

# **AAA Design Critique**

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# Overview

## Purpose and Goals

- Why is donation restricted to MIT Alumni?
- Wouldn't it be more useful to allow the public to donate money to student projects and maybe only allow MIT Alumni to serve as mentors?
- Your app seems to provide a platform to facilitate students finding potential mentors through the MIT Alumni network.
  - Is this also a main goal of the application?

## Context Diagram

- The context diagram is missing some labels on arrows.
  - Even though money transactions are the foundation of your application, all interactions between the bank and external parties are not labeled
- Seeing as your application depends on money donations, would it be practical to just allow money donation through Stripe?
  - What if donors are turned away because they don't want to create a Stripe account?
  - Have you considered integration with other API's: PayPal, Venmo.. etc in addition to Stripe?

# Concepts

## Key Concepts

Many of the concept descriptions include feature and implementation details

- Implementation Ex: “When users first register, they will click the checkbox whether they are a student or an alumni”
- Implementation Ex: “A student needs to have a valid school email address for authentication.”
- Feature Ex: “A student can also explore interesting projects without the need to create a project.”

## Data Model

- Comments
  - Concept: “Students and Alumni can all interact with other projects through posting and reading comments on these project pages.”
  - The data model has comments only on updates, not on projects themselves, so this is not fully supported
- A note on the model says “creator student can designate a list of collaborators”, but there’s no *collaborators* relationship in the data model

# Behavior

## Feature Descriptions

- No notification system for the updates
  - Donors probably won't check site every day
  - Try email updates?

## Security Concerns

- Should be broken up into sections, needs threat model
  - Key security requirements should be distinguished from common security concerns (like CSRF and XSS)
- Passwords should be hashed and salted, not encrypted
- Mailing lists can bypass email confirmation

## User Interface

- Search page is in application flow but not wireframe
- Interface looks cluttered, forms with tons of fields

# Challenges

## Who do donors donate to

- Your application is based fundamentally on the idea of alums donating to student projects directly - not a design decision

## Private Communication

- unclear whether:
  - communication between donors and students?
  - communication between students belonging to different projects?
- more of an optional feature than a design challenge

## Video Implementation

- more pros and cons of decision not mentioned:
  - for example: having a video upload on the site might be a better user experience than requiring them to upload on youtube

## Tagging

- consider typeahead search - addresses the spelling issue better than emails
  - (<https://github.com/twitter/typeahead.js>)