it, for instance questions about the suitability of an interview question.

Transitory Period (The Split)

In this period, we worked together to assess the long-term impact of continuing in this manner and emboldened by our Module Lead we pursued the split. This was the teamwork we engaged in during this period – knowing our previous attempts to cultivate further collaboration and team spirit was met with little regard.

Our progress monitoring evolved here, as an Excel sheet was developed – highlighting the disparity in engagement between two groups of members, ourselves, with 100% attendance, and the others with engagement rates ranging from just under 75% to just over 50%, which was what served as evidence of the conflict which lay at the heart of our group – disengagement v engagement.

Post-Split

The above overriding conflict ultimately was resolved, enabling consistent and coherent communication, which allowed for us to excel with our teamwork, as we carefully delegated tasks to ensure we could meet the fast-approaching deadline. To help keep us on track Nickyyl stepped up to become the group's leader and updating the task tracking sheet. This was such that we planned our meetings around the tasks more carefully – ensuring we gave special attention for instance to our core architecture design and system requirements – key components of this first item of our project.

Any minor disagreements we did have were given time to be considered, reviewing the specification, provided samples and our own research to ensure we made the best decisions for the project. We continued using Excel sheet to track our attendance, and our new GitHub repository for our progress.

Session	Chik	Justin	Lewis	Michael	Nickyyl	Udit	Wayne	
Workshop 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Team Meeting 03/10/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Workshop 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Team Meeting 10/10/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Workshop 3	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	
Workshop 4	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Team Meeting 24/10/2025	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	
Workshop 5	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Team Meeting 07/11/2025	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	
Workshop 6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Workshop 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Group Split into 4D1 / 4D2 due to differing engagement levels								
Team Meeting 20/11/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Workshop 8			✓	✗	✓			
Team Meeting 28/11/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Workshop 9			✓	✓	✓			
Workshop 10			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 08/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 09/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 11/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 12/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 15/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Workshop 11 (final)			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 17/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Team Meeting 18/12/2025			✓	✓	✓			
Attendance	63.64%	72.73%	100.00%	95.83%	100.00%	54.55%	72.73%	

Interview 1

Q1: How many Societies are you a part of?

A: 6

Q2: Would you be interested in something to put society news across apps in one place?

A: Would be nice to have one space – convenient for sure. Currently I have most (societies) on WhatsApp except 2

Q3: When you are missing information, how do you get in touch with your societies?

A: Through specific chats (general chats in WhatsApp community, a specified Discord channel, or group chat on Messenger)

Q4: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Responses are quite quick

Q5: Do you find you miss events due to messages getting lost?

A: No, I just may forget the date.

Q6: What type of posts do the societies make on social media?

A: Calendars, pictures/videos from socials.

Q7: What is your favourite social media app that you use for societies and why?

A: I like Discord, because I am used to it, but most people like the WhatsApp communities and I like that they have good settings to handle a society too.

Q8: Which social media app do you use the most and why?

A: Instagram, my beloved, less beloved with the new update ... and the bugs

Q9: How many societies were you interested in, and how many have you actually gone to?

A: Way too many, at least once to all. Frequent member in 2 or 3 of them

Q10: Do you prefer seeing the details first, chatting to someone before deciding or being able to reserve a spot through an app?

A: I don't know

Q11: If you're deciding whether to attend an event, does viewing a guest list help?

A: No... well a little. Yeah it can sometimes. But more often than not the guest list doesn't bother me, but the fact that 2 of my society events are (overlapping), so maybe having a calendar that shows all my socs' events at once to see when what is, would be nice

Q12: How do distribute news to your society members?

A: Announcement channels

Q13: Why do you use them?

A: Sometimes people have the chat on muted and have notifications only for the announcements

Q14: How would you say members engage with your announcements?

A: React with a like/heart/emoji.

Q15: What is the biggest hurdle to engage with your society?

A: Not compatible timings with my life

Q16: What forms of media do you distribute and why?

A: Text/images for announcements, videos/images/text for posting about social that happened, polls for events to be voted for the future

Q17: Have you set up a shared calendar, If not would you believe a shared synced calendar would be useful?

A: Yes (and yes)

Q18: Do you send out communication over more than one channel already?

A: Not usually (but others do)

Q19: Do you manage your society on multiple social media accounts, is it difficult?

