P5 – Working Prototype

Team

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Conceptual Use Study Reflection

Some people got caught up in the matching process and we realized we need to better define who can match with who and how that process plays into a good political discussion. Similar feedback was given concerning the reputation points; it might cause some judgements before the chat even begins. Also, our rating algorithm might cause a lot of confusion. One test subject said "If you leave the chat, then it's likely that you didn't enjoy the conversation." We need to challenge our assumptions about rating people and matching and think through some of the potential problems they might cause before implementing them.

This insight lead us to implement a chat where you are automatically presented with 4-5 strangers to talk to. Our subjects said that talking to strangers would be good practice to have good political discourse because they feel like they have to be more polite. We believe this is a good MVP because the chat interface will focus on the user task of talking to strangers while including some conversation starting points to help facilitate better discussion.
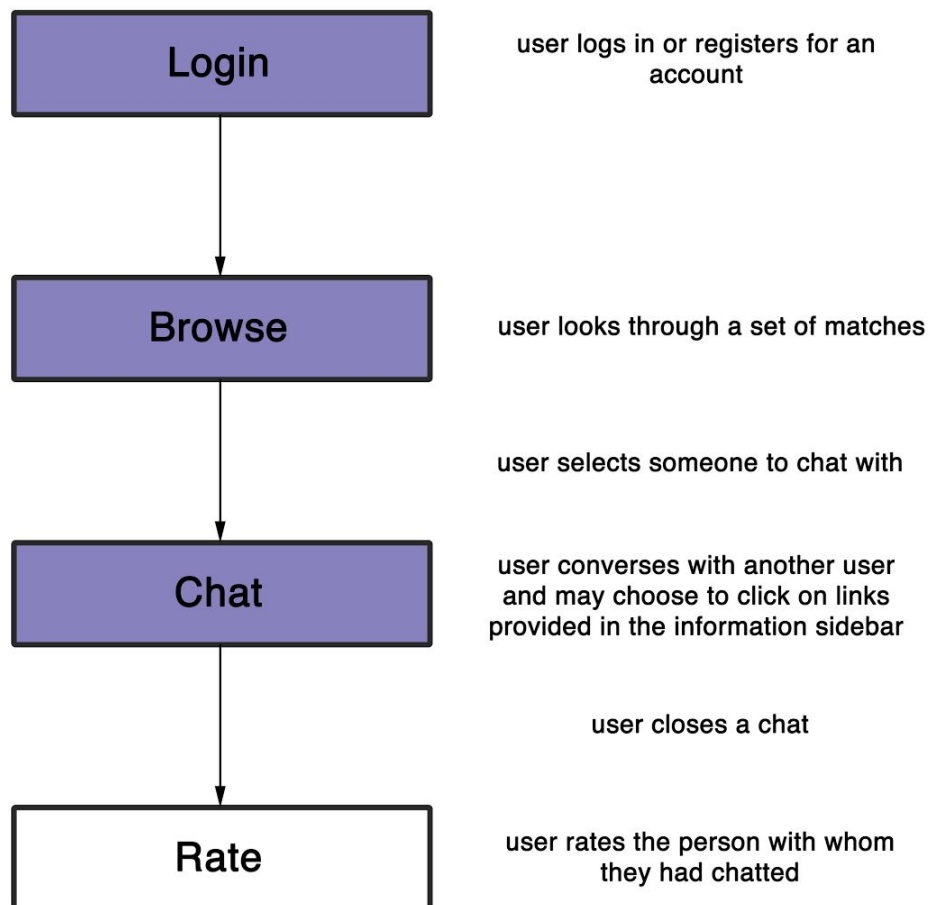
Design Concept Statement

Our prototype is the MVP of a platform used to have good discussion about potentially controversial topics. We modified our product to skip the matching process so that we can focus on the conversational aspect that includes a conversation assistant to give the users things to talk about. The conversation opens up on the right side of the chat as a separate panel to provide links, facts, and videos to watch. For this prototype, we built a conversation page for gun control and tried to make it include facts from both sides of the political spectrum.

Future prototypes will iterate and develop better user profiles, a matching system, and more topics that the conversation assistant can use to facilitate discussion. The conversation assistant could also get smarter and automatically change its recommended topic if the conversation starts to get off topic.

State Diagram

Portions highlighted in purple have been implemented in code.

Login	user logs in or registers for an account

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Browse	user looks through a set of matches

user selects someone to chat with

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Chat	user converses with another user and may choose to click on links provided in the information sidebar

user closes a chat

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Rate	user rates the person with whom they had chatted

Video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HfuXYnLtC2ScfEN7iXTlUBP5Nry82dez/view?usp=sharing

Github Link

https://github.com/converseapp/converse
- If you download, you will need the latest meteor downloaded and just run 'meteor' in terminal

Website

http://converse-160.herokuapp.com/