

MingleMap

Prototype Presentation
Team Iron
CS411 — Fall 2025

“Explore, Chat, Connect - A New Way To Socialize”

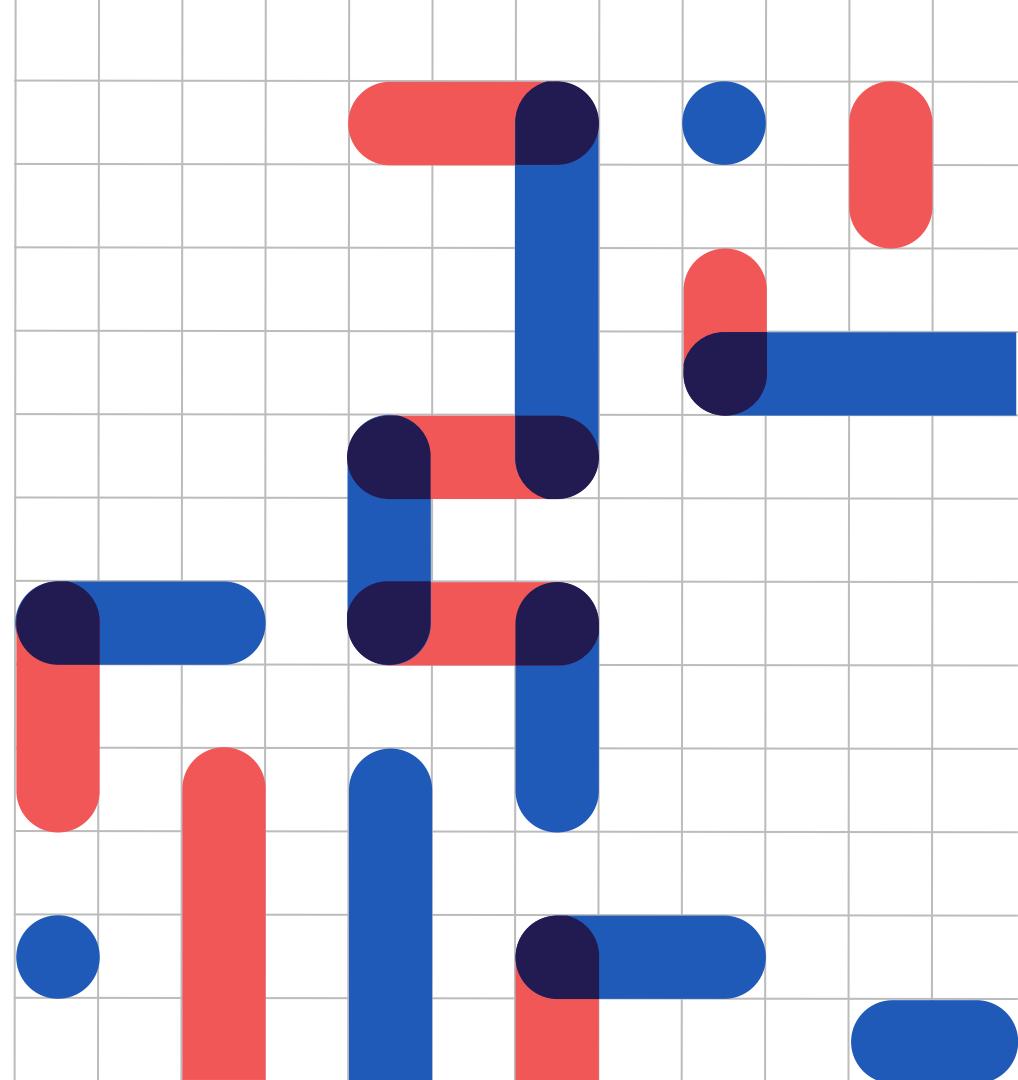


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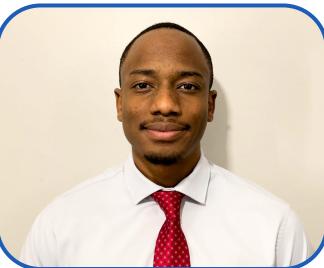
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Meet The Team



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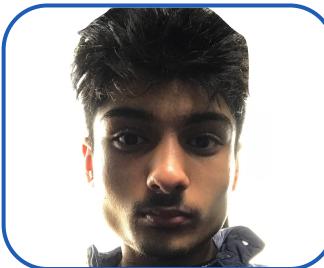
Ben Dutton

Frontend
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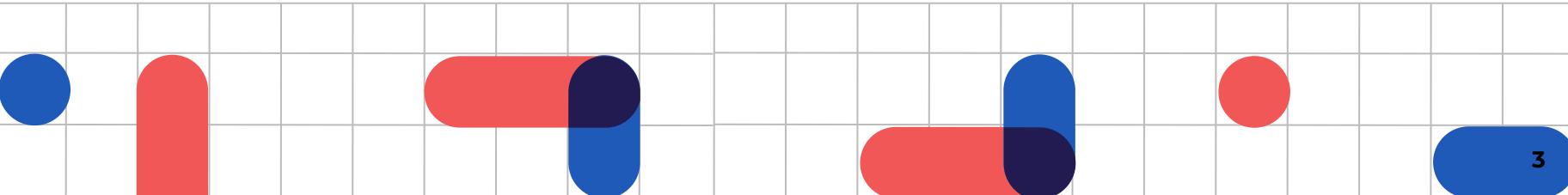
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Meet The Team



Daksh Patel

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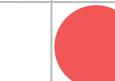
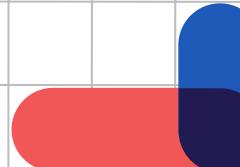
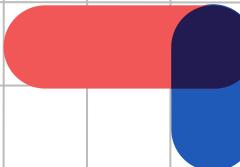
Dustin Dobson

Frontend Developer



Nicholas Brewster

Backend Developer



Problem Statement: Declining Socialization

- Making new friends has become increasingly difficult for young adults in the digital age.
- Many individuals, especially introverts, struggle to start conversations with strangers in social settings.
- While social media enables remote communications, it lacks the authenticity of in-person connections.

As a result, people in public places like parks, gyms, or coffee shops often miss chances to meet new people due to uncertainty about others' willingness to socialize.

Problem Characteristics: Anxiety and Isolation

- **Fear of rejection or social anxiety:** Fear discourages people from approaching strangers, even when they are open to conversation.
- **Avoidance of one-on-one interactions:** Many people are intimidated by one-on-one interactions, preferring to meet people in groups.
- **Isolation in public spaces:** People remain isolated even in spaces where there is a common interest among strangers (concerts, museums, etc.).



I LOVE THIS PARK TOO!
BY THE WAY, YOU
DROPPED THIS.

Solution Statement

MingleMap is a smartphone application designed to bridge the gap between individuals who wish to form real-life social connections in public spaces.

