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Senior Project Specification

Dr. Baliga

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**Title**: Owl Howl

**Project GitHub Site**: https://github.com/grahamw0/OwlHowl

**Project Summary**:

Owl Howl (name subject to change) is a location-based, anonymous messaging app for the Android operating system. Users will be able to anonymously leave a message at their current GPS location. Only users within a certain radius of that GPS coordinate are able to see this message. Once posted, other users can vote and show either their support or dislike for the message. This application will be similar to an app called Yik-Yak.

Major features of the application include:

1. Immediate localized message viewing, posting, and voting.
2. Anonymous posting by default.
3. Messages with higher ratings last longer, while lower rated messages decay faster or are deleted.
4. Random handles given to posters which refresh daily.
5. (Stretch goal) Viewing messages from a saved location - location must be saved while physically there, allowing for remote viewing of messages from any location.
6. (Stretch goal) Having private user accounts which users would sign up for.
7. (Stretch goal) Optimizing our message viewing system to decrease loading times.
8. (Stretch goal) Optional mature language filter.
9. (Stretch goal) Push notifications when a saved location is active with postings.

**Project Goals**:

The main goal of this project is to implement an anonymous, location-based Android message application. Currently, the design has three major parts: the android user front-end, an intermediate RESTful web service, and a MySQL database backend. In addition to the main goal of simply producing the app, each group member will have to do a considerable amount of learning, as each area of the app will utilize knowledge not explicitly taught in any class.

**Project Limitations:**

Limitations for this project would include that users of the app will not be able to post photos or emojis. Also prior to stretch goal (#6) users will be limited to only viewing messages in the area they are currently located. We will also not be able to filter/control others posting personal information such as names and phone numbers. Users are also limited to how many messages they can post within a given time frame. The users will also be limited to one vote per message. The final limitation will be that messages will have a character limit for each message.