A: It is not my role to take care of social media, so I don't. I only posts announcements occasionally on our main means of communication.

Q20: When managing queries related to the society, how long do you typically take to reply.

A: Depends on which of my two societies it's from, and if I have the information

Q21: When posting about events, what information do you typically include?

A: What, when, where? Bring something with? Encouragement to join

Q22: What is your typical event turnout, and how do you think it might be improved?

A: Depends society to society. Sometimes it's just the people and if they're picking over two soc events and don't have "loyalty"/priority with yours you have low turnout

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Team number: 4D2

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Nickyyl Sharma – up2269939@myport.ac.uk

Name / Contact Details of Supervisor: Claudia Iacob / claudia.iacob@port.ac.uk

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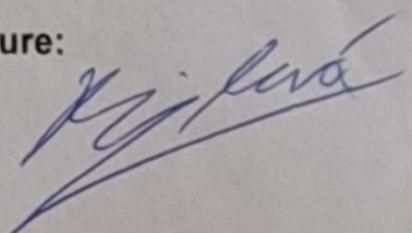
Name of Participant:

Anna Rejlova

Date:

20/11/2025

Signature:



Interview 2

Q1: How many socs are you a part of?

A: Technically only 1

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news? Would you be interested in something to put all of these in one place?

A: Currently they're only (on) Instagram / Discord, but since some are active on Instagram, some on Discord, a centralized university app for societies would be more useful

Q3: When you are missing information, how do you get in touch with your societies?

A: Depends really where they are available. Usually it is Instagram / WhatsApp / Discord

Q4: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: They're pretty quick

Q5: Do you find you miss events due to messages getting lost?

A: No

Q6: What type of posts do the societies make on social media?

A: Mostly just events announcements and maybe some social photos of those events.

Q7: What is your favourite social media app

A: Discord

Q8: How many social media apps do you use, and of these which do you use the most and why?

A: Mainly 3, Discord, Instagram, Messenger. I use them for different purposes, so it depends (for) which one I use a lot. Discord is mainly for "work" aka Uni and programming stuff, and occasional gaming talks. Insta is when I want to watch F1 or plane reels and messenger for comms obviously

Q9: How many societies were you interested in, and how many have you actually gone to?

A: This year I was interested in 0 mostly

Q10: What's your best way to interact with a society's event?

A: Depends again on the platform they use.

Q11: If you were to share an event with friends, what would be the easiest way for you to do that?

A: Probably share a link/screenshot via WhatsApp

Q12: If you're deciding whether to attend an event, does viewing a guest list help?

A: Sort of, I mean if I see that people I know also go, and I am interested, I am more likely to go, rather than going alone.

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Name of Participant: **Mark Kiss** Date: **16/12/2025** Signature: *Kiss Mark*

Interview 3

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: 2

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news?

A: So including Instagram, WhatsApp and TikTok – so 3

Q3: Do you get them by email at all?

A: Not my societies specifically?

Q4: Would you be interested in some other app to consolidate all of those, all in one place?

A: Yeah

Q5: When you're missing information for society events, how do you get in touch with them?

A: Contact an admin, via WhatsApp, or by their number

Q6: And then how long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Quite a while – well, yes they're busy in the day ... with Uni, so a couple of hours – in a day

Q7: Do you miss events often because you don't see messages?

A: Yeah

Q8: How do you find out you've missed an event?

A: Seeing posts after, of people socialising

Q9: What type of posts do you see them make?

A: Digital camera pictures, collages – stuff like that

Q10: Do they do calendars?

A: Yeah, with countdowns on Instagram for instance

Q11: What's your favourite social media app that you use? Why?

A: Probably Instagram, I just like to post content on there, with my own pictures

Q12: Specifically for societies, what's your favourite (app)?

A: Probably WhatsApp, cause you get to communicate with everyone and see who's who

Q13: What do you use the most (of the above)?

A: Instagram

Q14: Of the societies you're interested in, how many have you gone to events for?

A: 3 events, for the two societies

Q15: Why did you miss those events – was it that you didn't want to go or..?

A: That and because I commute, so it's difficult to get there, and plan around in advance

Q16: What's the best way for you to interact with your societies event on social media?

A: Like it, share it, interact with polls – things like that

Q17: Would you like to reserve a spot through an app?

