

RAD.IO

DESIGN FOCUS

Help reduce social isolation during COVID-19 by creating an informal way for remote teams to connect throughout the workday.

GOALS

- ① Help junior employees feel better supported
- ② Deepen professional relationships in a way that feels authentic
- ③ Bring joy to the remote workday



EDITH Junior Web Developer

As a new hire, Edith is struggling to find her place on the team. Remote work has made her interactions with her teammates less frequent, which contributes to her feeling lonely and unsupported at work.



“When I need help on coding tasks, I’m not sure if and when I should reach out.”

“For some topics, it’s easier to call than text.”



HASON Senior Web Developer

Despite having worked at the company for 4 years, Hason has been finding it much more difficult to connect with his colleagues, especially new employees and junior mentees, as their conversations are short, infrequent and task-based.



“It’s weird reaching out to people you’ve never met in real life.”

“It’s less convenient to start conversations.”



FRANK Project Manager

Having made the internal move to this new team only four months before COVID-19, Frank is still getting to know his team members. Creating a supportive and collaborative team environment online has been a challenge as the majority of his interactions happen during scheduled meetings.



“Outside of 1-on-1’s or meetings, I can’t get a sense of how everyone is doing or if anyone is struggling.”

“I don’t really know if someone is slipping into isolation... it’s frustrating.”

OUR CONCEPT

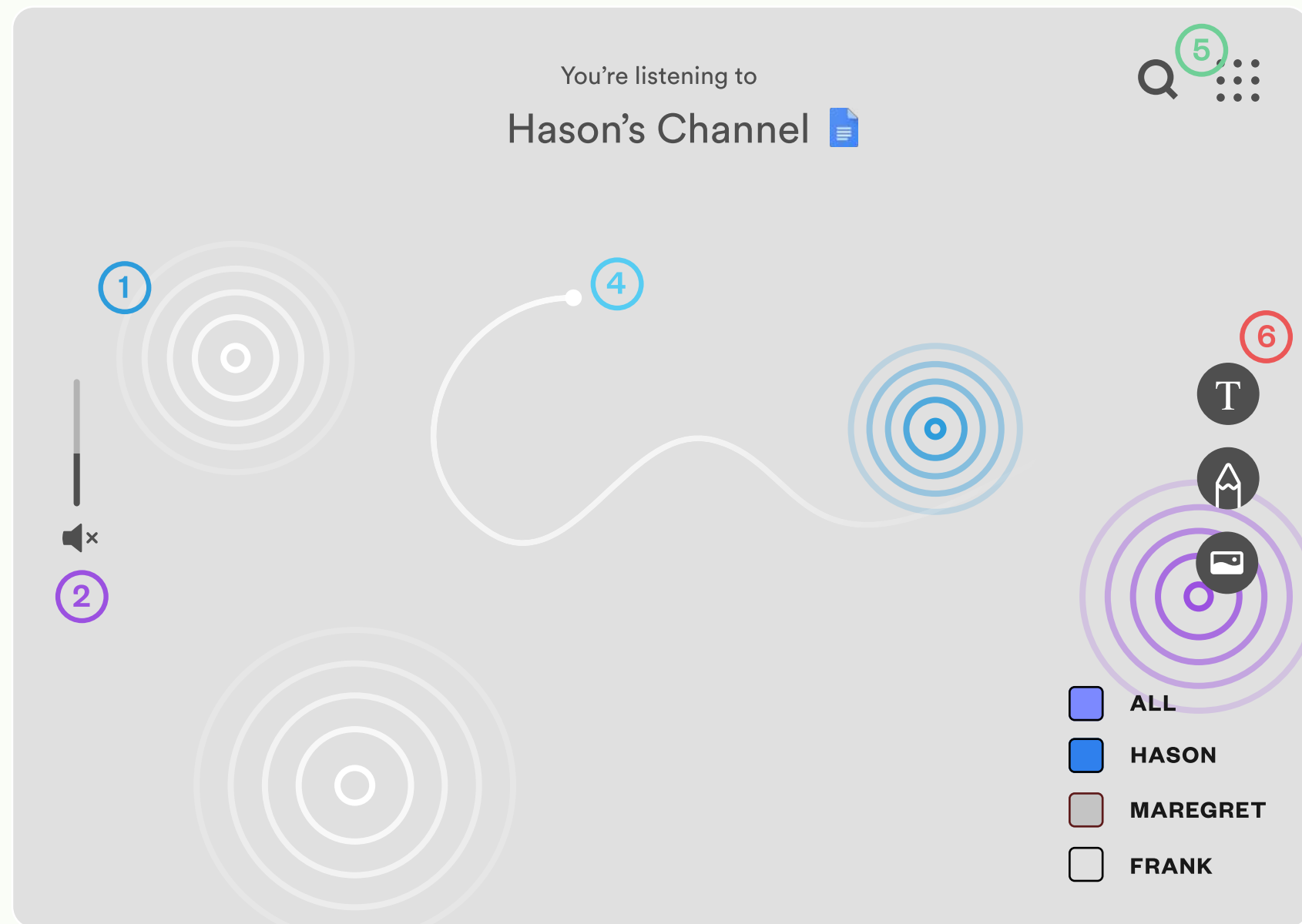
Rad.io is a web application that introduces a new way for remote teammates to connect throughout the workday using the shared experience of music.

