

PSN: Prayer Social Network

CS Project CMPT 475 | CMPT 476
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1 Introduction

PSN is the social network that enables people to pray for one another around the world. PSN is a service that connects people from all around the World to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of Prayers, comments, and messages. The general idea is that you submit your prayer request, and someone will pray for you. PSN also lets you see prayers in real time, so you can also help others and pray for them, too.

Sometimes it takes someone bigger than yourself to get back up when you are down in life, you may need help from a community of people that understands what you are going through, you may need help from God. But this is not a religion-specific social network, so when you post your prayer request in PSN, someone can pray to God for you, or send you good vibes, or pray a rosary, or send you happy thoughts, pray to a specific manifestation of a deity, etc.

The main idea is to connect those who need a prayer with those who have a vocation to pray in their respective religion, e.g. Christianity (Catholicism, Anglicanism, Seventh-Day Adventists, Baptists), Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Agnosticism, Atheism, Latter Day Saint Movement a.k.a. Mormonism, Judaism sciencetology, and many others.¹

2 Project Overview

PSN wants three major things, a website, an iPhone app, and an Android app. Of course PSN wants the database that backs this up. Let start with the front end system. The general concept is that a user should be able to create an account (and profile) using their Facebook login, or Twitter login, or by providing an email and a password. The profile would contain basic information of the user, full name, birthday, location, picture, and religion.

Only authorized users with a profile can post a prayer request to PSN. To post a prayer request, they can write a message/description of up to 140 characters of length, and they can attach an image if they want to. The user can use hastags (#) in the same way they would do in Twitter, that is, they can tag the prayer request as they write, or alternatively, there should be a list of popular tags where they can choose from. In the same area where they would select tags, there must also be a place where they can choose what kind of prayer they want to receive (from what religion); some people would not like other religions praying for them, e.g., maybe an Agnostic does not want a Christian praying to God for her/him or viceversa. The default option there should be the religion corresponding to their profile, and the second option should be “any”, and the rest of the list should be the remaining religions.

Once the prayer is posted, it should be displayed immediately, but the person can edit/delete the prayer at any time. Once the prayer is posted, the user can do the following with the prayer: 1) add a detailed description, that can be up to 5000 characters long; 2) change the status of the prayer to “answered”; 3) post an update of up to 140 characters long and keep it “active”; or 4) post an update of up to 140 characters and change the status to “answered”, which could be used to send a “thank you” note.

¹For a full list of world religions, please use google. You might want to start looking for the most popular ones and their denominations.



Figure 1: PSN's anticipated network graph by region.

From the perspective of the user that likes to pray for others (and this would be the default view of the system), they would see a list of prayers ordered by network (is the user connected to the one requesting prayer?), distance to them, and popularity of the prayer request. In every prayer request they see, they should also see icons corresponding to the following actions: 1) they can upvote or downvote the prayer request, 2) they can flag the prayer as "it is annoying or offensive", "this should not be on PSN", "this is spam", "this is in the wrong religion"; 3) they can follow (connect/network with) the user requesting the prayer; 4) they can indicate that they have prayed for that user with the option of leaving a 140 character message subject to the same rules as the prayer request.

Every user has also a reputation, the reputation is as follows. If a user prayed for another, they would get a "praying hands" point. If they prayed for a prayer and it was answered they would get a "halo" point (halos are better than "praying hands"). If the user flagged a post that others flagged as well, user gets a "hammer" point. If the user requests a prayer that gets upvoted, user gets "knee" point ("knee" is better than "hammer").

In addition to all that, in the form of a simple menu, a user can change from the default view to the following views: a) to see prayers only from "my network", b) prayers only from specific religions, c) the most popular prayer requests in the world, d) the best ranked profiles in my area, e) surprise PSN with more!

Furthermore, PSN anticipates they will grow up to a 30 million users in a matter of 1 year, as shown in ???. Therefore, they want a full report of tests done of concurrent access for 30 up to 5000 users and project the data up to 100,000 concurrent users. For obvious reasons, the usage of a public cloud is not safe, so PSN wants a private cloud that enables the functionalities previously described. Such cloud environment should meet all the applicable best practices and standards of the DoD and NIST. PSN wants a full report of tests done with respect to security of the cloud, and concurrent access increasingly varying the number of users up to 100,000 if possible.

For more details contact Dr. Rivas.