A: Yeah

Q18: What would be the easiest way for you to share an event?

A: Probably word of mouth

Q19: Does it help to see a guest list?

A: Yeah

Q20: Are you a society committee member?

A: No

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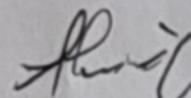
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Name of Participant:

Abisai I

Date: 20/11/25

Signature: 

Interview 4

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: Officially, I think only 1

Q2: How many different apps do you have for checking society news?

A: Just WhatsApp, and Email

Q3: Would you be interested in something to put it all in one place?

A: It would be a good idea

Q4: When you're missing information, how do you get in touch with your society?

A: Just WhatsApp

Q5: How quickly does it take for them to get back to you?

A: They're pretty good, within the day

Q6: Do you ever miss events because you lose track of messages?

A: No, there's not loads of events going on, it's just once every two weeks, I'm ok with keeping track with them

Q7: On WhatsApp or Email, what posts do they put out? Text, images – do they put out calendars?

A: It's a mix, or texts and images – no calendars

Q8: What is your favourite social media app to use, overall?

A: WhatsApp is good, though it's restrictive – Telegram is better though not many people use it – Email is fine though it is quite formal. Instagram is also good

Q9: What do you find restrictive about WhatsApp compared to Telegram?

A: Telegram is more accessible, allowing you to search different channels and sending / sharing data is easier than on WhatsApp – which reduces the quality of some images in my case

Q10: How many social media apps do you use?

A: Telegram, WhatsApp, Email

Q11: You mentioned Instagram?

A: Not very often – it's too time consuming for me to get into, following friends – rather see them in person

Q12: Which do you use the most?

A: WhatsApp

Q13: Of the societies, from the start of the year, how many were you interested in that you then didn't go to?

A: I was mainly interested in one, though there are some sport societies, that I haven't had a chance to join yet – as the coursework is time consuming and I work

Q14: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's post?

A: Give them a thumbs up (reaction)

Q15: Do you prefer seeing the details of an event, or talking to someone about the event, or reserving a spot through an app?

A: See the details and put a reminder in my calendar, then I don't lose track of them

Q16: If you want to share an event with your friends, how would you do that?

A: Forward the message – nearly everyone has WhatsApp

Q17: Does seeing a guest list help influence whether you go to an event or not?

A: I don't think that helps me too much – I haven't really had a chance to see what that'd be like

Q19: Are you a society committee member?

A: Yes

Q20: How do you distribute news to your members?

A: By WhatsApp – and Instagram, though it's done by others

Q21: Why do you use WhatsApp or Instagram?

A: It's easy, and the majority have it

Q22: How do your members engage with it?

A: Not very well, especially on WhatsApp – but I think the Instagram is better, with more people liking

Q23: What media do you distribute?

A: It's a mix, pictures and descriptions

Q24: Do you do any polls?

A: We have done polls, but (they're) not very liked by the current (members)

Q25: Have you set up a shared calendar? Do you think it would be useful to have one, that could sync?

A: No, if we had a busy society, then it would be useful – though it might help, I haven't tried

Q26: How long do you take to reply to anyone's queries?

A: Within a day

Q27: What information do you put about an event?

A: Typically, the time, topic, location, whether there's going to be any refreshments

Q28: What's your typical event turnout like?

A: Around 4 – 6, the people who react to the messages turnout

Q29: Do you think there's any ways for the turnout to be approved?

A: Not sure, (in respect) to another app, maybe – maybe if it was more anonymous with reactions.

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Name of Participant: Sofia Gair

Date:

25/11/25

Signature:

Sofia

Interview 5

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: 2, but I only really go to 1, (because of time constraints)

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news? Do you use email at all?

A: Instagram, WhatsApp – not email

Q3: Would you be interested in consolidating all of that in one place?

A: It might be convenient, though WhatsApp's been quite good for general chat – unless you have multiple societies, as WhatsApp can be cluttered, then I can't find the chat – on Instagram I follow multiple people so I might not see their (societies) posts – so it might be a benefit to have something more centralised

Q4: Why might you not want it to be more centralised?

A: Everyone has social media, downloading another app – you might not see it, whilst with WhatsApp / Instagram, everyone always uses it – is easy to find the committee on there

Q5: When you're missing information about your society, how do you get in touch with them?

