

Team Members:

Faiyaad Hossain (fh818)

Alec Pippas (awp251)

Jeremy Freeman (jwf295)

Vorrapard (Arthur) Kumthongdee (vk2584)

Project Summary

Project Name	Short Description	Team Enthusiasm Rank	Team Confidence (1-10)	Product Owner: *Who will own this for the team?
RoomHub	Web application that allows students to find accommodative housing and student roommates from their school	10	8	Alec Pippas

Project Details:

Name

What is the name of the project you want to develop?

RoomHub

Description:

What is the project you want to develop? (Description in less than 250 words)

Web application that provides a one-stop-shop for university students to find accommodative housing and student roommates from their same or nearby schools. RoomHub will serve as a way for students within a university to connect with each other and find a roommate with similar interests and lifestyles, making the initial adjustment to a new city more manageable. Roomhub will serve as a way to streamline the process of finding a suitable roommate while maintaining budget constraints.

What is/are the problems you want to solve?

Making student housing easier, more affordable, more accessible, and less lonely.

1) Finding a Compatible Roommate

Finding the perfect roommate as a student is often challenging, especially for students moving from a far away location. Unvetted roommates often lead to problems and it is difficult to find a roommate that perfectly fits a student's budget, lifestyle, hygiene-standards, and interests.

2) Finding Student-Friendly Housing

Whether on-campus or off-campus, finding an ideal apartment for a student is difficult, costly, and time-consuming and can take the average person several weeks to find, especially when they are moving from out-of-town. A student's primary focus should be on their education as soon as they begin classes.

User Personas and Major Features

Who are the users you are targeting? Identify a few user personas. Hint: There is usually more than one "type" of user.

- Students who need roommates, particularly students who just moved to their school's area and may not know other students or the location that well.
- Our product would appeal to returning students as well, especially those who have had negative past housing experiences.
- Students who are looking for an easy-to-use interface for finding viable housing.

What are the major features you are targeting? Identify major functionality.

MVP (Minimum Viable Product)

Which features are a must to have?

- 1) Grid of apartment listings with ratings which are uploaded by other students
 - a) Shows a thumbnail image of the listed living unit with key descriptors such as the price, address, amenities, etc.
 - b) listed properties can include on-campus or off-campus housing
 - c) Housing options are student-friendly (e.g. flexible lease terms, short/medium-term leases, pre-furnished options, discounted rates, parent guarantors permitted, study rooms/lounges, no move-in/broker fees, subletting approved)
 - d) provides neighborhood information (safety, crime, entertainment, local amenities, demographics, culture, relative rent prices, nightlife, public transportation, restaurants, famous places)
- 2) Find other roommates (students) from the same universities or nearby school
 - a) Users can specify their own attributes (e.g. cleanliness, bedtime, night owl/early-bird, guest policy, party policy, noise preference, cooking preference/allergies, # of roommates, school/area of study) and elect to be searchable by other users on the platform
 - b) Users can toggle whether they are actively searching for roommate or not

- c) Users can search for other users actively requesting a roommate, and filter search results by roommate attributes
- d) Multiple users can form roommate groups of 2 or more students
- 3) Messaging interface for users looking to connect with potential roommates

MLP (Minimum Loveable Product)

Which features are really nice to have so the users would fall in love with the product.

- 1) Interactive Map showing the different listings geographically
- 2) Creating a new user class for landlords so that they can upload listings and seek out student tenants specifically by opting to waive brokerage fees, promotions, etc.
 - a) Landlords have to go through a vetting/approval process before they can list their properties

Nice-To-Haves Features

Not MVP, not MLP, but would still be cool to develop these features

- 1) RoomHub can be elevated to become more of a socializing application, allowing users to discuss and interact on message boards and link together for social events (happy hours, school activities, etc.)
- 2) Connecting students to discounted move-in services (furniture procurement - connect to Wayfair, physical moving services, utilities hook-up)
 - a) Partnerships with furniture companies, moving services, local utilities that enable discounted or student-friendly terms
 - b) Links to 3rd-party website and advertised discounts within the application
- 3) Past student-roommate reviews

CRUD Features

How is this project interactive for the user personas?

C- creates
R - read
U - update
D - delete

Persona 1

Students Seeking Roommate AND Housing

C - Creates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Register for an account - Bookmark/favorite listings to add to a watchlist for later
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a profile to publicly display their own qualities as a roommate - Send messages to users who own a specific listing
R - Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - View available housing listings posted by other students and/or landlords - View other user profiles - View community reviews of a unit - Ability to filter listings by preferences (price, amenities, lifestyle) - Read messages from other users
U - Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edit user profile
D - Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove listings from watchlist - Delete account

Persona 2

Students With Housing That Are Seeking Roommates

C - Creates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as Persona 1 (Students Seeking Roommate AND Housing) - Create a listing for an available property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes price, amenities, utilities, furnishing - Preferences for the ideal roommate
R - Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as Persona 1 (Students Seeking Roommate AND Housing)
U - Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as Persona 1 (Students Seeking Roommate AND Housing) - Edit listing to change description and features of a unit
D - Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as Persona 1 (Students Seeking Roommate AND Housing) - Delete listing

Persona 3

Qualified landlords looking to create housing listings.

C - Creates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create account - Build apartment listings
R - Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inquiries from interested students - Review interested student profiles
U - Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise apartment information - Apartment availability changes

D - Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove listing if apartment is taken off market or no longer available - Delete account
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Similar/Already Existing Products

What similar applications exist on the market? (at least 3 with links and descriptions).

If this work is truly unique and no one has even done anything even remotely similar please explain your search procedure and how you came to this conclusion.

1) <https://roomiapp.com/>

Roomi is a way to connect renters with potential roommates. Tenants can upload pictures and details of their units. Interested users can reach out via chat to express interest. Roomi has different filters for amenities, bedrooms and unit type.

2) <https://roomster.com/>

Roomster allows you to look for either a room or a roommate, which are displayed both in grid view and interactive map view side-by-side. Lists out unit amenities and descriptions of the posting-user as a way for potential roommates to filter out their preferences.

3) <https://www.spareroom.com>

Spareroom allows users to advertise any vacancies and look for suitable roommates. Plenty of different filtering options are available, including the ability to specifically look for short-term rentals. This website is not as interactive and has more clutter compared to competitors but provides a good foundation for the different qualities and options that roommate-seekers are looking for.

4) <https://www.studenthousing.org/>

Educational Housing Services (EHS) provides NYC students and interns with safe and convenient, off-campus housing. EHS plans resident events at their buildings and around NYC so that students can make new friends or incubate ideas for new ventures. EHS provides discounted tickets to iconic NYC places and events like the Empire State Building and Yankees games. Also, EHS provides 24/7 "Student Life Staff" to offer students advice on how to navigate life in NYC while staying within budget.