1. TUNE IN TO YOUR COWORKER'S SOUNDSCAPE

Each of Hason's keyboard strokes creates an unique sound and a visual effect that is broadcasted to anyone tuned in to his channel.

2. VOLUME CONTROLS

For when colleagues want to listen to each other's channels as ambient background noise.



5. SWITCH CHANNELS

Use the search function or navigate to the overview page to find another coworker to check in on.

6. LEAVE A MESSAGE

Write, doodle, or upload an image to leave a message for a colleague that is currently away from the keyboard.

3. START A CONVERSATION

Rad.io is designed to make it easier for remote workers to start one-to-one conversations.

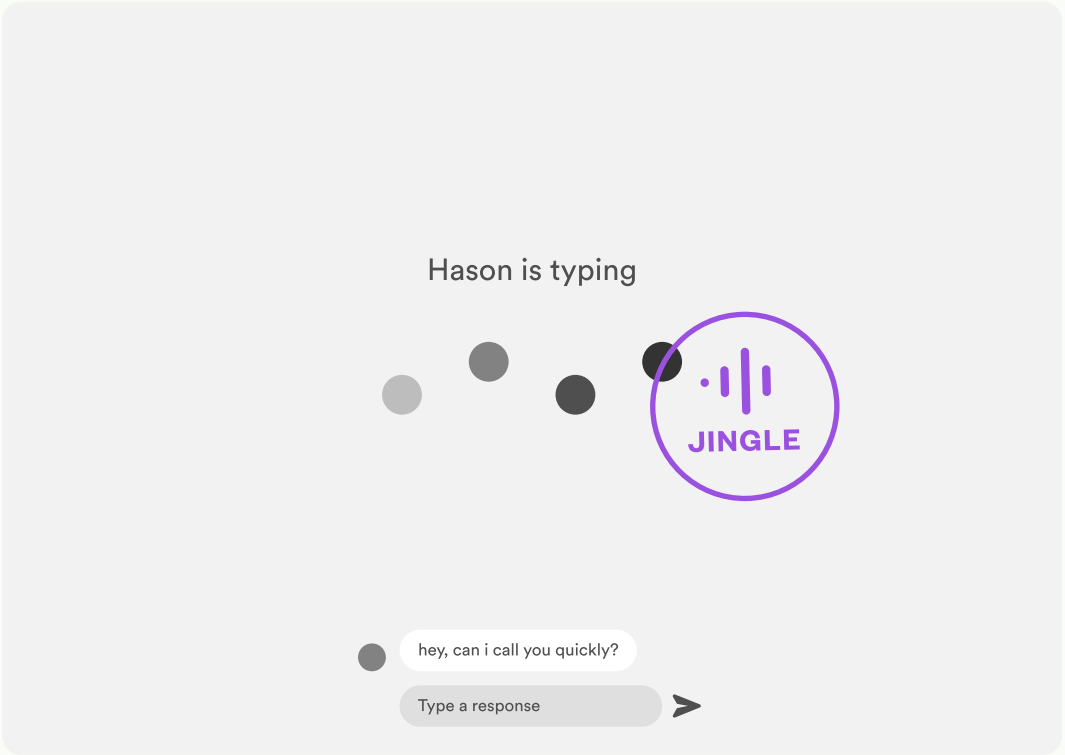
4. CHECK IN ON COLLEAGUES

In addition to showing what app Hason is currently using, Rad.io offers a glimpse of his mouse movements. These cues help colleagues check in and see who is available.