Unlike traditional social media apps, MingleMap makes spontaneous, in-person connections happen within your routine by providing a tailored list of nearby people with similar interests—no planning, scheduling, or group sign-ups required.



Who Will Benefit from MingleMap?

Users:

Young adults looking for human interaction, especially 1-on-1 connections.

Customers:

Businesses can partner to become a “Friendly” location and receive an in-app badge. Users can receive discounts and use designated seating areas at partner locations, encouraging repeat visitors.

Stakeholders:

Physical-location businesses such as restaurants stand to profit, as the app encourages people to visit these locations to meet and connect.

Solution Characteristics

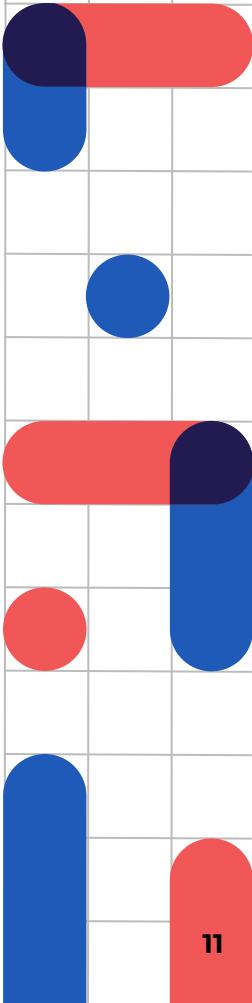
- **New Connections Nearby:** Users will only be shown others who are present at the same relative location. This limits in-app browsing and encourages real connections.
- **Profile Status:** This will display information like current engagement with another user or a do not disturb message. This reduces fear of rejection and social anxiety, allowing users to only approach willing individuals.
- **Visibility Setting:** Visibility to other users is controlled by an account setting.
- **Tags:** Users can select up to 10 interests (e.g., basketball, cats, novels) from a pre-approved list to be displayed on their profile. This gives other users something to talk about when initiating a conversation.

Solution Characteristics

- **Smart Matchmaking:** Users tags will enable recommendation of similar users. This eliminates the fear of missing opportunities to find mutual interests.
- **Vanishing Chats:** Conversations with other users disappear when one party leaves the current location. This alleviates the pressure to maintain online conversations.
- **Reporting:** Users can report each other in the event of inappropriate behavior, giving an admin access to the record of their interactions. Admin can also ban users when needed.
- **Trust Score:** After each interaction, users can give quick, optional feedback. Consistently positive ratings earn a badge, signaling a history of good interactions and helping build trust with others on the app.

Solution Characteristics

- **Wave Gesture:** Users can “wave” to one another to show interest in a conversation. This reduces fear of rejection and social anxiety.
- **Tailored Icebreakers:** MingleMap provides users with context-aware conversation starters, based on common locations and tags. This will further reduce social anxiety.
- **Discover Locations:** Users can view locations in their general area. Locations will display the number of currently active (and visible) MingleMap users present, but not the users themselves. This allows users to pursue or avoid certain levels of activity.
- **Discounts:** Locations can offer exclusive discounts to users.
- **Experiences:** Each location will also display the available experiences (designated seating, live music, events).



Major Functional Components

Frontend Layer

React Native

- Cross-platform mobile UI

TypeScript

- Strong typing for scalability

Mapbox SDK

- Location services

Expo

- Development & testing framework

Backend Layer

Express

- Web framework for Node.js

Prisma ORM

- Type-safe database access for PostgreSQL

GitHub Actions

- CI/CD pipelines

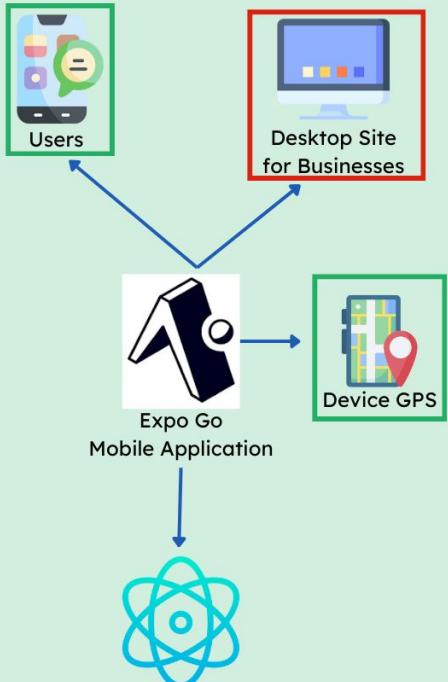
Database Layer

PostgreSQL (with Prisma ORM)

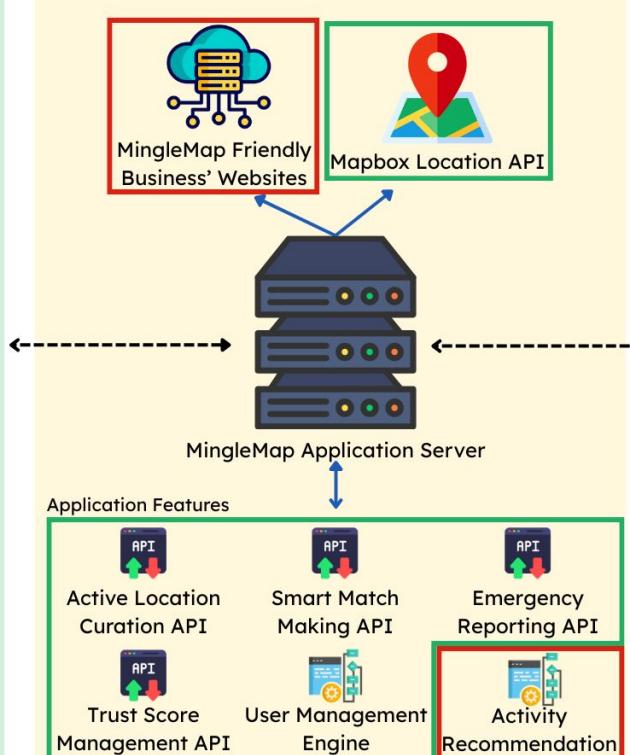
- Relational database with object-relational mapping

