HumaraGhar - A Revolutionary real-estate application.

A project report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of

B.Tech. in Information Technology

by

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Declaration of Authorship

We, Ayush Kumar and Akshay Bhatnagar, declare that the work presented in "HumaraGhar" is our own. We confirm that:

- This work was completed entirely while in candidature for B.Tech. degree at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Lucknow.
- Where we have consulted the published work of others, it is always cited.
- Wherever we have cited the work of others, the source is always indicated. Except for the aforementioned quotations, this work is solely our work.
- We have acknowledged all major sources of information.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the work entitled "HumaraGhar" submitted by Ayush Kumar and Akshay Bhatnagar who got their name registered on Jul 2020 for the award of B.Tech. degree at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Lucknow is absolutely based upon their own work under the supervision of Dr. Mainak Adhikari, Department of Computer Science, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Lucknow - 226 002, U.P., India and that neither this work nor any part of it has been submitted for any degree/diploma or any other academic award anywhere before.

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Lucknow November 2023 Ayush Kumar Akshay Bhatnagar

ABSTRACT

The modern dynamics of housing and shared living arrangements have evolved significantly, paving the way for innovative solutions to streamline the process of finding roommates and renting accommodations. This project introduces a comprehensive room renting application that revolutionizes the traditional approach to housing searches by integrating collaborative features and personalized matchmaking.

The core feature of this application is its versatility, offering users the flexibility to either form teams to explore rental options collectively or seek individual accommodations. The unique selling proposition (USP) lies in its capability to facilitate seamless roommate searches for those seeking cohabitation or simply looking to fill vacancies in existing spaces.

Key functionalities include a sophisticated matchmaking system leveraging user preferences and profiles to pair compatible roommates and predicting accurate renting price suggestions based on neighbourhood and amenities provided. The application utilizes Next.js for its frontend, harnessing its capabilities for dynamic and responsive web interfaces. Meanwhile, Supabase, a robust PostgreSQL-based backend, powers the application's database, ensuring efficient data management and scalability.

Through a user-centric design approach and a user-friendly interface, this application aims to redefine the room renting experience, fostering connections, and simplifying the often daunting task of finding suitable accommodations or roommates.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

In the evolving landscape of urban living, the challenges associated with securing suitable accommodations transcend the boundaries of traditional housing searches. Our endeavor to develop a room renting application stems from the personal experiences of our team members—recent bachelor graduates navigating their entry into professional realms in new, bustling cities. The initial hurdle of securing affordable living spaces without an established network of friends or acquaintances drove us to conceive a solution that redefines the norms of housing searches.

As young professionals transitioning from academic settings to bustling urban environments, the lack of a supportive network to share the costs and experiences of renting became a significant obstacle. This personal experience serves as the driving force behind our initiative, inspiring us to craft a comprehensive solution that addresses not only the financial burden but also the social and logistical challenges associated with finding suitable accommodations and compatible roommates.

1.2 Need

The contemporary housing market poses challenges for individuals transitioning from academia to professional spheres, particularly in unfamiliar urban landscapes. There exists a pressing need for an inclusive, efficient, and user-centric platform that accommodates both solo renters and those seeking collaborative living arrangements or compatible roommates. The absence of such a tool creates inefficiencies and hurdles in finding afford-

able, compatible, and convenient housing solutions.

1.3 Problem Statement

The challenge lies in bridging the gap between traditional housing approaches and the modern needs of individuals seeking varied accommodation options. The absence of a centralized platform that caters to both the individual renter and those interested in collaborative living leads to prolonged searches, incompatible living situations, and financial strains.