A: Yeah, contact whoever's running it – they're quite accessible, I can just message them

Q6: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Depends if they're on their phone or not, within an hours' time or a couple of hours – usually within a day

Q7: Do you ever miss events because you don't see messages?

A: No, it's mainly (due to) conflicts in my schedule – as I'd know what's (happening)

Q8: What posts do they put out?

A: Everything gets put out on both Instagram and WhatsApp (group chats, announcements), usually an image with the dates and times, where we're meeting, and what the event is

Q9: What's your favourite social media app to use?

A: I mainly use Instagram, I rarely use TikTok, Facebook if I want to look at trains, Reddit for Stranger Things memes, but other than that Instagram is the main one I use ... to message people

Q10: Why do you like Instagram, what puts it above the rest?

A: The posts are funnier when I scroll for hours – I can just send reels to (my friends quickly) – everyone has it

Q11: How many social media apps do you use overall?

A: 6, Instagram / WhatsApp / TikTok / Facebook (+ Messenger) / Twitter – though I don't like Twitter

Q12: How many societies were you interested in, and then how many did you actually go to?

A: 2 – but timing is difficult for 1 (didn't go that one – see start)

Q13: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's event on social media?

A: If it's on WhatsApp I just read it, on Instagram I usually like it, and check the story

Q14: Do you prefer seeing the details first, talking to someone about an event, or reserving a spot through an app?

A: Details first, (to see how it aligns with schedule)

Q15: Would reserving an app be something you're interested in?

A: Yeah, but ... not necessary

Q16: What's the easiest way for you to share an event with a friend?

A: WhatsApp – I just forward it to them

Q17: Would seeing a guest list help influence whether you go to an event?

A: Yeah, but at the same time I usually just ask my friends if they're going – maybe for people who don't know names, but for me who has friends in there, it's not necessary

Q18: Are you a society committee member?

A: No

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Name of Participant:

Ashley Shah

Date:

26/11/2025

Signature:

X

Interview 6

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: 2

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news?

A: Instagram + WhatsApp for announcements

Q3: Do they email you?

A: Not really

Q4: Would you be interested in something to put them all in one place, as opposed to having to use WhatsApp and Instagram?

A: I guess, yeah, it would be convenient

Q5: When you're missing information about a society, how do you get in touch with them?

A: I just text the committee?

Q6: How quickly do they get back to you about it?

A: For one society, it's quite busy, I think there's quite a lot of members in it, so it might take a couple of days, for the other, probably in the same day

Q7: Do you find yourself missing events because you've missed messages?

A: Not really, usually the same events going on every week

Q8: What type of posts do they make on social media to let you know about the events?

A: On Instagram there'd be a story, as a reminder, on WhatsApp there'd be an announcement ... talking about what's going on

Q9: What's your favourite social media app overall? Why?

A: Probably TikTok (used the most), because I can mindlessly scroll

Q10: How many social media apps do you use overall?

A: 4 – TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp

Q11: How many societies were you interested in at the start of the year, and how many have you actually gone to now?

A: Maybe 2 / 3

Q12: Why did you not go to the ones you considered initially?

A: I didn't have any friends that liked going there

Q13: When it comes to events, do you prefer to see the details first, to talk to someone about it, or reserve a spot through an app?

A: Probably the details

Q14: What's the best way for you to share an event to friends?

A: Probably screenshot ... details and send it via Snap

Q15: Does it help to see a guest list of who's attending, for an event?

A: Not really

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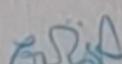
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Name of Participant: emilia vingaituskaite

Date: 26/11/25 Signature: 

Interview 7

Q1: How many societies are you a part of

A: 1

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news?

A: 2 – WhatsApp and Instagram, announcements on both – mainly chatting on WhatsApp

Q3: Would you be interested in (something to put that all in one place)?

A: Yeah, I think that ... would be cool

Q4: When you're missing information about the society or the events, how do you get in touch with them?

A: Through WhatsApp, messaging ... each other

Q5: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Maybe a day or within a few hours

Q6: Do you ever miss events because you don't see messages?

A: I tend to read my messages – so not really, though I know others do

Q7: What type of posts do your society put up on social media?

A: They put up their events – posters, images

Q8: What's your favourite social media app overall? Why?