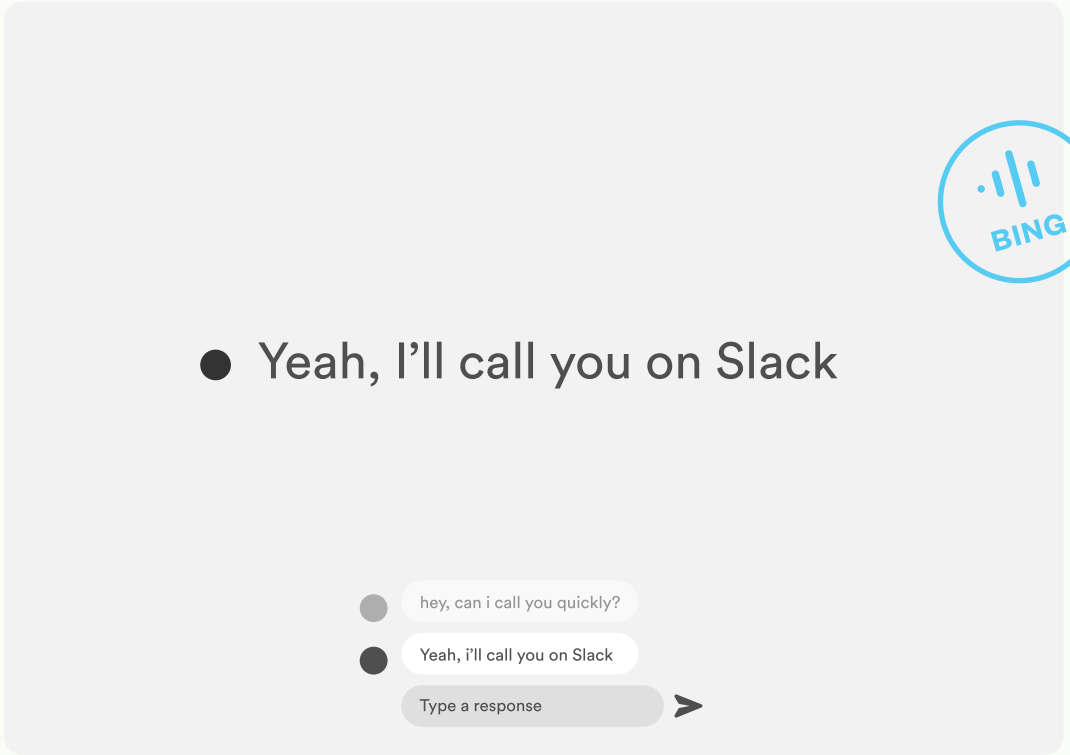
START CONVERSATIONS WITH PIZAZZ



1 Seeing that Hason is at his desk and not on a call, Edith decides that now would be a good time to ask for help. **Edith sends Hason a message.** He hears a new melody that brings his attention to Edith's message.



