**ChatSchoolette**

**Team Members**

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**Problem Statement**

ChatRoulette (chatroulette.com/) is a popular website for chatting with random strangers both through text and video. Users have no idea who they will be matched with around the world. Although this can be a very fun way to meet new people, often those you meet won’t be anywhere near you geographically speaking. We believe the quote from Fight Club sums up the problem quite well: “Everywhere I travel, tiny life. Single-serving sugar, single-serving cream, single pat of butter. The microwave Cordon Bleu hobby kit. Shampoo-conditioner combos, sample-packaged mouthwash, tiny bars of soap. The people I meet on each flight? They’re single-serving friends.”

Our group would like to potentially address ChatRoulette’s issue of creating single-serving friends by localizing the randomization process to each user’s school. By stratifying the randomized selection, users can connect with others from their school. The goal is to have people arrange for further meetups if they are matched with someone they got along with well. ChatSchoolette addresses the problem that many introverted people have in modern day by providing a way for the shy and socially-challenged to meet others and still have an easy option to quit whenever they want if they want to.

ChatSchoolette will have users register with a \*.edu email address to ensure proper matching during the randomization. They can choose what information to share with others, such as their hobbies, clubs, and interests, to potentially provide conversation topics when matched with another person. ChatSchoolette users can share a rich profile with their matched partner during any chat experience. This experience has a lot more depth than a basic ChatRoulette talk. By attempting to match users based on their interests, the probability of "friendly" matches drastically increases.

We know how difficult it is to make friends for people moving to a new school, and we think that ChatSchoolette can make this problem a much smaller issue.

**Project Objectives**

The objectives for this project include:

* Create a website where users can chat with other random people from their school
* Design a fun and intuitive interface for connecting and chatting with others
* Stratify ChatRoulette’s randomization process by using \*.edu email addresses as “buckets”
* Further diversify the concept of "random matching" by attempting to match users by their interests first
* Support user profiles where users can express their individuality so others can view it during a chat matching experience
* Keep track of sent messages to be able to respond to any bullying or threat complaints
* Support a user-creation system where users can add in their hobbies and interests
* Reduce the overall effort required to make friends at a new school

**Stakeholders**

The stakeholders for this project are:

* Students looking to make new friends near them
* Students who have trouble making friends through traditional social channels
* The project developers
* Project manager

**Deliverables**

A fun and easy-to-use site for making new friends by matching with other random people from your school. The deliverables will consist of:

* A SQL database capable of storing the messages of users in case of bullying or threat complaints
* A website written in Flask capable of supporting many users concurrently
* An intuitive web interface that makes it easy to create an account and chat with others quickly and conveniently
* A system for editing your account if you change schools or want to add new hobbies, clubs, or interests
* A platform that supports using text chat, webcam, and mic to communicate with others in 1:1 conversations