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Team: TIM in a Suit

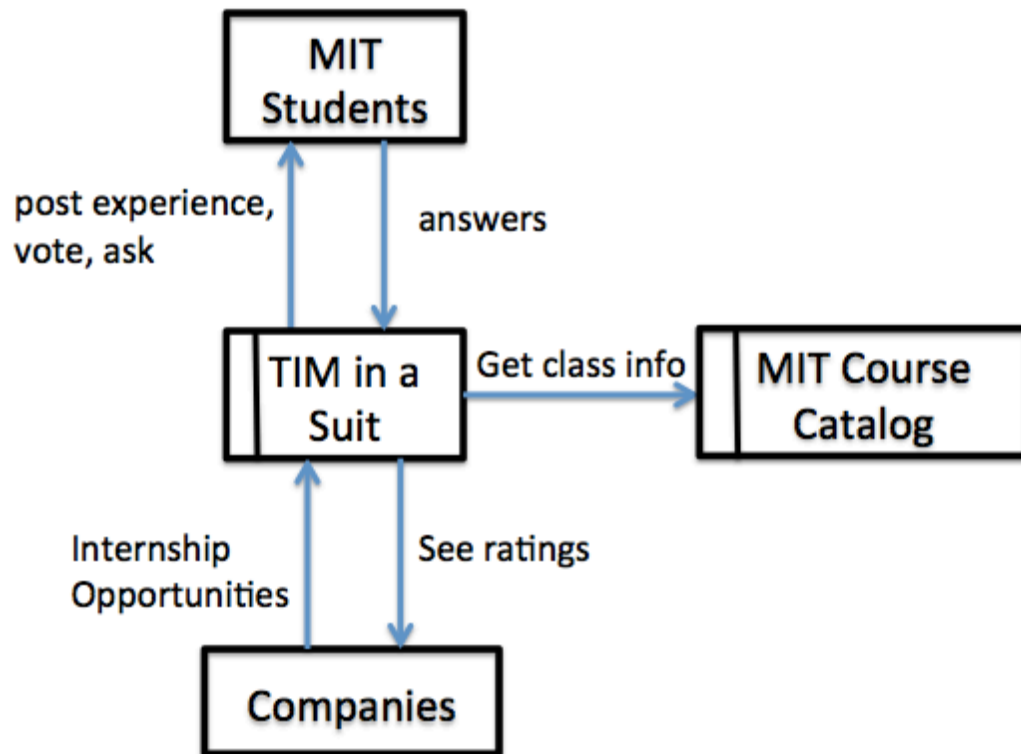
Motivation:

TIM in a Suit is an online app to help current MIT student in their search for an internship or full time job. Students can share their interviewing experience with particular companies, how they got their interviews, how their experience working for the company was like and what classes they thought were most useful in their work/ interview. It is a platform for students to get help from other students and share knowledge of the MIT-specific application processes for companies. It does not help students apply for jobs/ internships or track their applications, but it provides relevant links and information to help them with the process.

The purpose of TIM in a Suit is as follows:

- **Enable MIT students to share their MIT-specific experiences and interviewing knowledge to ease the stress of the application process.** TIM in a Suit is by MIT students for MIT students. What are the MIT classes that were useful to students during their interview or during their internship? How is the culture at company XYZ like and how different is it from MIT's culture? What were mistakes you made during your interview that you hope others will not repeat? Companies may have interview processes for MIT students that differ from the experience detailed on Glassdoor or other job-related websites. TIM in a Suit aims to be the place where students can pass on their interview experiences so that everyone will benefit from a more well-informed, well-prepared application process.
- **Promote MIT's spirit of collaboration and reduce one source of student's stress.** Finding an internship or a job during the term time is an extra task that adds extra stress to a semester's load. TIM in a Suit aims to provide a safe platform for students to share their honest experiences in seeking internships/full-time jobs, so that students know what to expect and are less stressed about the application process.
- **(Potentially) Provide opportunities for companies to post internships/ jobs to connect with students.** Companies may see their star ratings on TIM in a Suit, but they will not be able to see any of the comments that students have made about them. TIM in a Suit aim is to be a resource for students, so it may also be a suitable platform for companies to offer job opportunities there.