Major Functional Components Diagram

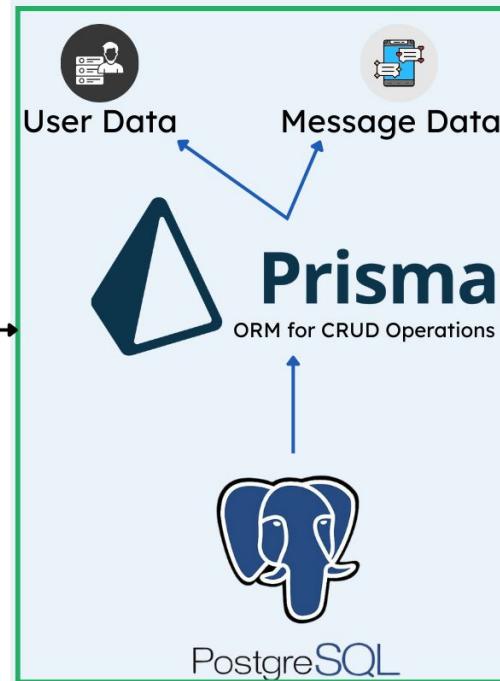
Frontend



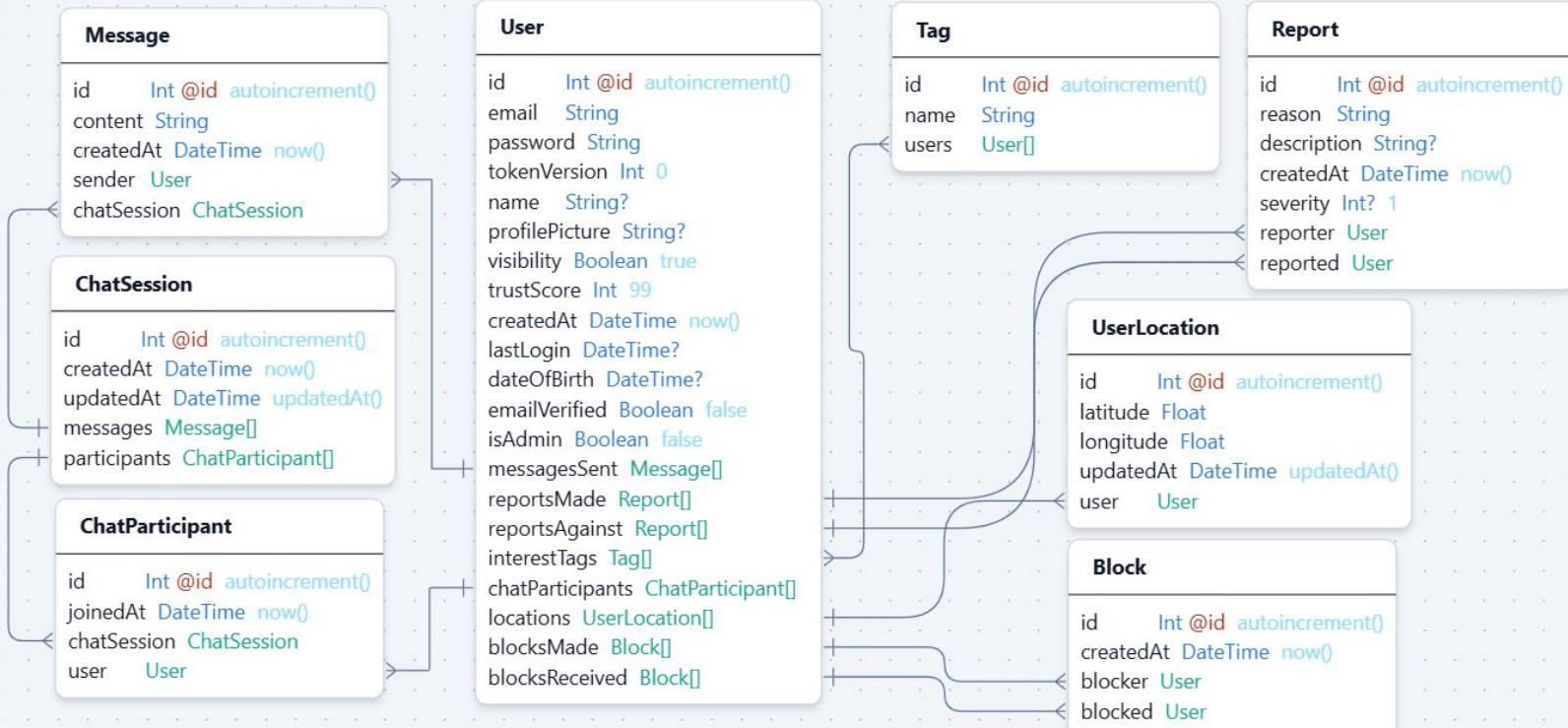
Backend



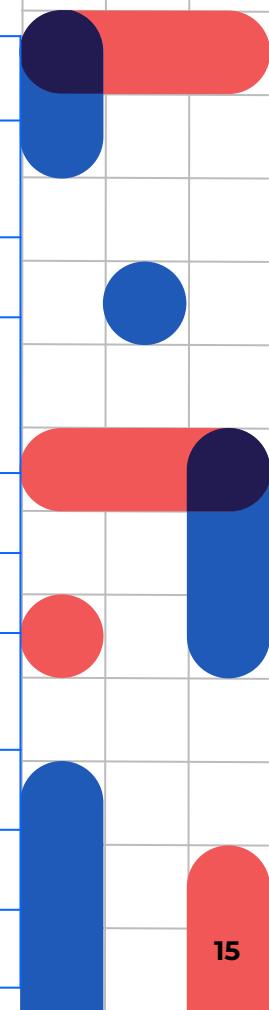
Database



Database Schema



Development Tools



Type	Planned	Actual
Selected Languages (Frontend)	JavaScript, React Native	TypeScript, JavaScript, React Native
Selected Languages (Backend)	Django & Python	Node.js with Express
UI/UX Design	Figma	React Native + Expo (built-in components & stylesheets for UI design)
Location Services	Mapbox SDK	Mapbox SDK
Authentication & Notifications	Supabase	JSON Web Token, BcryptJS
Database	PostgreSQL	PostgreSQL with Prisma for ORM
Testing Frameworks	Jest, Pytest	Jest
Version Control	Git with GitHub	Git with GitHub
Continuous Integration MingleMap — CS411 Team Iron	GitHub Actions & Workflows	GitHub Actions & Workflows

Dependencies

Libraries:	Expo, Mapbox SDK, Jest
Languages:	JavaScript/TypeScript
Frameworks:	React Native, Express
Database:	PostgreSQL with Prisma for ORM
Project management:	Trello, GitHub Issues
Other Technologies	GitHub, GitHub Actions & Workflows

GitHub Repository

All members of Team Iron and Professor Hosni have access to the repository.

