

StudySphere: Collaborative Study Platform for Android

Overview

StudySphere is an Android application designed to enhance collaborative studying among students. It enables users to create course-specific study spaces or join existing ones using unique course IDs. Within these spaces, users can organize notes, plan study sessions, and communicate via real-time group chat. The app leverages Firebase for backend services and integrates with Google services for calendar functionality, delivering a robust and user-friendly experience.

Core Features

- **User Authentication:** Secure login and registration system.
- **Dashboard:** A central hub displaying enrolled courses with options to create or join courses.
- **Course Spaces:** Dedicated areas for each course, including:
 - Real-time group chat supporting text, images, and PDFs.
 - Folder-based notes organization for PDFs, images, and text files.
 - Study session planning with RSVP and Google Calendar integration.
- **Course Creation:** Users can create new courses and become their admins.
- **Course Joining:** Users can join existing courses by entering unique course IDs.
- **Logout:** Option to exit the authenticated session.

Technical Stack

- **Frontend:** Android app developed using Kotlin or Java.

- **Backend:**
 - **Firebase Authentication:** For user login and registration.
 - **Firestore:** For storing course data, notes, and study session details.
 - **Firebase Realtime Database:** For real-time group chat functionality.
 - **Firebase Storage:** For file uploads (notes and chat attachments).
 - **Firebase Cloud Functions:** For secure Google Calendar API integration.
- **Libraries:**
 - Android Navigation Component for screen navigation.
 - ViewModels and LiveData for data management and UI updates.
 - Google Sign-In API for Calendar integration authentication.

Data Models

User

- **userId:** String (unique identifier)
- **email:** String
- **enrolledCourses:** List<String> (list of courseIds)

Course

- **courseId:** String (unique identifier)
- **courseName:** String
- **admin:** String (userId of the creator)
- **members:** List<String> (list of userIds)

Folder

- **folderId:** String (unique identifier)
- **courseId:** String
- **name:** String

- **parentFolderId:** String (null for top-level folders)

File

- **fileId:** String (unique identifier)
- **courseId:** String
- **name:** String
- **type:** String (e.g., "pdf", "image", "text")
- **url:** String (Firebase Storage download URL)
- **parentFolderId:** String (links to the containing folder)

StudySession

- **sessionId:** String (unique identifier)
- **courseId:** String
- **title:** String
- **date:** Timestamp
- **time:** String
- **location:** String
- **description:** String
- **attendees:** Integer
- **rsvps:** Map<String, String> (userId to RSVP status: "yes", "no", "maybe")

ChatMessage

- **messageId:** String (unique identifier)
- **courseId:** String
- **senderId:** String
- **timestamp:** Timestamp
- **content:** String (text message or file URL)
- **type:** String (e.g., "text", "image", "pdf")

User Interface (UI) Screens

1. Login Screen

- **Components:**
 - Email field (EditText)
 - Password field (EditText)
 - Login button (Button)
 - Register button (Button)
- **Behavior:**
 - On "Login" click: Authenticate with Firebase Authentication; if successful, navigate to Dashboard.
 - On "Register" click: Navigate to Register Screen.

2. Register Screen

- **Components:**
 - Email field (EditText)
 - Password field (EditText)
 - Confirm Password field (EditText)
 - Register button (Button)
- **Behavior:**
 - On "Register" click: Validate inputs; create user with Firebase Authentication; if successful, navigate to Dashboard.

3. Dashboard (Home Screen)

- **Components:**
 - **BottomNavigationView** with three tabs:
 1. **Courses:** Displays a RecyclerView of enrolled courses.
 2. **Create Course:** Form to create a new course.

3. **Join Course:** Form to join a course by ID.