1.4 Objectives

- 1. **Comprehensive Housing Searches:** Develop a platform that accommodates both individuals seeking independent rentals and those forming teams for collective exploration of rental spaces, ensuring inclusivity and convenience.
- 2. **Efficient Roommate Matchmaking:** Create a robust matchmaking system that caters not only to those in search of compatible roommates but also to individuals seeking solo accommodations, ensuring tailored matches.
- 3. **AI-Driven Rent Price Suggestions:** Utilize machine learning models t rained on diverse rent data to suggest optimal rent prices for listed properties, empowering users with informed pricing strategies.
- 4. **Owner Dashboard & Property Management:** Enable property owners to manage their listings through a dedicated dashboard, facilitating tasks like sending rent reminders, generating contract templates for rent agreements, and ensuring seamless property management.
- Controlled Chat Feature: Implement a secure and controlled chat function, allowing users to interact and negotiate further deals only with authorized and interested parties, enhancing user security and convenience.
- 6. **User-Centric Design:** Prioritize user experience by delivering an intuitive interface that simplifies the search for accommodations or roommates, irrespective of the individual's preferences.

7. **Addressing Financial and Social Barriers:** Alleviate the challenges associated with securing affordable living arrangements and establishing connections in new cities, catering to diverse housing needs.

1.5 Scope

The project aims to develop a Next.js-based web application utilizing Supabase, a PostgreSQL-based backend, to create a scalable, dynamic, and responsive platform. The focus lies in providing a holistic solution catering to both individuals seeking independent rentals and those in search of compatible roommates, fostering a sense of community and ease in the process of finding suitable accommodations. Leveraging machine learning models, the platform will suggest rent prices for listed properties, while a controlled chat feature will enable secure interactions between authorized users, further enhancing the platform's utility and user experience.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Summarizing and analyzing existing research, studies, and relevant publications that relate to our project.

2.1 Market Trends in India

2.1.1 Real Estate Market Trends

- 1. **Urbanization and Population Growth:** India's rapid urbanization continues to drive demand for housing. With a growing population and increasing urban migration, the need for affordable and accessible housing remains a significant trend. [4]
- 2. **Shift in Rental Preferences:** There has been a shift in preferences among the younger population towards rental accommodations due to mobility for jobs, lower commitment, and financial flexibility. This shift is particularly notable in metro cities and urban hubs.
- 3. **Co-living and Co-working Spaces:** Emerging trends show a rise in demand for co-living spaces and co-working environments, especially among millennials and young professionals. These spaces offer a sense of community, shared amenities, and cost-effectiveness.
 - The rise of co-living and co-working spaces is not just a trend; it's a significant shift in urban lifestyles. In densely populated cities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru, these concepts are addressing the challenges of affordable housing and the need for flexible, productive workspaces. Moreover, co-living offers attractive returns—2-4 times higher than the traditional residential yield of 2-3

- per cent—leading to higher investors' i nterest in actively pursuing options in the market to create flexible co-living facilities. [5]
- 4. **Tech Integration in Real Estate:** Technology adoption in real estate has seen substantial growth. Digital platforms for property searches, virtual property tours, and online rent payment systems have gained popularity, enhancing convenience for both landlords and tenants.
- 5. **Government Initiatives:** Various government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Smart Cities Mission aim to provide affordable housing and improve infrastructure, influencing the real estate landscape and rental market dynamics.

2.1.2 Rental Market Trends

- 1. **Rise in Rental Yields:** Despite fluctuations, rental yields have been stable or rising in certain areas, attracting investors and encouraging property owners to engage in the rental market.
- Demand for Flexible Rentals: There's an increasing demand for flexible rental options, including short-term leases and furnished accommodations, particularly from young professionals and students.
- 3. **Emergence of PropTech Solutions:** Proptech startups are introducing innovative solutions for property management, tenant screening, and rent collection, streamlining processes for both landlords and tenants.
- 4. Localized Rental Dynamics: Rental markets vary significantly across different cities and regions in India. For instance, metropolitan areas like Mumbai and Delhi exhibit different rental patterns, pricing structures, and demand-supply dynamics compared to tier-II or tier-III cities.
- 5. **Rental Regulations and Policies:** Rental laws and regulations, such as the Rent Control Act and local tenancy laws, significantly impact the rental market. Understanding these regulations is crucial for both landlords and tenants. [1]

2.1.3 Recent Developments and Future Projections

- 1. **Post-Pandemic Impact:** The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the rental market, causing temporary shifts like increased demand for spacious homes, a surge in remote work leading to altered location preferences, and a focus on hygiene and safety in rental spaces.
- 2. **Technology and Data Analytics:** Continued integration of technology, including AI-driven property searches, blockchain for secure transactions, and data analytics for market predictions, is expected to redefine the rental landscape, making it more efficient and transparent.
- 3. **Sustainability and Green Spaces:** Growing awareness of sustainability and environmental concerns is influencing rental choices, with preferences for eco-friendly properties and communities on the rise.
- 4. Policy Changes: Anticipated policy changes or amendments in rental laws, especially concerning tenancy agreements and rent control, could significantly impact the market dynamics in the coming years.