GitHub: <https://github.com/bdutt001/f25-Iron.git>

Sprint Breakdown

Sprint 0: Project Setup (Weeks 1-2)	Sprint 1: Authentication & Core App Setup (Weeks 3-4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Set up GitHub repo & Trello board for project tracking✓ Initialize React Native app scaffold with Expo (navigation + basic screens)✓ Set up PostgreSQL database with Prisma ORM (using Docker for local development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Implement basic onboarding flow: login, signup, profile placeholder screens✓ Add navigation with Expo Router across tabs (Map, Profile, etc.)✓ Begin backend Express setup with PostgreSQL schema (via Prisma)✓ Add placeholder location map using React Native Maps (temporary substitute for Mapbox SDK)✓ Implement “visibility toggle” (show/hide on map) and saved state
Sprint 2: Complete Setup and User Interactivity (Weeks 5-6)	Sprint 3: Algorithms and Final Integrations (Weeks 7-8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Connect frontend and backend✓ Create People Nearby tab✓ Implement direct messaging and begin vanishing chats algorithm✓ Implement user interest tags✓ Implement user reporting system✓ Begin Dockerized backend service for consistent local testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Implement simple match logic (e.g., shared interests + proximity)✓ Implement trust score algorithm<input type="checkbox"/> Connect to VM<input type="checkbox"/> Implement user blocking system

I'M ADVANCING IN MY LIFE, BUT I STILL FEEL SO ISOLATED



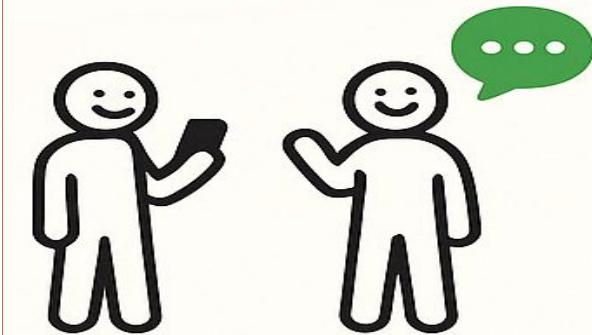
MINGLE MAP!?
PROBABLY ANOTHER SCAM, BUT I WANT TO MINGLE



Sprint Breakdown

Sprint 4: Refining Tools and Algorithms (Weeks 9–10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Begin refining the user interface<input type="checkbox"/> Develop custom map with Mapbox SDK<input type="checkbox"/> Test map functions across devices<input type="checkbox"/> Refine trust score algorithm	Sprint 5: Edge Cases and Authentication (Weeks 11–12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Handle offline/low-signal scenarios gracefully<input type="checkbox"/> Secure API endpoints with auth checks<input type="checkbox"/> Write regression tests for reporting flow
Sprint 6: UI Polish & Testing (Week 13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Refine UI screens: map, profile, chat<input type="checkbox"/> Fix usability feedback (flows, error states)<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare demo dataset (sample users, seeded chats, locations)<input type="checkbox"/> Run Jest testing suite	Sprint 7: Final Demo & Deployment Prep (Week 14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Final debugging & integration testing<input type="checkbox"/> Package RN app for demo run<input type="checkbox"/> Run full suite of automated + manual tests

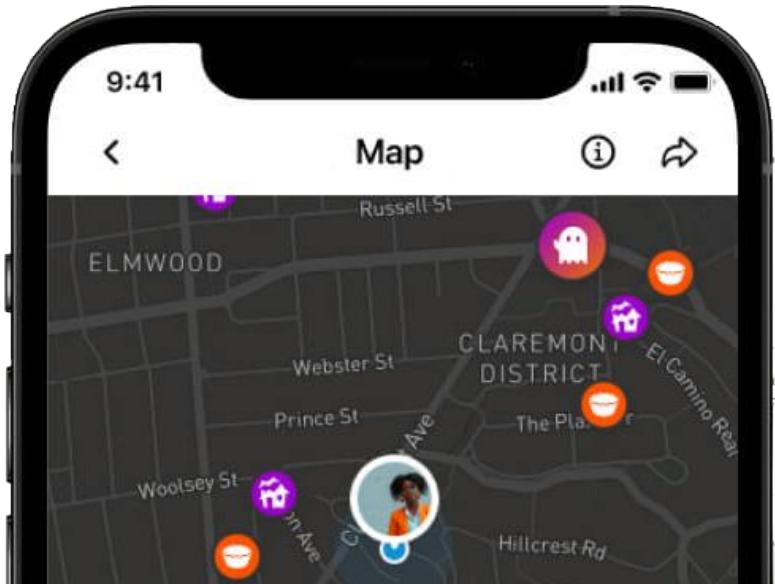
PRETTY CONVENIENT THAT I CAN MEET SOMEONE AT A PLACE I ALREADY FREQUENT.



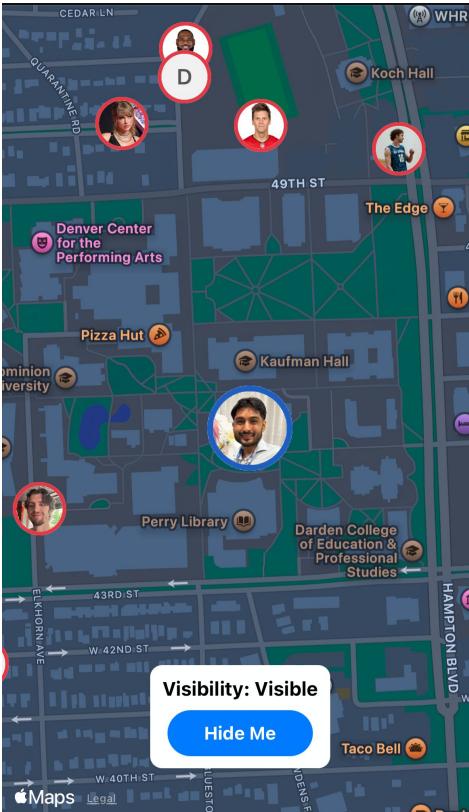
THAT WAS SO EASY! I CAN FEEL THE DOPAMINE FROM THE FEATURES I UNLOCKED FROM THE APP TOO!



Planned Approach and Changes to Scope



Planned: Mapbox SDK for advanced mapping & location features



Actual: React Native maps

Feature Table

✓ = Will Be Implemented
○ = Will Be Partially Implemented
✗ = Will NOT Be Implemented

Category	Feature	RWP	Prototype	Notes
Account Management	Login/Logout	✓	✓	
	Account Creation/Deletion	✓	✓	
	Update Account Information	✓	✓	
	Visibility Setting	✓	✓	
	Profile Status	✓	○	Basic implementation
Business Management	Partnership Application	✓	✗	Prioritize user interactivity
	Show Partner Badge	✓	✗	
	Offer/Display Discounts	✓	✗	
	Display Accommodations	✓	✗	
	View Analytics	✓	✗	
Safety	Reporting Other Users	✓	✓	
	Blocking Users	✓	✓	
	Respond to Reports (Access Record of User Interactions)	✓	✓	
	Banning Users	✓	✓	

Feature Table

✓ = Will Be Implemented
○ = Will Be Partially Implemented
✗ = Will NOT Be Implemented

