WiredSpace

A social network free of advertisement and with highly customizable profile

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Impact on society

What impact is expected from your technology?

What is exactly the problem? Is it really a problem? Are you sure?

The problem that WiredSpace aims to solve is the lack of a decentralized, censorship-resistant social network that also prioritizes user privacy, data security, and customization.
Many existing social platforms impose heavy restrictions on content, lack transparency in moderation, and often exploit user data for monetization.

Is this really a problem?
Yes, for users who seek a space where they have control over their data and expression, this is a significant issue. Privacy concerns and increasing cases of censorship make this a pressing issue for certain user groups.

Are we sure?
Yes, based on trends in user complaints about major platforms and increasing demand for decentralized alternatives.

Are you sure that this technology is solving the RIGHT problem?

To determine whether WiredSpace is addressing the real issue and not just symptoms, we can apply the Five Whys Technique:

Why do users need an alternative social network? Because existing networks restrict free speech and compromise privacy.

Why do they restrict free speech? Because centralized platforms have corporate interests, governmental regulations, and automated moderation policies.

Why does this matter? Because users lack control over their content and data.

Why is user control important? It ensures freedom of expression, security, and digital independence.

Why is a new social network a solution? A properly designed platform can balance freedom and security, giving users control over data while preventing harmful activities.

Thus, WiredSpace does target the root causea lack of privacy-first, customizable, and censorship-resistant social networking.

How is this technology going to solve the problem?

Key features that address the problem:

User-controlled customization: Prevents the platform from dictating user experience.

Censorship-resistant (with exceptions for harmful content): Ensures a balance between free speech and ethical responsibility.

Secure data storage & authentication: Protects users' personal information from leaks and unauthorized access.

Scalability & third-party integrations: Allows flexibility for future enhancements.

Will it work?
The project applies best practices in security, database management, and performance optimization, making it technically sound. However, real-world success depends on adoption and user behavior, which requires continuous improvement.

What negative effects do you expect from this technology?

Potential unintended consequences include:

Misinformation & misuse: Without careful moderation, the platform could be exploited for spreading harmful content.

Security risks: If the security model is not robust enough, user data may be compromised.

Scalability challenges: Real-time interactions (e.g., messaging) require efficient infrastructure, which might be costly to maintain.

Ethical dilemmas in moderation: Defining what should and shouldnt be censored could lead to conflicts.

To mitigate these, the project must implement ethical content moderation, strong security protocols, and transparent governance.

In what way is this technology contributing to a world you want to live in?

Short-term impact:

Provides an alternative for people seeking privacy, customization, and secure interactions.

Encourages healthy competition in the social media landscape.

Long-term impact:

Could serve as a blueprint for future ethical social networks.

May encourage decentralization trends in digital communities.

Could challenge the monopoly of major tech companies, leading to better privacy standards across the industry.

Does it align with professional and ethical values?
Yes, as long as the platform remains committed to user empowerment, ethical moderation, and data security.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this technology on society (by filling out the questions above), what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.

Stronger moderation policies: Implement AI-assisted but human-reviewed moderation.

Transparency in decision-making: A clear content policy and public appeal process for users.

Decentralization & blockchain integration: To further enhance privacy and prevent manipulation.

Gamified engagement & trust-building mechanisms: To maintain a positive community culture.

Hateful and criminal actors

What can bad actors do with your technology?

In which way can the technology be used to break the law or avoid the consequences of breaking the law?

Potential misuse cases:

Harassment & hate speech: Users could exploit the lack of heavy moderation to spread harmful content.

Privacy invasion: Without proper security, bad actors could collect personal data for doxxing, stalking, or identity theft.

Illegal content distribution: If the platform is not carefully moderated, it could be used to share prohibited materials.

Fraud & scams: Fake profiles and impersonation could be used for phishing and financial fraud.

Evasion of legal consequences: Users could coordinate illegal activities in private messages.

Mitigation strategies:

Implement AI-driven content moderation with manual review for appeals.

End-to-end encryption in messaging to prevent third-party interception, but include abuse reporting mechanisms.

Strict identity verification for admin-level users while preserving user anonymity where necessary.

Automated detection of suspicious activity using machine learning techniques.

Can fakers, thieves or scammers abuse the technology?

Fakers, thieves and scammers can can abuse the technology. Possible abuses include:

Fake accounts for scams: Impersonating real users to steal personal data.

Phishing attempts: Tricking users into sharing sensitive information.

Trolling & cyberbullying: Spreading false narratives, attacking users.

Spambots: Automated accounts flooding the platform with fake content or advertisements.

Mitigation strategies:

AI-powered bot detection to remove automated accounts.