2.2 Why we chose the PropTech sector?

The story of proptech startups in India took shape in the mid-2000s after the entry of Info Edge-owned 99acres and Times Internet-owned Magicbricks, Quikr-owned CommonFloor and PropTiger (REA India)-owned Makaan.com. Following this, the story revolved around Housing.com, a once-celebrated startup which then faced a series of mishaps. In the past five years, the proptech segment has evolved manifold and has seen startups in brokerage tech led by Square Yards, construction tech led by Infra.Market, AI, AR, VR, IoT, SaaS, and other spaces.

The Indian real estate sector is predicted to reach \$1 trillion in market size by 2030, up from \$200 billion in 2021, and contribute to 13% of the country's GDP by 2025. And looks like tech companies in this space have a role to play as As per data compiled by Fintrackr, proptech startups have mopped up nearly \$2.4 billion between January 2021 and March This comprises 39 growth stage companies raising \$2.25 billion and 69 early stage startups raising \$145 million. If we take previous data, then proptech startups have managed to raise \$2.9 billion since January 2020.

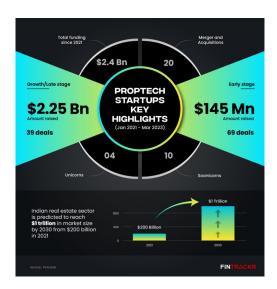


Figure 2.1: Key Highlights

Funding in proptech startups peaked in 2018 with \$1.28 billion. Even as the trend continued in 2019, the impact of lockdown can be seen in 2020 when the fundraise plunged to less than \$500 million. This again saw a revival in 2021, only soon to get impacted by an overall slowdown in the funding environment in 2022 and 2023. While pre-Covid era was dominated by the likes of OYO, co-working space providers, the post-Covid period saw massive funding in construction and building material focused startup such as Infra.Market, real estate rental startup NoBroker, home decor and interior startups Livspace and HomeLane. [2]

In this section, we have highlighted top funded startups in proptech and their capital efficiency ratio based on their financial performance in FY22.

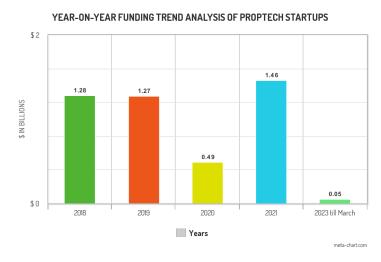


Figure 2.2: Funding trend analysis

Table 2.1: Capital Efficiency of top PropTech Startups

Name	Revenue(FY22)	Overall Funding	Capital Efficiency
IndiQube	₹6236 Cr	₹342 Cr	2.00
WeWork India	₹351.4 Cr	₹1300 Cr	1.03
Awfis	₹257 Cr	₹760 Cr	0.50
NestAway	₹57.8 Cr	₹828 Cr	0.07
Stanza Living	₹115 Cr	₹1672 Cr	0.07
NoBroker	₹116 Cr	₹2743 Cr	0.06

Table 2.2: Top Revenue Generating Real Estate Focused Companies

Name	Revenue(FY21)
Square Yards	₹245.7 Cr
Anarock	₹182 Cr
99acres	₹173.8 Cr
Housing.com	₹88 Cr
PropTiger	₹50.57 Cr
NoBroker	₹166.5 Cr
Quikr Homes	₹60.7 Cr
MagicBricks	₹166 Cr

2.3 Co-Living & Renting Together

We live in a globally connected world and this has led to the real estate sector experiencing disruption led by nomadic millennials, who are redefining the meaning of 'living' and 'working'. The concept of 'shared economy' has just started to unfold in India and the days ahead look much more exciting. Unlike earlier when 'ownership' was fundamental to success in life, today 'sharing' has taken the centre stage.