Category	Feature	RWP	Prototype	Notes
Safety	View Trust Scores of Other Users	✓	✓	
User Interactivity	New Connections Nearby	✓	✓	
	View Tags of Other Users	✓	✓	
	Smart Matchmaking	✓	○	Basic algorithm using tags
	Matchmaking Feedback	✓	✗	Not needed without machine learning
	Vanishing Chats	✓	✓	
	“Wave” at Other Users	✓	✗	
	Tailored Icebreakers	✓	✗	
	Discover Locations (partner locations prioritized)	✓	○	No partnered locations in prototype
	View Location Activity (number of visible users)	✓	✓	
	View Location Experiences	✓	✗	
	View Discounts	✓	✗	

User Stories to Features

User Story	Feature	User Role
As a user, I want to select and display tags so that others know my interests.	Update Account Information	End User
As a user, I want to update my visibility to other users so that they can/cannot see me.	Visibility Setting	End User
As a user, I want to update my profile status so that others know I am/am not looking to socialize.	Profile Status	End User
As a business owner, I want to apply for partnership with MingleMap so that my business will obtain an exclusive badge and be recommended first to users.	Partnership Application	Business Owner
"	Show Partner Badge	Business Owner
As a business owner, I want to offer discounts to MingleMap users so that they are more likely to visit my business.	Offer/Display Discounts	Business Owner
As a business owner, I want to display accommodations and/or points of interest for MingleMap users (designated seating areas, live music, coffee, etc.) so that I might interest them in visiting my business.	Display Accommodations	Business Owner

User Stories to Features

User Story	Feature	User Role
As a business owner, I want to view and track analytics on users visiting my business and using discounts so that I can see the returns on my investment/partnership with MingleMap.	View Analytics	Business Owner
As a user, I want to report someone so that MingleMap can take appropriate action.	Reporting Other Users	End User
As a user, I want to block someone I chatted with so that I am no longer visible to them and they cannot message me.	Blocking Users	End User
As an administrator, I want to respond to reports from users and view the record of reported user interactions so that I can take appropriate action and ensure user accountability.	Respond to Reports (Access Record of User Interactions)	Administrator
As an administrator, I want to be able to ban a user if they demonstrate inappropriate behavior.	Banning Users	Administrator
As a user, I want to view trust scores for each nearby user so that I know they are good-natured.	View Trust Scores of <u>Other</u> Users	End User
As a user, I want to view nearby users and their location so that I can seek connections.	New Connections Nearby	End User
As a user, I want to view relevant interests (tags) of other users so that I can find something in common with them.	View Tags of Other Users	End User

User Stories to Features

User Story	Feature	User Role
As a user, I want to receive suggestions of people nearby so that I can more easily decide who to connect with.	Smart Matchmaking	End User
As a user, I want to give feedback on suggestions so that I can improve future suggestions.	Matchmaking Feedback	End User
As a user, I want to message someone so that we can get to know each other.	Vanishing Chats	End User
As a user, I want to message someone so that we can get to know each other.	“Wave” at Other Users	End User
As a user, I want to receive suggested conversation starters based on shared interests so that I know how to break the ice.	Tailored Icebreakers	End User
As a user, I want to see locations in my general area so that I can find a place to socialize.	Discover Locations (partner locations prioritized)	End User
As a user, I want to see how many other MingleMap users are active at a location so that I can find people to socialize with..	View Location Activity (number of visible users)	End User
As a user, I want to view nearby users and their location so that I can seek connections.	View Location Experiences	End User
As a user, I want to view relevant interests (tags) of other users so that I can find something in common with them.	View Discounts	End User

User Stories to Tasks

Account & Profile

User Story	Task	User Role
As a user, I want to create an account and log in so I can use the app.	Build login/signup screens	End User
As a user, I want a branded login/signup experience so I recognize the app.	Add logo to login/signup	End User
As a user, I want to update my account information so others know my interests.	Create basic profile page	End User
As a user, I want to update my visibility so that others can/cannot see me.	Visibility Setting (Account-wide privacy toggle)	End User
As a user, I want to update my profile status so that others know I am/am not looking to socialize.	Profile status	End User

User Stories to Tasks

Location & Map

User Story	Task	User Role
As a user, I want to see my location on a map so I know where I am.	Show a simple map with user pin	End User
As a user, I want to see other users around me so I can connect.	Add placeholder pins near user	End User
As a user, I want to show/hide my location on the map.	Visibility Toggle (Map location privacy)	End User
As a user, I want to see a location's level of activity.	Show the number of (active and visible) MingleMap users at a location	End User

User Stories to Tasks

Social & Safety

User Story	Task	User Role
As a user, I want to block someone so I am no longer visible to them and they cannot message me.	Blocking users	End User
As a user, I want to report someone so that MingleMap can take appropriate action.	Reporting other users	End User
As an administrator, I want to ban a user if they demonstrate inappropriate behavior.	Banning users	Admin
As a user, I want to view trust scores for nearby users so I know they are good-natured.	View trust scores	End User

User Stories to Tasks

Connections

User Story	Task	User Role
As a user, I want to view nearby users and their location so I can seek connections.	Create People Nearby tab (discover nearby users)	End User
As a user, I want to select and display tags so that others know my interests.	Implement interest tags	End User
As a user, I want to view relevant interests (tags) of other users to find something in common.	View tags of other users	End User
As a user, I want to message another user.	Implement direct messaging	End User

Customer and End User Risks

R1: Users may hesitate to join due to lack of understanding of app features and benefits

R2: Users may be reluctant to share real-time location without a clear privacy/visibility control (e.g., Invisible Mode)

R3: Businesses may hesitate to join due to uncertainty about app visibility and user engagement

R4: Users may encounter bad actors (spammers, harassers, or unsafe connections), leading to distrust or abandonment of the app.

Mitigations

M1: Provide an onboarding tutorial explaining app benefits and have user tags so interests can be seen

