

Meeting new people, especially in unfamiliar and uncomfortable environments, can be difficult. Fortunately, our app, “Tables,” provides an elegant, yet pragmatic, way to do so. At its core, Tables is an app for UCSD students to find and grab a meal with others who they are likely to get along with, and thus, likely to form long and lasting friendships. What are the primary features a user of Tables can expect? Users of the application will create a profile, search for other users who they are likely to connect with, and, once they have matched with others, be able to communicate with each other to set a location and time to eat.

A user begins by creating their profile, which, by representing who they are to others and to the system, allows them to match with people who share similar personalities and hobbies. Within their profile they can upload pictures, cite interests and hobbies, describe what kind of food they like, and state the classes and subjects they are in/are interested in. With this information, other users can get a feel of the user and decide whether they are someone they would get along with, and vice versa. Furthermore, this information is used by the system to better optimize the displaying of others, so that the user is not bogged down by having to sift through those whom they have little or nothing in common with. In short, the user profile is a tool used by both the user and the system to provide an intelligent matching system.

After the profile has been created, a user can create a search request to find other users. This request can be filtered based on an algorithm that takes into account, depending on what the user desires, similar interests, major, desired meetup time, classes. Alternatively, they can search in a completely random manner. One of the hardest parts about meeting others and creating friendships is initially finding something to talk about. Filtering the search results will give users a starting point of conversation, and from there, hopefully the conversation will be able to carry on to other topics. The search request improves and simplifies the process of finding others you are interested in meeting and creating friendship with.

After two users have confirmed that they would like to meet with each other, they will be able to talk in a private group chat to finalize a meeting time and location. The chat will have multiple features such as creating a poll, automatically picking a time when all users are free, and picking locations from a map of campus. Users will waste less time messaging each other back and forth about when and where they want to meet, so they can have more time to talk about their similar interests during a meeting. These features, which are not found in text messaging applications, are designed to make finalizing the location and time as simple as possible.

At the heart of the Tables experience are the creation of a user profile, the search for other users, and communication between users to set up a time and place to grab a bite. Each function seeks to streamline and smooth the experience of meeting new

people. The profile allows each user to express who they are, which will be the main tool that both users and the system use to perform preliminary screening for potential new friends. The search system is the primary driver of the application. It takes advantage of the profiles to give users an ordered list of those that they are likely to get along with. Finally, the chat and location function allows users to easily choose and agree on location to grab a table.