2.3.1 Framework of Analysis

JLL Research conducted a comprehensive demand survey targeting millennials across the top seven cities of Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune. The key objective of this assessment was to study their behavioural patterns for owning and renting houses.

The nomads of today are becoming a major force driving the Indian housing market—an estimated 42constituted millennials1 in 2018 across the top seven cities in India. It is relevant to note that millennials will continue to form a major proportion of the country's working population, growing to nearly 41% of the workforce in 2023. Nearly 40% of India's millennial workforce are migrants

Migrant millenial workforce prefers to rent

With millennials driving housing demand, there is a marked change in demand patterns. Gen Y has a different take on home ownership from their parents. Earlier genera-

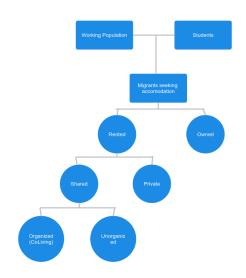


Figure 2.3: Framework Analysis

tions moved to the peripheral locations to fulfil their dreams of owning a home, but millennials refuse to compromise.

While selecting an accommodation, connectivity to their workplace, convenience and security are the factors on top of their decision making

tree and not ownership of the property. Moreover, a migrant workforce prefers rented apartments because of the uncertainty attached with the duration of their stay as well as cost savings in renting as against purchasing accommodation.

The outcome-an increased demand for rental housing.

2.3.2 Owning vs Renting a house

Home ownership has been long considered as a basis to measure financial and social security in India. However, there has been a discernible change in the mind-set and the behaviour of the recent generations. This is attributable to the following:

- 1. High cost of housing in most gateway cities and lower returns from buying a house (EMI to rent ratio is typically 2-3 times in most cities).
- 2. Change in the nature of work short term nature of assignments warranting higher mobility and flexibility.
- Delayed marriage and child rearing, less inclination to block funds and rather spend on travel, food and leisure (considered to be discretionary in the past).
- 93% of the migrant respondents who were single stayed in rented accommodation across the top 7 cities
- 60% said that they didn't plan or were unsure about buying a house in the future
- Budget constraints and limited flexibility were cited as the key reasons for not owning a house

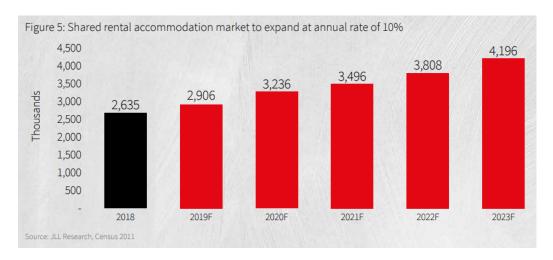


Figure 2.4: Funding trend analysis

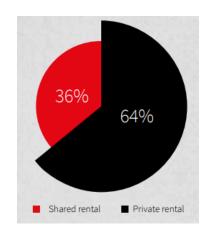


Figure 2.5: Living Preferences

Here's Why Milennials Find Shared Rental Apartments Most Vaiable:

- Cities like Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata attract millennials for education as well as employment
- Millennials consider proximity to workplace or education institute as most important while choosing accommodation
- Renting private apartment in commercial or educational hub beyond financial means of most millennials
- With housing rent typically accounting for 25-30% of average monthly

income in urban India, rental costs get apportioned in case of shared accommodation [3]

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1 Development Approach

While starting the project, we had two methods or idealogies to go by either following a waterfall model or an agile model. The waterfall model is a sequential design process, used in software development processes, in which progress is seen as flowing steadily downwards (like a waterfall) while the agile model is a practice that promotes continuous iteration of development and testing throughout the software development lifecycle of the project. Both of these models have their own advantages and disadvantages.

After careful consideration, we decided to go with a Hybrid model which is a combination of both waterfall and agile model. Initially, we followed a Waterfall approach for planning and designing phases of the project. After the planning and designing phase, we transitioned to an agile model for the development phase of the project. This approach helped us to have a clear idea of what we were going to do and how we were going to do it by implementing the features in sprints, continuosly monitoring the resultings, analyzing data, and making adjustments.