Two-factor authentication (2FA) to prevent account takeovers.

Flagging & reporting system for users to report scams and harassment.

Can the technology be used against certain (ethnic) groups or (social) classes?

Yes, unmoderated content could lead to:

Hate speech or discrimination: Users targeting specific ethnic, religious, or social groups.

Algorithmic bias: If AI moderation is not properly trained, it could disproportionately censor some groups.

Social engineering attacks: Spreading misinformation that negatively affects specific communities.

Mitigation strategies:

Ethical AI training to minimize bias in moderation.

Diversity in moderation teams to ensure fair treatment of all groups.

Transparent content policies with appeal mechanisms.

In which way can bad actors use this technology to pit certain groups against each other? These groups can be, but are not constrained to, ethnic, social, political or religious groups.

Social networks have historically been used to amplify division and conflict. Possible misuse includes:

Coordinated disinformation campaigns: Spreading false narratives to incite conflict.

Algorithmic echo chambers: Users only seeing content that reinforces their beliefs, leading to polarization.

Deepfake content & propaganda: Manipulating videos and images to distort reality.

Mitigation strategies:

Fact-checking partnerships to counter misinformation.

Content diversity algorithms to prevent echo chambers.

User education on digital literacy to recognize fake news

How could bad actors use this technology to subvert or attack the truth?

Potential risks:

Fake news dissemination: Spreading misinformation faster than it can be debunked.

AI-generated propaganda: Bots creating misleading narratives.

Deepfake videos & images: Manipulating public perception.

Mitigation strategies:

AI-based content verification to flag misleading posts.

User-driven moderation where flagged content is reviewed by multiple sources.

Education campaigns to improve critical thinking skills among users.

Now that you have thought hard about how bad actors can impact this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Stronger verification methods: Introduce optional KYC (Know Your Customer) verification for high-trust users.

Transparency reports: Publish regular moderation & security updates to build trust.

User-controlled moderation tools: Empower community moderation while maintaining safeguards against abuse.

Encrypted reporting mechanisms: Users can anonymously report crimes without fear of retaliation.

Decentralized content authentication: Use blockchain-backed verification for trusted news sources.

Privacy

Are you considering the privacy & personal data of the users of your technology?

Does the technology register personal data? If yes, what personal data?

WiredSpace collects and processes the following personal data:

User credentials: Name, email, username, password (hashed).

Profile information: Profile pictures, bio, location (if shared by the user).

Social interactions: Friends list, messages, posts, likes, and comments.

User activity logs: Login timestamps, device/browser info (for security).

Moderation records: Reports, bans, and flagged content history

Do you think the technology invades the privacy of the stakeholders? If yes, in what way?

Yes, Potential privacy risks are:

User tracking & profiling: If the platform collects excessive metadata, it could be used to profile users.

Data leaks: Poor security practices could lead to breaches of personal data.

Third-party integrations: If not carefully controlled, external services could extract user data.

Permanent data retention: If user data is stored indefinitely, it could be exploited in the future.

Is the technology is compliant with prevailing privacy and data protection law? Can you indicate why?

WiredSpace follows privacy laws like GDPR by requiring user consent, allowing data deletion, providing data access, and using encryption for security. Improvements are needed in clarifying policies, managing third-party access, and automating user data requests.

Does the technology mitigate privacy and data protection risks/ concerns (privacy by design)? Please indicate how.

Data minimization: Only essential data is collected.

User control: Users can manage their privacy settings.

Encryption: Personal messages and sensitive data are encrypted.

Security audits: Regular penetration testing to identify vulnerabilities.

Anonymization: Logs and analytics data are anonymized where possible.

In which way can you imagine a future impact of the collection of personal data?

Data permanence: If not handled correctly, user data could be stored indefinitely and misused.

Reputation damage: Old posts and interactions could negatively affect users in the future.

Government & corporate surveillance: If WiredSpace is not transparent, authorities or companies might exploit user data.

Now that you have thought hard about privacy and data protection, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Improve user education: Clear onboarding to explain privacy settings.

Enhance encryption: Default end-to-end encryption for all private interactions.

User-controlled data retention: Let users set expiration dates for their data.

Stronger third-party data policies: Ensure external services cannot track users without consent.

Regular security audits: Independent reviews of privacy policies and data protection

Human values

How does the technology affect your human values?

How is the identity of the (intended) users affected by the technology?

Users can personalize their profiles, which enhances self-expression.

The ability to connect and interact with friends strengthens relationships but could also lead to conflicts (e.g., blocking/unblocking).

The lack of censorship (with exceptions) means users can express their views freely, but this could lead to potential ethical and legal concerns.

Admins have the power to moderate content, affecting users' perception of fairness and trust in the platform.

