

Project Topic

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In a world where technology is the most accessible it's ever been, sitting still has become increasingly difficult. Books are being replaced by e-readers, physical stores are being replaced by online shopping, and in-person communication is being replaced by social media, texting, and video calls. While these developments offer convenience and connectivity, they also contribute to a constant state of stimulation. With this rapid advancement in technology, it is important to take time to slow down, get off our devices, connect with others, and with God. Technology has a way of intruding on our daily lives and detracting from activities like pausing, reflecting, praying, and engaging in meaningful conversations[1]. It is important to note that technology is not inherently bad or harmful to spiritual life, in fact it has been helpful in spreading the message of the cross and the gospel by providing more information to more people in a shorter amount of time[2]. With that being said, this project aims to ask how technology can be beneficial, as well as detrimental to someone's relationship with God. The mobile application that will be built to support the research will encourage users to take breaks from their devices and engage in meaningful activities that promote mental well-being and spiritual growth. This research matters because while concerns about distraction and spiritual attentiveness are frequently discussed, there is limited research that examines how everyday technology use shapes these experiences. While research on digital Christian practices and online worship has begun to emerge, much of this work focuses on communal or institutional forms of worship rather than everyday habits of attentiveness and silence in personal spiritual life[3]. This work seeks to give insight on the beneficial and detrimental effects of technology on spiritual life, as well as asking the question of whether intentional technological design can support attentiveness rather than detract from it. In order to gather data for this project, professional interviews with pastors will be done to see the effects that technology has had on their spiritual lives. There will also be surveys sent out to a variety of people to get a broader perspective on the everyday Christian. In addition to gathering data, the study will include the implementation of a minimalistic software application focused on protecting periods of stillness. Unlike existing faith based applications that often bombard users with notifications and spiritual content, the app's focus is to reduce digital stimulation by limiting notifications and interruptions during user-defined periods of quiet. This application functions not as a guide for prayer, but as a tool to create space for users to engage in their own spiritual practices without technological distractions.

In your proposal, you will provide justification on why your project matters based on work which has been done in this area, using in-line citations [?] to refer to existing works. Include what your project will accomplish and how your software will function.

When you use an image, such as in Figure 1, refer to it in the text.



Figure 1: Archie

Appendix

A concise list of features / user stories in the order in which they will be built. A few examples are below to demonstrate the expected scope and level of granularity; you will have more features than this.

- Default picture display on web application.
- On a button-click, user can separate the image into foreground and background.
- User can select a picture from their desktop.
- Selected picture displays on the web application.

References