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**MealShare**

**Description**

Currently at CMU, on campus Freshman are required to have a meal plan. Typically, at the end of the semester, Freshman have a huge excess of blocks, which are lost at the end of the semester. The goal of this project is to design a website where Freshman can offer excess meal blocks to Upperclassmen. Ideally, we want this website to be as painless as possible for the Freshman, as I assume that the number of Upperclassmen willing to receive a free block is greater then the number of freshmen willing to give one away.

So, CMU students would connect to the website, and log in with their CMU email using Oauth. Then they could select whether they are looking to receive a block, or give a block. If the client is asking to receive a block, they can specify up to one dining location at which they are presently waiting. The receiver will have to specify their location pretty precisely, so that when the giver knows exactly where to find the receiver. Then the webpage will run in the background, occasionally sending keepalive messages to the server, to ensure that the receiver is still there.

If the client is looking to give a block, they will be asked to specify the location(s) at which they are willing to give away a block. The server will then provide a list of Receivers waiting at those locations, from which the Giver can select. The Receiver will receive some kind of alert where they will be asked to confirm they are still at the specified location. Then, both will each receive some basic information about the other that they need to find each other, such as names and/or a picture. They then meet at the location specified by the receiver, and the Giver swipes their card to pay for the meal.

**Technologies**

* Oauth
  + This will be used to ensure that the students using the service are who they say they are.
* JQuery
  + It’s convenient and useful. Therefore, I suspect we will use it.

**Extensions**

**Some sort of busy-ness calendar**

Kinda like what Google currently does for restaurants, we could keep track of how many users give/receive meal blocks at each location throughout the day, and construct an hourly chart of busy-ness.

**E-mail/text alerts**

This would be cool to implement, as it means that the both users don’t need to keep the webpage running in the background at all times. Receives could just log on, specify the length of time they will be at XYZ location, and then close the webpage and wait for a text.

**Allow Freshman to charge for the meal swipes**

Basically, we could implement some sort of a marketplace for meal swipes, integrated with Paypal or Venmo or something like that. I have no idea how feasible this is, and there’s probably a lot of security concerns that need to be taken into account, but it would be pretty fun, and it would be a huge encouragement for freshmen to use our platform. Also, we would have to implement some sort of user feedback system, so we can ban people who don’t actually pay for the blocks, or who don’t actually give up the blocks.