How does the technology influence the users' autonomy?

Users have control over their personal pages, friends list, and messages.

Admin moderation could restrict autonomy if misused.

The technology does not impose decisions on users, but interactions with external services might create dependencies.

Potential addiction concerns due to constant real-time interactions (e.g., messaging, posts).

What is the effect of the technology on the health and/or well-being of users?

Positive: Provides a platform for social interaction and self-expression.

Negative: Could lead to stress, anxiety, or cyberbullying if not properly moderated.

Excessive use might result in addiction and reduced productivity.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of your technology on human values, what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.

Implement better moderation tools to balance free speech and user safety.

Introduce user-friendly privacy settings to give more control over personal data.

Develop mechanisms to prevent addiction, such as time tracking and optional usage limits.

Strengthen security measures to protect user data from breaches.

Stakeholders

Have you considered all stakeholders?

This category is not applicable for this technology.

Data

Is data in your technology properly used?

Are you familiar with the fundamental shortcomings and pitfalls of data and do you take this sufficiently into account in the technology?

Subjectivity & Bias: User-generated content and interactions are inherently subjective. To mitigate bias, content moderation should be transparent and balanced.

Incomplete Data: Users may choose not to share certain information, which affects the accuracy of analytics and personalization features.

Correlation vs. Causation: Just because two users interact frequently does not mean they have a strong connection. Algorithmic recommendations must be designed with caution.

Complexity of Reality: Users behave unpredictably, and no dataset can fully capture human interactions. The platform should allow user feedback to improve recommendations over time.

How does the technology organize continuous improvement when it comes to the use of data?

Data collection is continuously monitored to ensure relevance and accuracy.

A feedback loop should be implemented, allowing users to correct or remove their data.

Privacy settings should allow users to control how their data is used.

How will the technology keep the insights that it identifies with data sustainable over time?

Legal Compliance: Data processing follows GDPR-like regulations to ensure long-term legality.

Data Retention Policies: User data should only be stored for a reasonable period, with clear policies on deletion upon request.

In what way do you consider the fact that data is collected from the users?

The platform does not profit from user data sales. Instead, data is used to improve user experience (e.g., better recommendations, personalization).

Users should be fully informed about what data is collected and why.

Transparency in data policies ensures that users are treated fairly, with the ability to opt out of data collection.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of data on this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Implement better data anonymization techniques to protect user privacy.

Develop a robust consent system where users can manage their data-sharing preferences.

Periodically review bias in the platform's algorithms to ensure fairness in content visibility.

Inclusivity
Is your technology fair for everyone?

Will everyone have access to the technology?
The platform is designed to be widely accessible, but there are potential limitations:

Users need internet access and a compatible device, which may exclude economically disadvantaged individuals.

The interface should be designed for inclusivity, including support for people with disabilities (e.g., screen readers, high contrast mode).

Those without access to the platform may miss out on networking opportunities and online social interactions.

Does this technology have a built-in bias?
Potential biases could arise in:

Content moderation: If admin decisions are not transparent, they might favor certain viewpoints.

Algorithmic recommendations: If the system promotes certain content over others, it may reinforce existing biases.

Does this technology make automatic decisions and how do you account for them?
The platform may use automated moderation and content filtering.

If AI-driven decisions are used, they must be explainable and verifiable.

Users should have the option to appeal automated decisions.

Is everyone benefitting from the technology or only a a small group? Do you see this as a problem? Why/why not?
Ideally, the platform benefits a wide range of users by providing social and networking opportunities.

However, there is a risk that early adopters or certain social groups may dominate discussions, potentially excluding minority voices.

The platform should promote diverse content and ensure fair visibility for all users.

Does the team that creates the technology represent the diversity of our society?

The development team consists of a small group of developers and university mentors.

While the team may not fully represent all user demographics, efforts should be made to gather diverse user feedback during development.

Now that you have thought hard about the inclusivity of the technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Introduce accessibility features for users with disabilities.

Ensure content moderation policies are clear and unbiased.

Implement user feedback loops to continuously improve inclusivity.

Promote multilingual support to reach a broader audience.

Regularly audit the algorithmic fairness of content recommendations.

Transparency

Are you transparent about how your technology works?

Is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the technology works and how the business model works?

The platform should provide clear documentation on its functionalities (e.g., profile customization, messaging, content moderation).

Users need to be informed about data usage, security measures, and potential risks.

Currently, no monetization model is defined, but if one is introduced, it should be clearly communicated.

If the technology makes an (algorithmic) decision, is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the decision was reached?

The platform does not rely heavily on automated decision-making, but some elements (e.g., content filtering, user reports) might involve algorithmic processing.