- **Courses Tab:**
 - RecyclerView listing course cards (showing courseName).
 - Clicking a course navigates to its Course Screen.
- **Create Course Tab:**
 - Form with:
 - Course Name field (EditText)
 - Create button (Button)
- **Join Course Tab:**
 - Form with:
 - Course ID field (EditText)
 - Join button (Button)
- **Behavior:**
 - **Courses Tab:** Fetches enrolledCourses from Firestore and populates the RecyclerView.
 - **Create Course Tab:** On "Create" click, store new course in Firestore, set user as admin, add courseId to user's enrolledCourses, refresh Courses tab.
 - **Join Course Tab:** On "Join" click, validate course ID, check if course exists and user isn't already a member, add user to course members and course to enrolledCourses, refresh Courses tab.

4. Course Screen

- **Components:**
 - Toolbar with courseName.
 - **BottomNavigationView** with three tabs:
 1. **Chat:** Real-time group chat interface.
 2. **Notes:** Folder-based notes organization system.

3. **Meets:** List of study sessions.

- **Chat Tab:**
 - RecyclerView for messages (sender, timestamp, content).
 - Message input field (EditText) and Send button (Button).
 - Attach button (for images/PDFs).
- **Notes Tab:**
 - RecyclerView listing folders and files.
 - Buttons: New Folder, Upload File.
 - Clicking a folder navigates deeper; clicking a file opens it.
 - Search bar (EditText) for filtering notes.
- **Meets Tab:**
 - RecyclerView listing study sessions (title, date, time, location, attendees, RSVP status).
 - Create Session button.
 - RSVP buttons per session (Yes, No, Maybe).
 - For "Yes" RSVP: Option to add to Google Calendar.
- **Behavior:**
 - Chat updates in real-time via Firebase Realtime Database.
 - Notes fetches data from Firestore; supports navigation and uploads.
 - Meets fetches sessions from Firestore; updates RSVPs and triggers Calendar integration.

5. Create Study Session Screen

- **Components:**
 - Form with:
 - Title field (EditText)
 - Date field (DatePicker or EditText)

- Time field (TimePicker or EditText)
- Location field (EditText)
- Description field (EditText)
- Cancel button (Button)
- Save button (Button)
- **Behavior:**
 - On "Save" click: Store session in Firestore; return to Meets tab.

6. Menu/Profile Section

- **Components:**
 - Logout option (MenuItem).
- **Behavior:**
 - On "Logout" click: Sign out from Firebase Authentication; navigate to Login Screen.

Key Functionalities

Authentication

- **Login:** Validate credentials with Firebase Authentication.
- **Register:** Create user with email/password in Firebase Authentication.

Course Management

- **Create Course:**
 - User inputs course name, creates course in Firestore.
 - User becomes admin; courseId added to enrolledCourses.
- **Join Course by ID:**
 - User enters course ID in Join Course tab.
 - System validates ID (exists, user not already a member).

- If valid, adds `userId` to `course members` and `courseId` to `enrolledCourses`.

Real-time Chat

- **Send Message:** Write `ChatMessage` to Firebase Realtime Database.
- **File Sharing:** Upload file to Firebase Storage; share URL in `ChatMessage`.
- **Receive Messages:** Listen for updates; update `RecyclerView`.

Notes Organization

- **Folder Navigation:** Fetch contents from Firestore based on `parentFolderId`.
- **File Upload:** Store file in Firebase Storage; save metadata in Firestore.
- **Search:** Filter contents by name.
- **File Viewing:** Open files with appropriate viewers.

Study Sessions

- **Create Session:** Save `StudySession` to Firestore.
- **RSVP:** Update `rsvps` in Firestore; trigger Calendar integration for "yes."
- **Calendar Integration:** Use Google Sign-In and Cloud Functions to create events.

Additional Details

- **Error Handling:** Show loading indicators, success/failure messages, and handle network issues.
 - **UI/UX:** Inspired by Canvas (dashboard), Discord (chat), and Notion (notes).
 - **Performance:** Optimize Firestore queries and `RecyclerView` usage.
 - **Testing:** Test with sample data for course creation, joining, and feature usage.
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