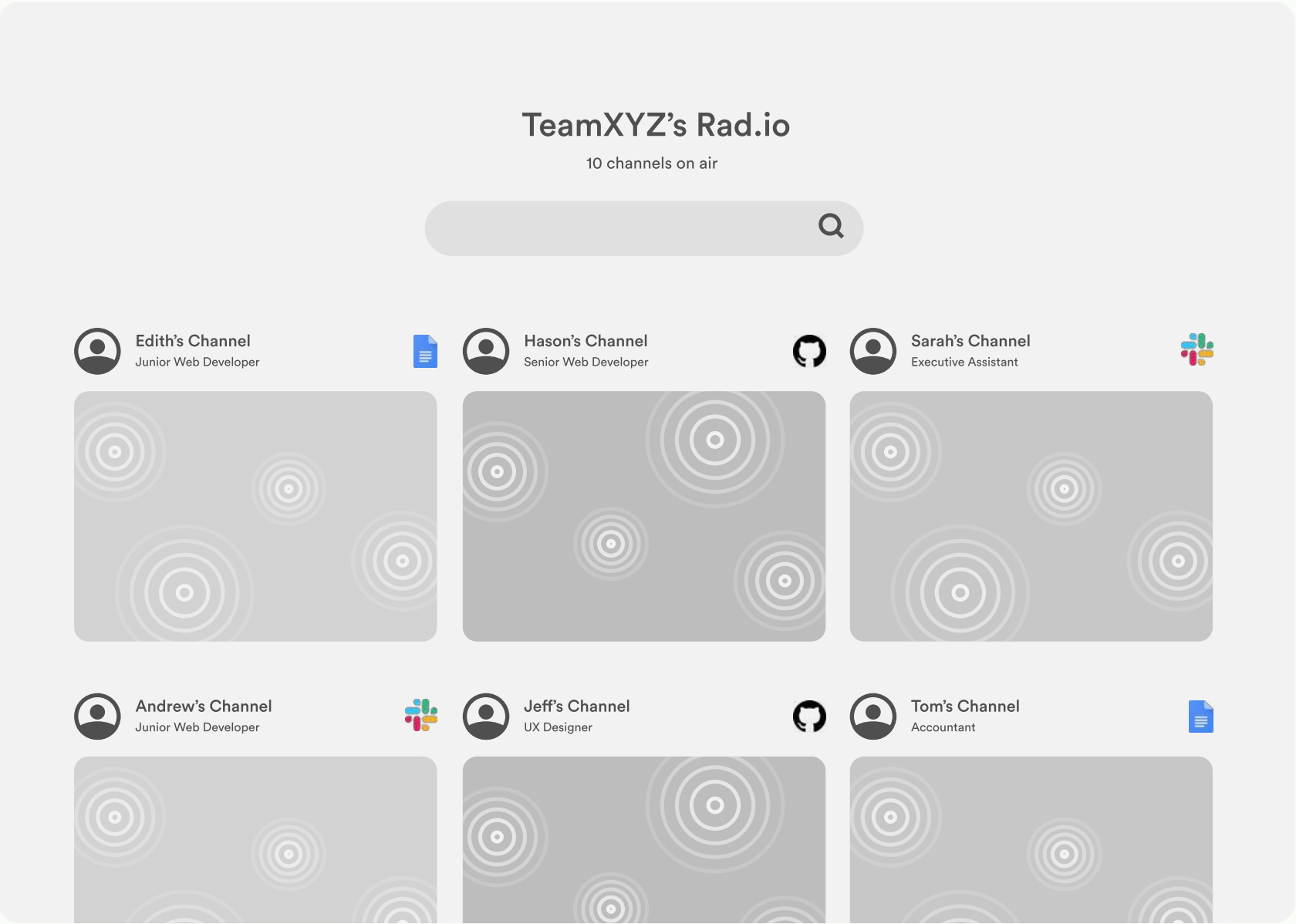
2 **Hason starts to type his response.** A new melody of synths grabs Edith's attention in a playful way. The screen fades to white to help both of them focus on getting the conversation started right away.



3 **Hason responds** — success! They skip the typical “How are you?” and “What time are you free?” and dive straight into a call on another platform.

TUNE IN TO CHANNELS ACROSS THE COMPANY

Each employee on Rad.io has a channel that their coworkers can tune in to. Scroll through the company's Rad.io page for an overview of who is working that day, or search a specific channel to see if your colleague is at their desk.



A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Rad.io gives junior employees and new hires a space to confidently reach out for help by making it easier to see who is available.

Sounds act as a non-verbal cue to alert Edith that others may be busy. Edith can communicate when she best sees fit or when she's the most comfortable doing so.

Edith no longer operates within a silo. She and her colleagues can see and hear each other typing away, creating an awareness of who is present throughout the workday.

WORKPLACE VISIBILITY

Remote workers know that their efforts are being seen and heard, without feeling watched.

Frank is able to create a more accommodating space for workers to interact with their managers.

Continuing to adapt to the difficulties of COVID-19, Rad.io provides the opportunity for Frank to effectively see who is working

TOGETHERNESS

Helping remote teams feel connected again
by creating spontaneous and informal ways to
interact throughout the workday.

Reintroduce the familiarities of physical interpersonal
communication within a digital context

Rad.io aims to ease the process of reaching out to
coworkers

Technical Requirements

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT

Developing the front-end interface for the website.

Tools: HTML, CSS & (Javascript/Typescript)

Using the Audiokeys library to code mouse and keyboard interactions within the web application

Tools: Audiokeys.js

Visualizing user interactions in an artful and creative way

Frameworks: p5.js / paper.js

BACK END DEVELOPMENT

Connecting multiple users to the same web application, so they can create and tune into channels.