A: Instagram + TikTok, tied, both are quite engaging, the content – doomscrolling

Q9: How many social media apps do you use overall? Which do you use the most

A: 4 – Instagram / TikTok / Snapchat / WhatsApp – TikTok (the most)

Q10: From the start of the year, how many societies were you interested in, and how many did you actually go to?

A: I was interested in another, and I attended one event – found out from a friend about it

Q11: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's event (on social media)?

A: On WhatsApp ... reply to say if I'm coming or not, on Instagram I don't really interact

Q12: Generally ... what helps the most (for events) talking to someone or seeing the details?

A: Probably talking to someone, even though it's advertised, it may not really attract me whereas if a person (suggests it to me), I'm more likely to go

Q13: Would you be interested in reserving a spot for an event through an app?

A: Yeah, you're welcome to

Q14: If you wanted to share an event with friends, how would you do that?

A: Speaking to them, word of mouth, or messaging them through Snap or Instagram or WhatsApp – I'd take a screenshot

Q15: Does seeing a guest list influence whether you go to an event?

A: Not really, no, it doesn't

Q16: You're not a society committee member, are you?

A: No

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Name of Participant: Michael Williams Date: 26/11/25 Signature: M. Williams

Interview 8

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: 4

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news? Do you get them by Email?

A: 3 – WhatsApp, Discord, Instagram – not Email

Q3: Would you be interested in something to put them all in one place?

A: Yeah, I think it's a bit of a hassle trying to juggle everything – especially if you have notifications turned off, so many groups in WhatsApp

Q4: When you're missing information about any society event, how do you get in touch with the society?

A: Usually message the person (in charge), and select my notifications (for) what I want to see – Discord is a bit of a hassle with notifications – I'd go on it periodically to see if I've missed anything

Q5: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Not long, within a day – depends on the society. If it's Instagram, (it's) the best place – not a lot of people know where to reach each person

Q6: Do you end up missing events, because of (missed) messages?

A: Yeah, I've missed so many events which I feel would've been nice to go to – that was a result of missed notifications or at one point forgetting what they (...) – sometimes (I) miss them because (I) put off looking at the events)

Q7: What posts do you see societies make on social media?

A: Usually, an image calendar of events, and you can populate your own calendar with those – sometimes it's (announcement for events) throughout the week, a poster for the event

Q8: Would you be interested in something which automatically syncs an event into your calendar?

A: Yeah I feel like it would be quite useful, but you'd have to be quite selective on what the event is – there's no harm in just a notification to let you know (an event is on)

Q9: What's your favourite social media app generally?

A: Instagram, it's the one I use the most, the one I look at when societies make something – more engaging posts (of societies) which are eye catching – when they come up on your feed – Instagram doesn't have good enough timelines ... sometimes you miss them. Quite useful as you can see all the previous things (the society) has done. (as opposed to) announcements on WhatsApp – you have to scroll all the way up, it's not as (attention grabbing)

Q10: How many social media apps do you use overall, removed from societies?

A: 4 – WhatsApp, Snapchat, TikTok – good for information, with student run pages, Instagram

Q11: From the beginning of the year, how many societies were you interested in?

A: In first year, there were so many I joined, and tried – 5 to 8. Now (in fourth year) I've limited myself to 4

Q12: Why did you miss those events?

A: Workload, other times, if societies are less active, it's easy to miss events – if they don't host

many – one of the art societies, aren't that active, only form of announcement is Discord, it's majorly more difficult to manage notification wise, you end up missing announcements they make

Q13: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's event – their posts on social media?

A: Usually Instagram – story features, bookmark events that I would want to go to

Q14: Do you prefer seeing the details, talking to someone about the event, or reserving a spot through an app?

A: I think event details are the most important – there have been societies I know that use an RSVP situation, things like Eventbrite to gauge (interest), that would also be useful, though (it's a commitment to RSVP), you feel guilty..

Q15: When it comes to sharing events with friends, what's the easiest way for you to do that?

A: Message them, sometimes send the link, more word of mouth

Q16: Would it help to see a guest list before you go to an event?

