

Project Overview

Our project is a video game discovery application designed to help gaming enthusiasts find games that match their interests and preferences. The platform will aggregate data from a trusted game API (<https://rawg.io/apidocs>) to provide detailed game information, recommendations, and user reviews. By integrating social features, the app aims to not only help users discover new games but also to foster a community where gamers can share opinions and recommendations.

Problem Statement:

Many gamers struggle to discover new games that align with their tastes due to information overload and scattered sources. Our app will solve this problem by centralizing game data, user reviews, and social recommendations in one user-friendly platform.

Intended Users

Primary Audience: Casual and dedicated gamers looking for personalized game recommendations.

Secondary Audience: Social gamers who enjoy discussing and sharing game experiences with friends.

Technical Stack and Tools

Backend:

- **Language:** Java
- **Framework:** (e.g., Spring Boot if applicable)
- **Database:** MySQL

Frontend:

- **Language:** JavaScript
- **Framework:** React

Deployment:

- **Platform:** Google Cloud Platform (GCP), following the pattern used in our class homework assignments.

Third-Party Systems/APIs:

- **Game Data API:** [RAWG Video Games Database API](https://rawg.io/apidocs)

Core Functionality Upon Completion

Game Discovery:

- Search and filter games by category/genre.
- Display detailed game profiles including descriptions, ratings, screenshots, etc.

User Interaction:

- Comment on, like, and rate games.
- Follow friends to see their game activity and recommendations.
- View friend profiles and liked games (subject to project timeline).

Future Enhancements (if time permits):

- Implement chat groups for discussions around specific games or genres.
- Additional social features such as user-generated game lists or recommendations.

Time Management and Contingency Plan

If the project is completed ahead of schedule:

- **Additional Features:** We will enhance the app by adding real-time chat groups for game discussions, improving UI/UX elements, and incorporating advanced filtering options.

If the project takes longer than anticipated:

- **Prioritization:** We will focus on ensuring that core functionalities (game discovery, game detail pages, and basic social interactions) are fully implemented and stable.
- **Feature Trimming:** Non-essential features such as in-depth friend profiles or extended social interactions may be scaled back or postponed to meet deadlines.

Design Considerations and Potential Risks

Reliance on a third-party API (RAWG) necessitates robust error handling and data caching strategies. (Monitor API changes and maintain up-to-date documentation) The design must be intuitive to cater to both casual gamers and dedicated communities.