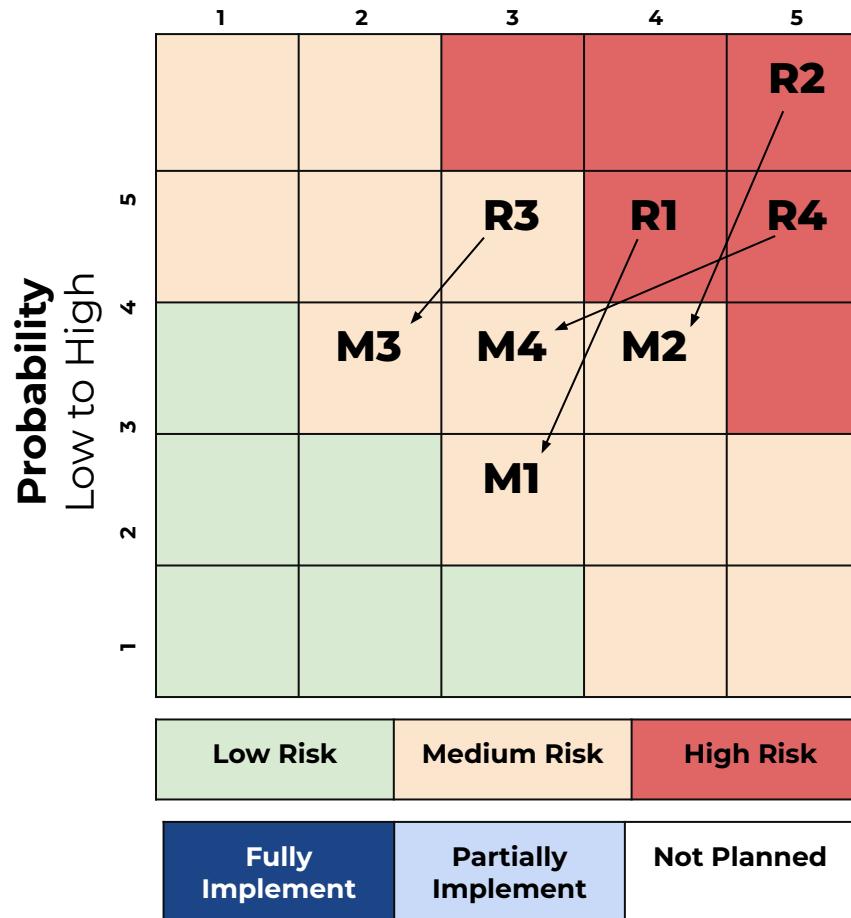
M2: Implement a toggleable “Invisible Mode,” so users can control whether they appear visible to others

M3: Offer business onboarding tutorials, highlight app growth statistics, and provide free trial promotions or early partner incentives

M4: Introduce a basic trust score and reporting system to flag suspicious users and promote safer interactions

Impact

Low to High



Technical Risks

R1: Connectivity issues may limit real-time map updates

R2: Backend downtime or errors could block user login and signup

R3: Multiple users logging in at once may slow performance

R4: GPS inaccuracy may make it harder to detect and connect with nearby users

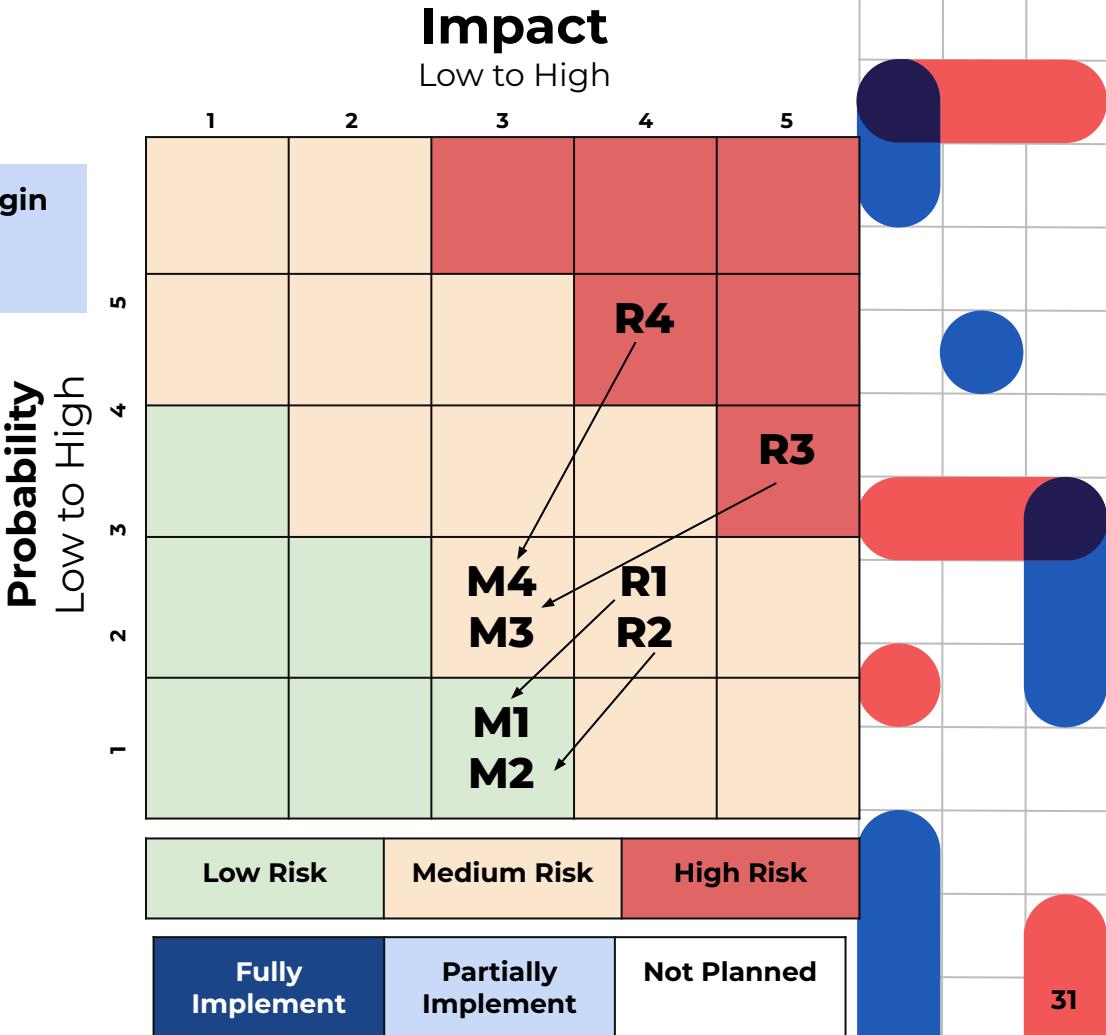
Mitigations

M1: Cache recent data locally so users can still see info when offline

M2: Keep server lightweight and restart as needed during testing

M3: Use basic load testing and limit scope to small user groups

M4: Use reliable geolocation services with fallback options



Security Risks

R1: Creation of fake profiles using easily obtainable virtual phone numbers (VoIP)

R2: Storage of sensitive location and interaction data, making users a target for hacking

R3: Violation of GDPR (Europe) and CCPA (California) data privacy laws through improper collection or handling of user location data

R4: Harassment, misconduct, or unsafe real-world encounters

Mitigations

M1: Strengthen verification by detecting/blocking VoIP numbers with external API, use email verification, apply community-driven reporting, and deploy trust scoring based on behavior

