# Introduction

Personal Interactive Environment (PIE) is a social networking website aimed to help potentially socially-isolated individuals connect with others in their community, as well as family and friends across the country. PIE keeps in mind those who may not have a great deal of experience using the internet by prioritizing ease-of-use and simplicity of design.

The site was created at the request of Dr. Yvonne Chueh. Dr. Chueh is a professor and director of the Actuarial Science Program Central Washington University. She was inspired to create a site that proactively reached out to a sometimes forgotten group of individuals. This idea was actualized by connecting with the university’s department of computer science and proposing the site as a potential senior project.

The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed guide to using PIE and give insight to its inner workings. A tutorial on basic operations will be included along with screen shots detailing several of the steps to be taken. Given the complexity and plethora of possible actions a user can take, the illustrated tutorial will not be all-inclusive, but rather show the most necessary tasks such as; registering to the site, logging in, creating an event, manipulating user profile, searching and adding contacts, etc.

The target demographic of the site includes socially isolated individuals, people with disabilities, and friends/family of the previously mentioned groups. There will be a varying degree of technical expertise among these groups. While some may be well versed in technology, it is important that those who have little to no experience are able to use PIE effectively and with minimal frustration. Those with the latter amount of experience were considered more carefully than the former.

At the time of writing this manual, there is only one user type, basic user. An administrative user type should be added in the future for site maintenance. Currently, the site is lacking in community boards, and as those are implemented, it will be increasingly important to have some type of moderation which further presses the need for an administrative account type. Basic accounts can only edit and change their profile and create/modify events.