# **Focus Bot**

## Enhancing Productivity for Remote Software Engineering Teams

Ethan Surber Computer Science Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA esurber05@vt.edu Menase Yirdaw Computer Science Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA menasey@vt.edu

Ian Yoon Computer Science Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA iany25@email.com

Yasser Algburi Computer Science Virgina Tech Blacksburg, VA yasseralgbur@vt.edu

#### **ABSTRACT**

Remote work has become more prominent in software engineering in recent years. Because of these both teams and individuals face issues with maintaining producivity. They face key challenges such as procrastination, lack of clear reminders, and difficulty with task management. FocusBot addresses the challenges remote software engineers face through the utilization of Promodoro techniques, clear reminders, and structured breaks. Better task management is promoted through a built-in to-do list with priority scheduling and real time notifications. This tool ensures that remote software engineers remain productive and focused throughout their workday.

## INTRODUCTION

As remote work continues to grow in the software industry, it has created both opportunities and challenges for engineers. Without the structure of a physical office, many remote workers find it harder to stay focused, manage their tasks efficiently, and stick to a productive routine. Common issues like procrastination, missing reminders, and juggling too many tasks at once often lead to reduced productivity.

These struggles make it clear that there's a need for better tools to help remote engineers stay on track.

This is where FocusBot comes in. By combining techniques like Pomodoro for time management, regular reminders, and scheduled breaks, FocusBot offers a solution that helps engineers maintain focus throughout the day. The addition of a to-do list with priority settings and real-time notifications makes it easier to handle tasks effectively, ensuring that engineers stay organized and productive in a remote work environment.

### RELATED WORK AND OUR PROCESS

Remote work in software engineering can introduce many productivity challenges. Which is why there have been many techniques and apps that were introduced to alleviate that issue. One technique is pomodoro and many apps have been built around it like Trello, Jira, Asana. Also, many new IDEs have implemented many ways to streamline workflow like adding built-in task management tools. FoucsBot will build on these tools by combining time management techniques like pomodoro, task prioritization techniques like having a checklist, and having real-time notifications to keep work flowing smoothly.

For our project, we will be using the Agile process because of its increased flexibility and iterative approach. Agile will allow for continuous feedback and adaptation, which will be helpful for the nature of our project. We will focus on completing small milestones with regular check-ins to maintain steady progress, ensure effective communication and stay on track.