3.2 Iterations and Sprints

Our application development journey was organized into distinct sprints, each focusing on pivotal components vital to our renting platform's functionality and user experience.

- **Sprint 1: Onboarding Experience** In this sprint, our emphasis was on crafting a seamless onboarding flow. We concentrated on creating an intuitive and user-friendly registration process, ensuring users effortlessly navigate through initial setup, profile creation, and account authentication.
- **Sprint 2: Dynamic Dashboard Design** Our team dedicated this sprint to developing a dynamic and informative dashboard. Here, the focus was on designing an interface that offers users a comprehensive overview of their rented properties, team collaborations, and reminders, fostering a centralized hub for efficient property management.
- **Sprint 3: Room Rental & Roommate Finder Logic** In this sprint, the spotlight was on formulating and implementing robust logic for room rental and roommate finder functionalities. We concentrated on refining algorithms that power property searches, match roommates based on preferences, and streamline the rental process for individual users and collaborative teams.
- **Sprint 4: AI-Driven Price Prediction Model** A critical phase, this sprint was dedicated to integrating an AI-driven price prediction model. We meticulously crafted and integrated machine learning algorithms to provide accurate rental price estimations, enhancing transparency and aiding users in making informed decisions.
- **Sprint 5: Team Invitation Management** Here, our focus shifted towards creating and implementing the logic necessary to create and manage team invitations effectively. We engineered a system that allows users to form collaborative teams seamlessly, enabling efficient property searches and shared responsibilities among team members.
- **Sprint 6: Robust Chat System** The final sprint concentrated on the development of a robust chat system. We engineered a communication platform that fosters seamless interaction between users, facilitating easy communication within collaborative teams, aiding in decision-making, and enhancing overall user engagement.

These delineated sprints encapsulate the strategic breakdown of our development process, allowing us to iteratively build, test, and refine specific components of our renting application, culminating in a comprehensive and user-centric platform.

3.3 Tools and Technologies

3.3.1 Programming Languages and Frameworks

Next.js Framework with TypeScript: Our renting application was built upon the Next.js framework, utilizing TypeScript for enhanced type safety and code clarity. Next.js, combined with TypeScript, empowered us to develop a robust, scalable, and statically typed application, ensuring improved code quality and developer productivity.

Shadcn UI Components: Shadcn UI components played a pivotal role in expediting the frontend development process. These pre-designed components, coupled with TypeScript support, facilitated rapid UI development, ensuring consistency and aesthetic appeal across the application.

React-Hook-Forms with Zod Validators: For efficient form management and data validation, we integrated React-Hook-Forms with Zod validators. This amalgamation, leveraging TypeScript's typing capabilities, allowed for seamless form handling, validation, and data integrity checks.

3.3.2 Development Tools

VSCode Editor: Visual Studio Code (VSCode) remained our IDE of choice, offering a robust development environment with TypeScript support. Its extensive feature set, including debugging tools and TypeScript linting, facilitated efficient coding practices and collaboration among team members.

Git/GitHub Version Control: Git in conjunction with GitHub served as our version control system, allowing collaborative development and code management. TypeScript's typing features integrated seamlessly with Git, aiding in version tracking and ensuring code consistency.

Vercel for Deployment: Vercel's deployment platform, compatible with TypeScript and Next.js, streamlined our deployment process. This powerful platform facilitated quick and reliable deployment, ensuring that updates were efficiently pushed to production with TypeScript support.

Docker Docker was used to run supabase locally for running supabase-cli scripts to update database migration files.

3.3.3 Database Management:

Supabase: Postgres-Based DB with Buckets for Data and Image Storage; Supabase, integrated with TypeScript for seamless data handling, functioned as our primary database solution. The PostgreSQL-based database, coupled with TypeScript's typing features, provided a secure and scalable infrastructure for storing application data and images through Supabase buckets.

3.4 Development Process

This section will summarize the development process, including how we approached the problems technically.