Tools: Node.JS (Express) + Socket.io

Generating links for unique channels

Tools: Node.JS (Express) + Socket.io

Allow companies to add and remove channels for each user

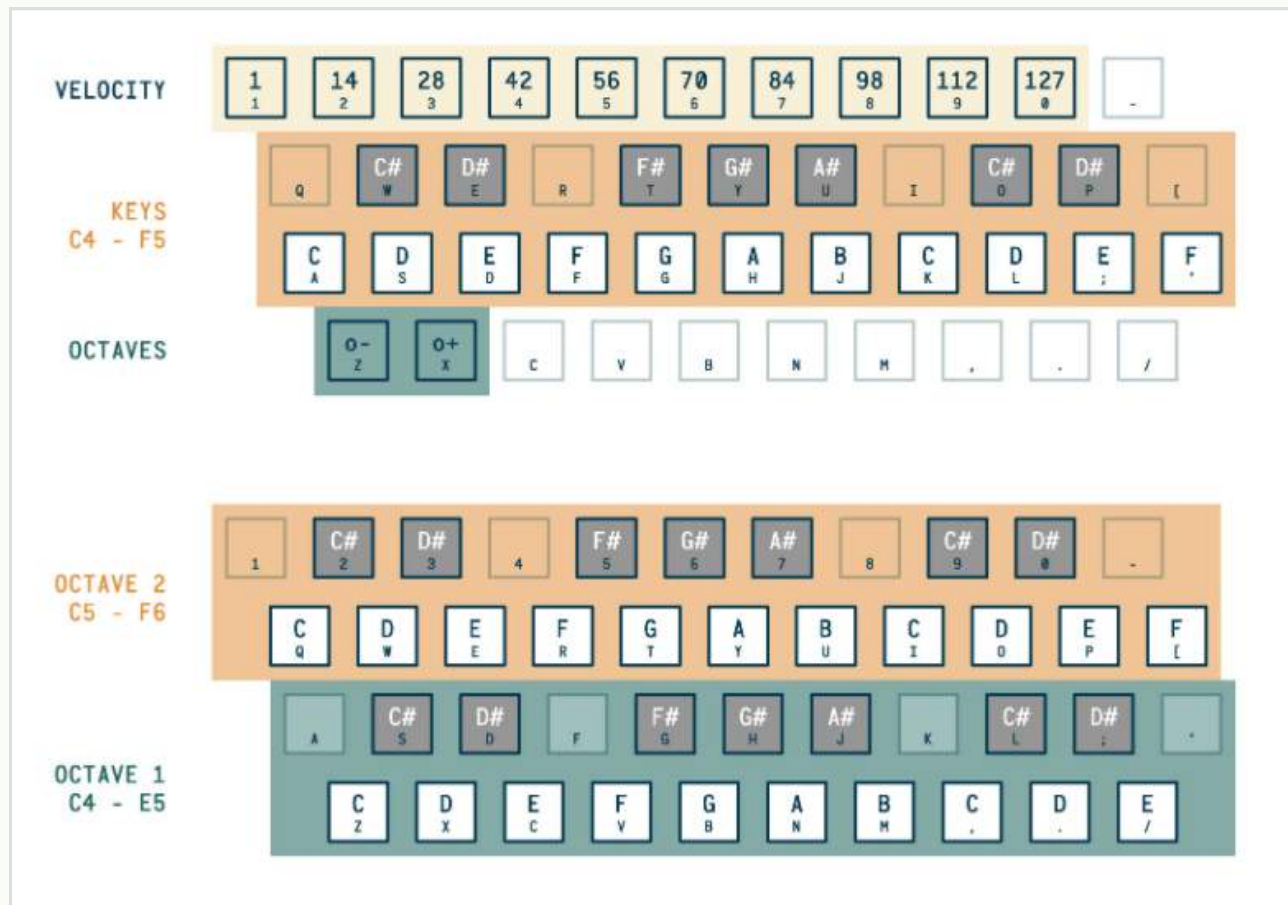
Tools: Node.JS (Express) + Socket.io

*Research into how we'll include sound design is ongoing

Javascript Libraries

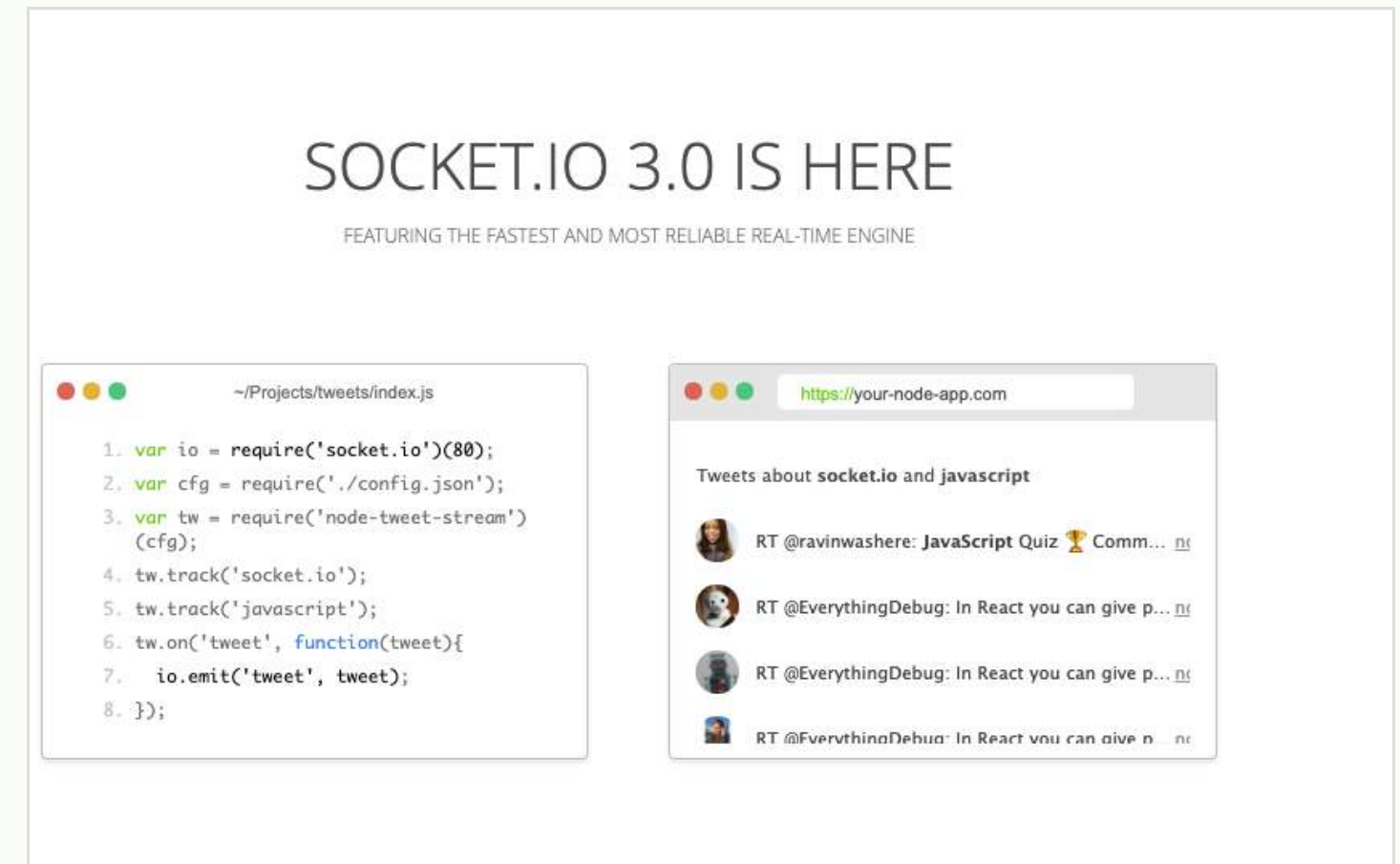
AUDIOKEYS

Javascript library to play sounds when you click your keyboard.



SOCKET.IO

Node.JS framework to communicate between user actions on the web.



You're listening to

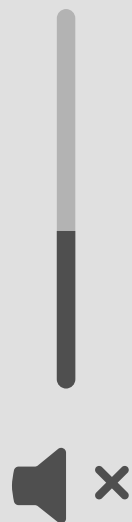
Team Channel

[6 teammates currently active]



You're listening to

Hason's Channel





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