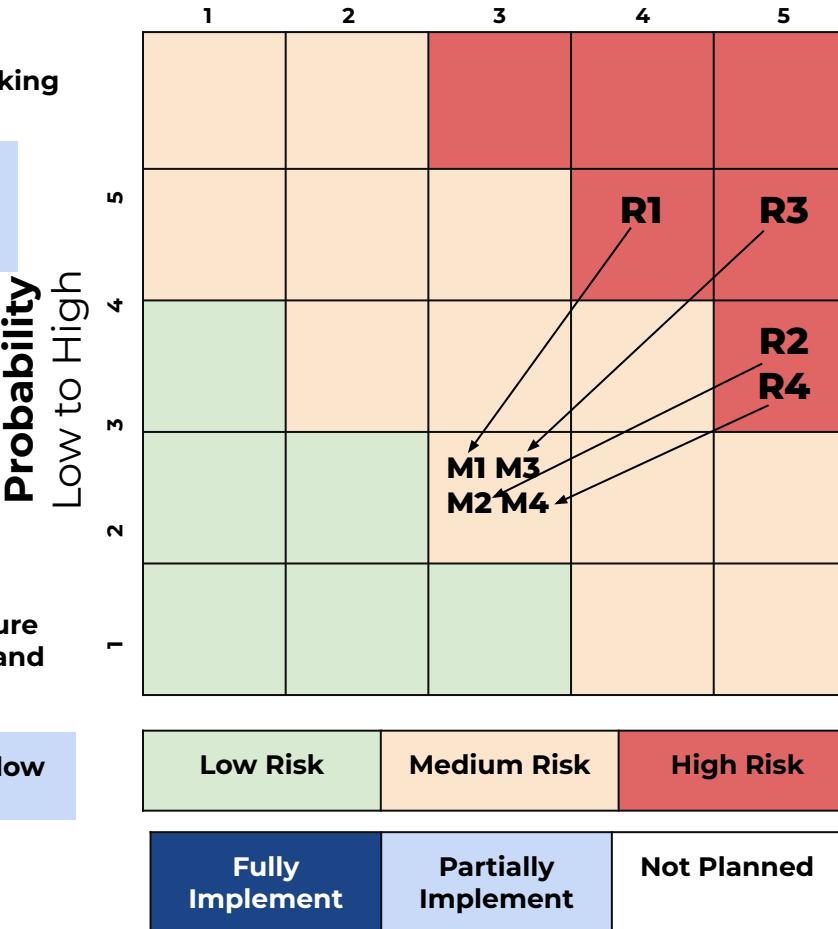
M2: Encrypt all sensitive data using AES-256, enforce secure API authentication, conduct regular penetration testing and audits, use role-based access control, and allow secure deletion of conversations

M3: Require explicit user consent for location tracking, allow users to delete their data on request

M4: Display safety disclaimers for meetups, offer an SOS button

Impact

Low to High



Conclusion: Transforming Social Connections

- Mingle Map is designed to **bridge the gap** between **digital and in-person social interactions**.
- By leveraging **real-time location technology**, our app helps users **connect with like-minded individuals in shared spaces**, promoting **organic and meaningful conversations**.

GOING OUTSIDE
ALWAYS FEELS SO
FRESH. BEFORE, I
ONLY HUNG OUT WITH
MY MOM!



Who Benefits from Mingle Map?

- **Users** – Meet new people effortlessly, reducing social anxiety and fostering real-world connections.
- **Local Businesses** – Gain increased foot traffic and engagement from users exploring new social opportunities.
- **Researchers & Developers** – Utilize anonymized interaction data to improve location-based social technologies.

Issues & Concerns

Learning Curve: Team members are learning new frameworks and tools (React Native, Expo, Express, Mapbox SDK, Prisma), which increases onboarding time.

New Team Members: Three new members joined from another project. They need time to get up to speed on the codebase, tasks, and workflow, which may slow early sprints.

Integration Challenges: Connecting the React Native frontend with Express backend and PostgreSQL via Prisma may lead to misconfigurations, query issues, or API mismatches.

Database Complexity: Designing relational schema for users, profiles, chats, and location history in PostgreSQL requires careful planning and validation.

Environment Setup: Ensuring everyone can run the app locally (Node.js + Expo + PostgreSQL) may cause delays due to version mismatches (e.g., SDK differences between Expo Go clients) and dependency conflicts.

Next Steps: Ahmer

- Develop Account-wide Visibility Setting to control whether a profile appears in: Messaging and Chats
- Enhance the UI styling across components for improved visual consistency and user experience, ensuring that profile images and related elements align with the updated design.
- Integrate External API prevent creation of fake profiles using easily obtainable virtual phone numbers (VoIP)

Next Steps: Ben

- Clean up user interface
- Address bugs
 - ◆ Map loading
 - ◆ Reporting menu
- Add more interest tag options
 - ◆ More specificity

Next Stage: Taran

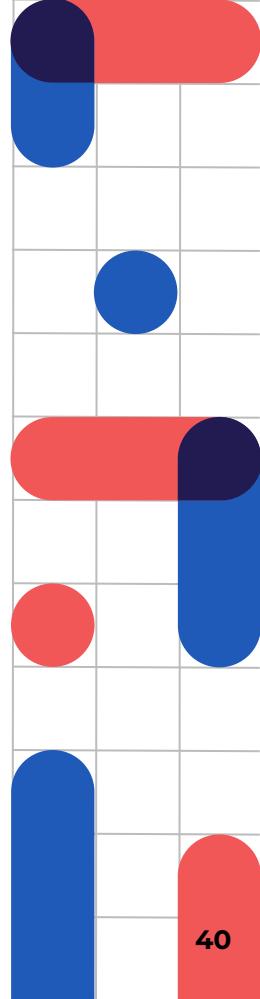
- Research and implement administrative permissions in the database
- Create a dashboard page that only admins can access.
 - ◆ Will allow for the management of reports.
 - ◆ Depending on report verdict, trust score will be automatically altered

Next Steps: Dustin

- Implement people nearby
 - ◆ Will be fixed data for demo purpose as we are not able to roam.
 - Will create fixed users that will generate nearby
- Build out UI for profile information

Next Steps: Daksh

- Work developing the **map location saving system** in the database.
- Create a backend endpoint to **store and update user coordinates** when their location changes.
- Ensure location data is **linked to user IDs** in Prisma for use with the “Nearby” and “Map” tabs.
- Test location updates in **Postman** and confirm proper database synchronization.
- Work with the frontend team to integrate real-time location updates.
- Begin researching ways to **optimize location accuracy** and limit unnecessary updates for performance.



Next Steps Geelani

- Finish Dockerizing backend with connectivity to database
- Create process to deploy the backend and database.
- Continue researching express backend design, CI/CD, and Docker.

Next Steps Nicholas

Add more functionality to reports

- Fix Andriod menu bug.
- Popup asking if user would like to block the reported profile.