A: Gauging how many people go, yes, if I'm new to a society and there's (only) 5 people it'd be awkward, overall, it'd be helpful on both ends

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Team number: 4D2

Team members / Contact Details:

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Lewis Ryan – up2277906@myport.ac.uk

Nickyyl Sharma – up2269939@myport.ac.uk

Name / Contact Details of Supervisor: Claudia Iacob / claudia.iacob@port.ac.uk

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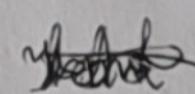
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3. I agree to take part in the above study.

Name of Participant: TheImq Chiduker

Date: 26/11/25 Signature: 

Interview 9

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: I'm in 2

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news?

A: Instagram and WhatsApp

Q3: Would you be interested in having an app to put all society information (in one place)?

A: Definitely

Q4: When you're missing information with your society, how do you get in touch with them?

A: There's just a group chat, I don't know if (one of them has a chat.. I've never attended anything from it)

Q5: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Usually really quickly, even if (the committee) doesn't respond, someone else will

Q6: Do you ever miss events because you lose track of messages?

A: Yeah, I think I've never actually attended any of them apart from clubbing – other than one post on Instagram or WhatsApp, suddenly they're (other society members) are like what time it is (on the day)

Q7: What type of posts do they make?

A: It's quite well done, they (include details), and release it the first day of the month – but the stuff at the end (gets missed), they don't post about it (towards the end)

Q8: What's your favourite social media app that you use for societies?

A: Probably Instagram, I do like seeing the posts

Q9: How many social media apps do you use overall?

A: 7 – Facebook / TikTok / Instagram / Snapchat / Twitter / Discord / WhatsApp / YouTube (questioned if YouTube counts...)

Q10: Which do you use the most? Why?

A: TikTok – nice to doomscroll, and not take anything in

Q11: How many societies were you interested at the beginning of the year, and how many have you now actually gone to?

A: I was interested in quite a few, didn't really know how to join them, or if anyone I knew was joining them – I only joined (one which I'm in) because someone I knew was in it, it was easy, she could tell me how to join, get into the group chats. I didn't join any on a whim, but I did want to join one (but unsure how to join) – with others I (didn't) really know where to start, wasn't that interested to go through the effort

Q12: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's post on an event?

A: I like all of their stuff (I am friends with the committee)

Q13: If you had to share an event with a friend, how would you do that?

A: I'd just tell them, very word of mouth – or just share the post

Q14: Would it help to see a guest list?

A: Probably, I probably (wouldn't) go if my friends aren't going

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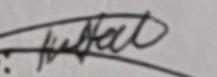
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Name of Participant: IVETA MILASIUTE

Date: 28/11

Signature: 

Interview 10

Q1: How many societies are you a part of?

A: Main part of 1, 4 overall

Q2: How many different apps do you have for society news?

A: Instagram and WhatsApp groups

Q3: Would you be interested in having something to put that all in one place?

A: Yeah, I think that would be good

Q4: When you're missing information about your society, how do you get in contact with the committee?

A: I would ask questions in the group chat on WhatsApp, or DM them on Instagram

Q5: How long does it take for them to get back to you?

A: Relatively quickly, maybe a few hours

Q6: Do you ever miss events because you lose track of messages?

A: Sometimes, it's more of an issue with me as I'm a part of a few things, I lose track of them in my head

Q7: What type of posts do they make?

A: Usually they post their schedule at the beginning of the month, of their events, they'll post reminders the day before, the day after they post pictures of the event itself

Q8: What's your favourite social media app that you use for societies?

A: WhatsApp, for communicating with the group

Q9: How many social media apps do you use overall?

A: 2 – WhatsApp and Twitter, Instagram on occasion

Q10: At the beginning of the year how many societies were you interested in, and how many are you in now?

A: I was interested in maybe 5 / 6, we joined around 3 / 4 in the end?

Q11: Why did you not go to them in the end?

A: Health reasons, some I forgot, lose track of – on Instagram I'll see (it's starting soon when it's too late)

Q12: What's the best way for you to interact with a society's post or messages on social media?

A: When (my society post) we look for how many likes it gets, gauges the interest

Q13: If you had to share an event with a friend, how would you do that?

A: Probably just ask them in person

Q14: When looking at whether to attend an event, does seeing a guest list help?

A: No

Q15: How do you distribute news to your society members?

A: Usually left to the other members – we have a WhatsApp announcements (alongside general chat) mass communication is difficult on Instagram – WhatsApp is convenient

Q16: How do your members engage with posts on WhatsApp?

