**Flink – Organization-Based Social Network**

## **App Report**

### **Overview**

Flink is a private social networking platform designed exclusively for universities, workplaces, and other organizations. Access is restricted to users with official organization-provided email IDs, ensuring authenticity and a controlled user base.

The app serves as an **internal communication and networking platform**, integrating features like a **directory, chat system, college/company news, engagement rankings, polls, quizzes, and a swipe-based profile discovery system**.

## **Core Features**

### **1. Verified Organization-Only Access**

* Users must sign up with an official email ID from their organization (e.g., @saveetha.com).
* This ensures only **verified students/employees** gain access, preventing spam.
* Explicit permission from organizations is **not** currently obtained.

### **2. User Profiles & Directory**

* Users can create profiles with **name, department, college, bio, images, and other details**.
* **Searchable directory** for students/employees categorized by **name, department, or role**.
* Profile swiping feature (Tinder-like UI):
  + Users can swipe through profiles, but **only "like" is allowed (no rejection option)**.
  + Liked profiles can be revisited.

### **3. College/Company News & Events**

* Organizations can **post announcements, events, and updates**.
* Acts as an **internal communication hub** for verified members.
* Includes a **section for public love letters**, **manually selected** and uploaded.

### **4. Controlled Chat System**

* Users can request to connect and chat. **Chats are enabled only after mutual approval**.
* **Bad word filter** implemented using an array of restricted words.
* **No end-to-end encryption** for messages stored in the database.
* **No active moderation** of chats; users can **report or block** inappropriate messages.
* **POSH Act considerations**:
  + The app **cannot prevent** harassment or inappropriate messages before they are sent.
  + Users must **report** offensive content manually.
  + No AI-based moderation or filtering beyond basic word restriction.

### **5. Engagement & Streak System**

* **Like-based ranking system**: Users gain visibility based on engagement.
* **Snapchat-style streaks**: Users can maintain streaks for continuous interaction.

### **6. Polls, Quizzes & Interactive Content**

* **Polls and quizzes** are manually fed into the app.
* Users can participate and engage with interactive content.

### **7. Third-Party API Integrations**

* **RoxyAPI Astrology Horoscope** – Provides zodiac sign predictions.
* **DOTA API** – Fetches **daily sports news**.
* **Meme-API** – Provides **trending memes**.
* **api.api-ninjas.com/v1/quotes** – Fetches daily quotes (content not controlled by Flink).

### **8. Automated Form & Weekly Reports**

* Integrated **Google Form automation** for students/employees to submit weekly reports.
* Users are **notified automatically** to fill out reports.

## **User Data Collection & Permissions**

### **Data Collected from Users**

| **Field** | **Type** | **Editable** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **Register Number** | String | ❌ No | One-time entry |
| **Phone Number** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **DOB** | Date | ❌ No | One-time entry |
| **Department** | String | ❌ No | One-time entry |
| **Gender** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **Blood Group** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **Languages** | Array | ✅ Yes | Default: [] |
| **Hobbies** | Array | ✅ Yes | Default: ["Nothing"] |
| **Native Place** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **College** | String | ❌ No | One-time entry |
| **College Year** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **Bio** | String | ✅ Yes |  |
| **Password** | String | ✅ Yes | Hashed |
| **FCM Token** | String | ✅ Yes | Used for push notifications |
| **Profile Images** | Array | ✅ Yes | Default: Placeholder image |

### **Permissions Used**

* **GPS** – Location tracking (if needed in future updates).
* **Storage** – Profile images and other media.
* **Notifications** – Push notifications for updates, messages, and reminders.

## **Security & Privacy Risks**

* **Email verification is reliable**, but organizations **have not given explicit approval**.
* **No end-to-end encryption** in messages, making chat data readable in the database.
* **Bad word filter is basic**, and cannot prevent all forms of inappropriate messages.
* **Users must manually report/block** bad actors; **no AI moderation** for offensive content.
* **External APIs are used for astrology, sports news, memes, and quotes**, meaning **Flink has no control over the API content**.

## **Monetization & Future Plans**

* **Planned paid features**:
  + **See who viewed your profile**.
  + **Increased messaging quota**.
  + **Ability to post public letters/news**.
* **Possible introduction of ads** in the future.

## **App Store & Play Store Deployment**

### **Uploading to Play Store**

* Google Play requires **a Google Developer Account ($25 one-time fee)**.
* App submission requires:
  + App **APK/AAB file**.
  + **Privacy Policy** (required for handling user data).
  + **Screenshots & Description**.
  + **App Category & Rating** (set based on content).

### **Pricing Models**

* Can be released as **free** or with **in-app purchases (IAPs)**.
* Flink may later charge **for premium features** like profile insights, boosted messages, and announcements.

### **Maintenance & Updates**

* **Regular Updates**:
  + Feature additions, UI improvements, bug fixes.
* **Bug Fixing & Patch Releases**:
  + Minor updates to fix reported issues.
* **Security Updates**:
  + Address vulnerabilities or exploits.

### **Force Update vs. Auto-Update**

* **Auto-Update**:
  + Users receive updates **automatically** when they update apps through the Play Store.
* **Force Update**:
  + A mandatory update can be implemented via **version checks on app launch**.
  + Users will be forced to update before accessing the app.

## **Final Notes**

Flink is a promising **organization-based social network** with unique engagement features and a verified user base. However, **security concerns** such as **unencrypted messages, lack of active moderation, and external API reliance** need attention. Monetization through **premium features and ads** can sustain future growth, and legal considerations (such as **explicit email approval from organizations**) should be addressed.