Next Steps Jacob

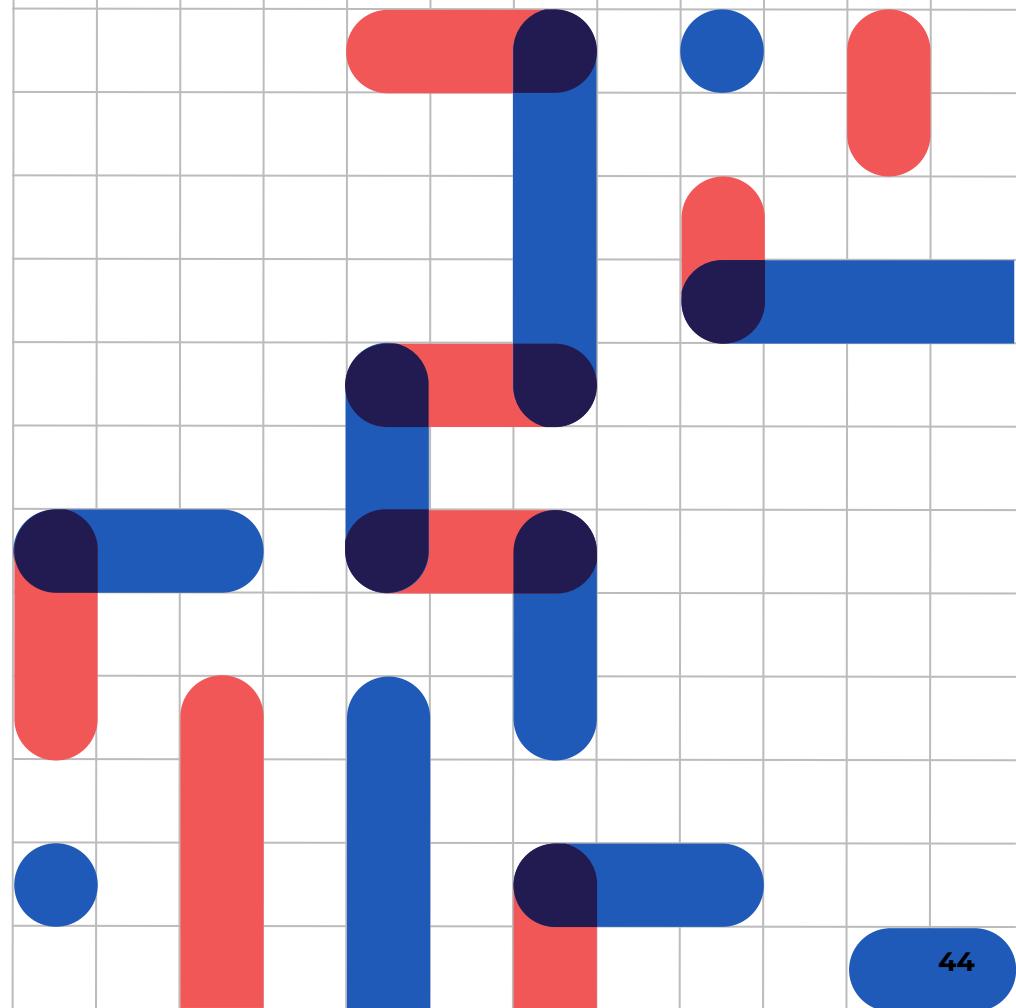
- Implement blocking functionality
- Help develop real-time location features
- Refine user experience design and decisions throughout the usage of the app

Prototype Demonstration

MingleMap

A Better Way to Connect

Questions?



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Glossary

Catfishing – The act of creating a fake online identity to deceive others, often for fraudulent or malicious purposes.

Geolocation Services – Technology that determines a user's real-world location using GPS, Wi-Fi, or cellular networks (e.g., **Mapbox SDK**).

Auto-Scaling – A cloud computing feature that automatically adjusts the number of active servers based on user demand (e.g., **Google Cloud Auto Scaling**).

Load Balancing – A method of distributing traffic across multiple servers to **prevent overload and downtime**.

Caching – A process where **frequently accessed data is stored** temporarily for **faster access** and improved app performance.

End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) – A security protocol that ensures only the sender and recipient can access the content of messages, protecting against hackers and data breaches.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) – A European law that governs **how personal data is collected and stored**, requiring **explicit user consent**.

CCPA (California Consumer Privacy Act) – A California law that grants users the right to **know, delete, and opt out** of data collection.

Offline Mode – A feature that allows users to access **cached data** and certain app functionalities **without an internet connection**.

Trust Score – A system that evaluates users' credibility based on **profile verification, past interactions, and reports from other users**.

SOS Feature – An in-app emergency button that allows users to quickly **report incidents or request help in real-time**.

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) – A security feature that restricts **which users or employees can access certain data or app functions**.

Scalability – The ability of an app to handle **increased traffic and data load** without performance issues.

Cloud Hosting – A method of storing and running applications on remote servers (e.g., **Google Cloud SQL, PostgreSQL**) instead of local devices.

Appendix

User Stories, End User

- As a user, I want to update my profile status so that others know I am/am not looking to socialize.
- As a user, I want to select and display tags so that others know my interests.
- As a user, I want to update my visibility to other users so that they can/cannot see me.
- As a user, I want to view nearby users and their location so that I can seek connections.
- As a user, I want to see locations in my general area so that I can find a place to socialize.
- As a user, I want to see how many other MingleMap users are active at a location so that I can find people to socialize with..
- As a user, I want to view trust scores for each nearby user so that I know they are good-natured.
- As a user, I want to view relevant interests (tags) of other users so that I can find something in common with them.
- As a user, I want to receive suggestions of people nearby so that I can more easily decide who to connect with.
- As a user, I want to give feedback on suggestions so that I can improve future suggestions.
- As a user, I want to send a wave to someone so that I can easily gauge their interest.
- As a user, I want to receive suggested conversation starters based on shared interests so that I know how to break the ice.
- As a user, I want to message someone so that we can get to know each other.
- As a user, I want to block someone I chatted with so that I am no longer visible to them and they cannot message me.
- As a user, I want to report someone so that MingleMap can take appropriate action.

User Stories, Business Owner

- As a business owner, I want to apply for partnership with MingleMap so that my business will obtain an exclusive badge and be recommended first to users.
- As a business owner, I want to display the current level of activity (number of MingleMap users) at my business so that I can attract more customers.
- As a business owner, I want to offer discounts to MingleMap users so that they are more likely to visit my business.
- As a business owner, I want to display accommodations and/or points of interest for MingleMap users (designated seating areas, live music, coffee, etc.) so that I might interest them in visiting my business.
- As a business owner, I want to view and track analytics on users visiting my business and using discounts so that I can see the returns on my investment/partnership with MingleMap.

User Stories, Administrator

- As an administrator, I want to respond to reports from users and view the record of reported user interactions (chat logs, meeting places and times) so that I can take appropriate action and ensure user accountability.
- As an administrator, I want to be able to ban a user if they demonstrate inappropriate behavior.