A: Usually leave a thumbs up, or reply (positively)

Q17: What is the biggest hurdle for people engaging with your society?

A: 3 committee members leave important notices in the chat, people are less likely to take it seriously – they get confused about who's the authority

Q18: What media do you distribute?

A: On WhatsApp it's just text, on Instagram we have graphics (with details)

Q19: Have you set up a shared calendar for your society?

A: No, we should do, (it'd be helpful)

Q20: Do you send it out on multiple platforms?

A: Mostly on Instagram, but on WhatsApp too

Q21: Is it difficult to manage on both?

A: Yeah, I think having one person in charge would be helpful – less to do with the apps, more our society ... not sure who's said what

Q22: How long does your committee take to reply to member's messages?

A: I don't know

Q23: What's your typical event turnout, do you think it could be improved?

A: Pretty good, used to be (a paid) society, so it's free now – don't think it could be improved

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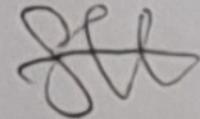
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Name of Participant:

Sophie Hart

Date: 1/12/28

Signature: 

Interview 11*

Q1: How many Societies are you a part of?

A: Too many, 15

Q2: How many different apps do you have to get society news?

A: 4 – WhatsApp, Instagram, Email, Discord

Q3: When you are missing information, how do you get in touch with your societies?

A: Quite often

Q4: Do you find you miss events due to messages getting lost?

A: After the event (I realised I missed them)

Q5: How much time does it take you get information out to your society?

A: 2 days

Q6: What type of posts do the societies make on social media?

A: Text, posters and calendars

Q7: How long do societies take to reply to a query you may have about them?

A: 2 days, (for) Badminton Society

Q8: What is your favourite social media app that you use for societies and why?

A: WhatsApp, Discord's notifications are annoying

Q9: Interested in an app to unify communication?

A: Yes if there aren't notifications as it could get annoying, (I would like) to be able to mute some Societies and choose preferences. (Would be nice to have) society tabs

Q10: How do distribute news to your society members?

A: Using the WhatsApp announcement channel, Discord announcement channel.

Q11: What is the biggest hurdle to engage with your society?

A: Gathering a rough idea of numbers. Not everyone responds, reminders would be useful.

Q12: What forms of media do you distribute and why?

A: Images, text, polls, links, (a) ticketing system

Q13: Have you set up a shared calendar, If not would you believe a shared synced calendar would be useful?

A: We have a shared calendar. and it would be useful to have it sync

Q14: When managing queries related to the society, how long do you typically take to reply.

A: Instantly. There is always at least one committee member online

Q15: Would you say members engage with your announcements?

A: Members will react to the messages or interact with the polls very quickly

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Name of Participant:

Cavan

Date:

1/12/25

Signature:

Cavan

Product Review: WhatsApp

WhatsApp is primarily chat focused, excelling at communication with society members as well as taking polls. However, it falls short with society messaging. The missing standard infinite scrolling windows for all messages also makes it hard to search older posts from certain people or the society itself.

WhatsApp supports sending media along with messages like images and video. Users of WhatsApp can also reply to messages with emojis, offering a crude version of likes. The overwhelming number of options available, however, could cause some confusion as to what the emoji means.

The lack of chat management can cause some problems in finding society chats which will be in between, adding needless friction for users.

Product Review: Instagram

Instagram is an image-sharing platform that excels at sharing posters for upcoming events and photos from previous events. However, it falls short when sharing any information that does not fit into a poster and also lacks a usable mass group messaging feature.

This makes it hard to keep track of your members on a night out or get responses quickly. There are features like polls to help organize an event and stories to provide live updates, also in the form of images.

Instagram does make it easy to find societies by showing related accounts to the university.

Product Review: Discord

Discord is a community-focused platform that excels at organizing social communication through dedicated servers and channels. Text channels allow messages to be grouped by topic, making it easier to separate announcements, general discussion, and event planning.

Discord supports sending media such as images, videos, and files alongside messages. The large number of features and customization options can be overwhelming for new users. Voice channels allow members to join and leave calls freely, which can be useful for meetings or social events.

It is however cluttered and produces a large number of notifications, making it easy for important information to get lost. Equally, there are many features for monetisation which can prove distracting for the average user.