Context Diagram:



Concepts:

MIT students only: Authentication is through MIT certificates only, meaning that only current MIT students are able to access TIM in a Suit. This creates a safer environment for students to share their honest opinions about their internship-finding experience and their advice to others. [purpose 1]

Voting/Rating: Students have the chance to rate their interviewing experience / interning experience with a particular company. They also can either vote a posted comment up or down to show if they agree/disagree with the comment. [purpose 1]

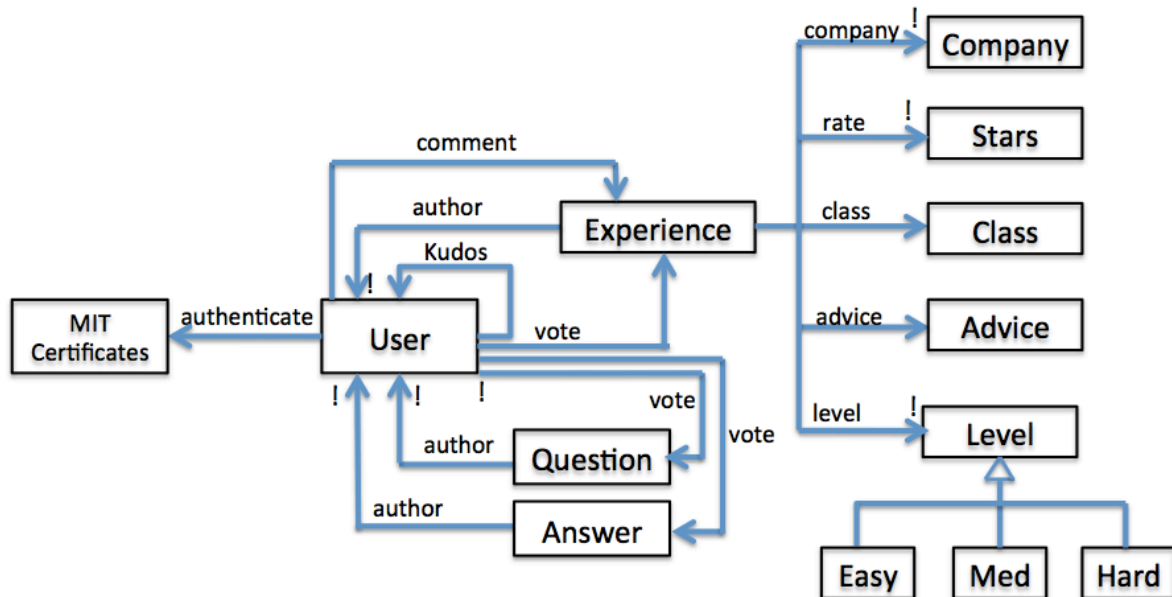
Experience: The advice that upperclassmen can give lowerclassmen is valuable in helping them not make the same mistake. Together, by sharing the experience everyone has had / pooling all experience resources (either in by rating the company, sharing a post about their experience there or even by discussing the company culture), students should be able to be more well-prepared and hence, less stressed. [purpose 2]

Kudos: The concept of giving a poster a thumbs-up or say 'thank you' after receiving useful advice. This encourages acknowledgement of good advice, as well as a nice practice of more collaboration [purpose 2]

Classes: The classes that past interviewees / interns had taken /wished they had taken, that would be useful for students. These refer to MIT specific classes and will be linked to a description on the MIT course catalog.

Honest Q&A: Anyone can ask a question about anything: interview/jobs/MITlife, and it will be open to the community to answer with no censorship.

Data Model:



Design Challenges:

Allowing Anonymity? Some students may be more comfortable posting their experiences by being anonymous. However this may not be required since TIM in a Suit is limited only to the MIT community.

Potential Solutions:

- Do not allow anonymous posting or voting. This may lead to a significantly less people posting / sharing their experiences on TIM in a Suit. In addition, it may lead to a comprise on the level of honesty users are willing to share about their experiences. However, it would make it easy to contact the original author of a post offline or tagging them to ask more about their experience, which is one of the main purposes of TIM in a Suit.
- Allowing anonymity with no method of contact. Students would likely be more comfortable to post their experiences. However, it gives students no chance to ask a more private question to the author of the experience or find out if it is someone they know in their class that they could directly ask.
- Allowing anonymity, but implementing an internal messaging system. This would be an ideal solution that would give students anonymity, but allow others to private message the author with questions or requests to meet up.

However, this would be more troublesome to implement a private messaging system that guarantees the author's information will not be leaked until the author gives consent to meet with the asker.

Restricting access: to only current MIT students or to alumni and staff too?

TIM in a Suit is meant for the MIT community, mainly the current students, but does that definition include alumni and the staff / researchers / professors?

Potential Solutions:

- Only students. Reduces the danger that an employee of a company would be able to see the full review of their company (alumni working for the company), which would compromise the idea of creating a safe environment to post honest experiences. However, it also prevents alumni from contributing their valuable experiences working for a particular company and advice they might have for current students to prepare for work while at MIT.
- Students + alumni + staff see the same version of the app. Employees of a company (MIT alumni) may be able to view the ratings of their company. Alumni can contribute to the experiences and voting. However, this may bring a new authentication problem, as alumni may not have MIT certificates anymore.
- Students + alumni + staff, but see different versions of the app. Need to decide on what content to show each user based on their status. There is now an extra challenge of showing enough to alumni so that they can contribute, while not letting employees see their company reviews.