3.4.1 **Setup**

The project was initialized using create-next-app with the supabase template.

```
npx create-next-app -e with-supabase
```

Cookie-based Auth

We are using Cookie-based Auth in our web application. The Next.js Auth Helpers package configures Supabase Auth to store the user's session in a cookie, rather than localStorage. This makes it available across the client and server of the App Router - Client Components, Server Components, Server Actions, Route Handlers and Middleware. The session is automatically sent along with any requests to Supabase.

```
1 npm install @supabase/auth-helpers-nextjs @supabase/supabase-
js
```

Listing 3.1: Installing Auth Helpers

We are then declaring environment variables in .env.local file with following environment variables:

```
NEXT_PUBLIC_SUPABASE_URL=your-supabase-url
NEXT_PUBLIC_SUPABASE_ANON_KEY=your-supabase-anon-key
```

Listing 3.2: .env.local

The Next.js Auth Helpers are configured to use the server-side auth flow to sign in users into the application. For this we had to setup a Code Exchange route, to exchange an auth code for the user's session, which is set as a cookie for future requests made to Supabase.

We created a callback route handler that performs this exchange at app/api/auth/callback/route.js:

```
import { createRouteHandlerClient } from '@supabase/auth-
      helpers-nextjs'
   import { cookies } from 'next/headers'
   import { NextResponse } from 'next/server'
   export async function GET(request) {
5
     const requestUrl = new URL(request.url)
6
7
     const code = requestUrl.searchParams.get('code')
8
9
     if (code) {
10
       const cookieStore = cookies()
11
       const supabase = createRouteHandlerClient({ cookies: ()
          => cookieStore })
12
       await supabase.auth.exchangeCodeForSession(code)
13
14
15
     // URL to redirect to after sign in process completes
16
     return NextResponse.redirect(requestUrl.origin)
17
```

Listing 3.3: Callback Route Handler

Part of inviting users to our application was having a attractive UI. We achieved this through discussing over design language and then finalising over shaden's collection for our UI components.

Chapter 4 Simulation and Results

Write your chapter here

Chapter 5

Conclusion and Future Work

This semester-long project has culminated in the development of a comprehensive room renting application that caters not only to young professionals seeking shared accommodations but also to families and individuals in pursuit of independent renting options. Originating from our own experiences as young graduates navigating new cities, the application's inception aimed to address the challenges faced by various demographic segments in securing suitable accommodations.

The application's unique proposition lies in its versatility, allowing users to form teams for collaborative housing searches, find compatible roommates, or pursue independent renting without sharing. Leveraging sophisticated machine learning models, the platform aids in suggesting optimal rent prices for listed properties, empowering users with informed decisions.

Throughout the developmental phase, a user-centric approach guided the application's design and functionality. By harnessing Next.js for the frontend and Supabase for the backend, the platform ensures a dynamic, scalable, and intuitive experience for a diverse user base.

This project marks a significant step forward in providing solutions beyond the initial challenges faced by bachelor students entering new cities. The application serves as a comprehensive housing solution, addressing the needs of young professionals, families, and individuals seeking varied housing arrangements.

Looking ahead, several areas offer opportunities for further development and expansion:

- 1. **Refinement of Machine Learning Algorithms:** Continuously improve the machine learning models to enhance the accuracy of rent price suggestions and roommate matchmaking, catering to the diverse needs of families and individuals.
- 2. **Geographical and Demographic Expansion:** Expand the application's reach to encompass a broader range of cities and regions, considering the specific requirements of families and individuals seeking independent renting options.
- Diversified User Experience: Tailor the user experience to accommodate the distinct preferences of families and individuals, incorporating features like property size specifications, neighborhood suitability, and family-oriented amenities.
- 4. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Ensure the application's accessibility for diverse user demographics by optimizing usability for individuals with varying needs and preferences.
- 5. **Feedback-Driven Enhancements:** Implement a robust feedback mechanism to gather insights from families and individuals, enabling iterative improvements and customization based on their experiences and requirements.

In conclusion, this project marks a significant achievement in providing a comprehensive room renting application that caters to the diverse housing needs of families, individuals seeking independent renting, and young professionals. As we move forward, the focus remains on continuous improvement and expansion, driven by user feedback and evolving housing trends.

Appendix Title Here

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