If AI moderation or ranking algorithms are introduced, their logic should be disclosed to users.

Transparency on collected data and how it influences decisions should be provided.

Is it possible to file a complaint or ask questions/get answers about this technology?

Users should have a way to report issues, appeal moderation decisions, or request data corrections.

A support/contact system (e.g., email, FAQ section, ticketing system) should be implemented.

Admins should have clear guidelines on handling complaints fairly.

Is the technology (company) clear about possible negative consequences or shortcomings of the technology?

Potential risks include privacy concerns, cyberbullying, and misinformation spread.

Users should be informed about security measures and their limitations.

Content moderation policies must be transparent to prevent unfair restrictions.

Now that you have thought hard about the transparency of this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Create a transparency page explaining how user data is processed and how moderation works.

Allow users to request explanations for content removal or moderation actions.

Develop a complaint-handling procedure for reporting unfair treatment.

Regularly audit moderation decisions to ensure fairness.

Sustainability

Is your technology environmentally sustainable?

In what way is the direct and indirect energy use of this technology taken into account?

The platform requires server hosting, which consumes energy.

Optimization strategies, such as efficient database queries and caching, can help reduce energy consumption.

The choice of a cloud provider with renewable energy sources can minimize the carbon footprint.

Encouraging lighter user interactions (e.g., optimizing image sizes, reducing unnecessary API calls) can further decrease energy use.

Do you think alternative materials could have been considered in the technology?

Since this is a digital product, physical materials are not a major concern.

However, energy-intensive hardware (e.g., servers, user devices) contributes to electronic waste.

Choosing data centers with eco-friendly policies (e.g., low-energy cooling, recycling old hardware) could help.

Do you think the lifespan of the technology is realistic?

The system is designed to be scalable and maintainable, ensuring long-term usability.

Regular software updates and modular design will extend its lifespan.

Potential risks: outdated technology, reliance on third-party services that may discontinue.

Solution: ensure backward compatibility and allow for easy migration if needed.

What is the hidden impact of the technology in the whole chain?

Upstream impact: Server production, energy consumption, and infrastructure maintenance.

Downstream impact: Data storage requirements, bandwidth usage, and

potential e-waste from users upgrading devices to access the platform.

Now that you have thought hard about the sustainability of this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Optimize server efficiency by reducing redundant processes.

Use renewable-powered hosting for lower carbon emissions.

Implement lightweight code and caching to reduce server load.

Regularly audit and remove inactive data to prevent excessive storage use.

Future

Did you consider future impact?

What could possibly happen with this technology in the future?

If 100 million users adopt the platform, it could become a major social hub, influencing online interactions and digital culture.

Communities might form around shared interests, but issues like misinformation, cyberbullying, and echo chambers could also emerge.

Users might demand better privacy controls, content moderation, and AI-driven recommendations for a more personalized experience.

Sketch a or some future scenario (s) (20-50 years up front) regarding the technology with the help of storytelling. Start with at least one utopian scenario.

Wired Space evolves into a decentralized, user-governed platform where free speech is balanced with ethical moderation.

The platform supports global communities, digital collaboration, and fair content monetization for creators.

Advanced AI moderation eliminates toxicity while preserving free speech.

The network integrates seamlessly with other digital services while ensuring user privacy and security.

Sketch a or some future scenario (s) (20-50 years up front) regarding the technology with the help of storytelling. Start with at least one dystopian scenario.

The platform becomes a breeding ground for misinformation and manipulation, driven by algorithmic bias.

Governments or corporations exploit user data for surveillance and control.

AI-powered moderation leads to unfair censorship or overreach.

The community becomes polarized, reinforcing ideological divides rather than fostering understanding.

The platform collapses due to security breaches, unethical ownership changes, or declining user trust.

Basically, becoming a twitter (X)

Would you like to live in one of this scenario's? Why? Why not?
The utopian scenario is ideal, as it aligns with values of free expression, privacy, and community building.

The dystopian scenario would be problematic due to ethical concerns, loss of trust, and the potential for misuse.

What happens if the technology (which you have thought of as ethically well-considered) is bought or taken over by another party?
If acquired by a large corporation, the platform could shift towards profit-driven decisions, leading to excessive ads, data mining, and censorship.

If acquired by a government, the platform could be used for surveillance or propaganda.

Impact Improvement: Now that you have thought hard about the future impact of the technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.
Decentralization: Ensure user governance and transparency in decision-making.

AI Ethics: Develop explainable AI models for moderation and recommendations.

Privacy-first Design: Minimize data collection and ensure user control over data.

Content Monetization: Offer fair compensation models for content creators without relying on excessive ads.