Milestone 1 Idea + Research Analysis

The Group Study App

The Problem:

As a student at NYU the most time consuming activity other than going class is studying. Typically I study alone because it’s difficult to meet with other students who are in the same class. I personally find it difficult to reach out to other students and set up a group study session. I am currently a senior and I’ve found it more effective to study in a group than to study by myself. There is just material that I miss when I study alone.

The App idea:

The group study app helps students find other students to study with by allowing students to post when, where and what they are studying. The app will display in a map view all the people that are studying near you. A student can send a request to another student if they can study together. If they accept, students can chat and exchange exact locations to meet up. The app will also notify you when friends are studying near by. This functionality is similar to Facebook’s “Nearby Friends” where users are notified when their friends are near them. Students will be able to set up group study sessions by inviting other users to study together.

Implementation:

The application will be developed in iOS 8 with a foundation in Parse that will serve as the backend. Parse.com will handle the posts and requests that and the communication between users. The Apple Maps API will be used to show the different posting from students. The Tethr iOS UI design kit will be used to design a beautiful user interface for the iOS platform.

Apple Maps API: <https://developer.apple.com/maps/>

Parse: <https://www.parse.com/>

Tethr: <http://www.invisionapp.com/tethr>

Future Features:

Given the time frame of the semester it is unrealistic to add all the features that could be incorporated in an app like this. The app could also support sharing of files, notes or resources in the study group similar to Apple’s Airdrop functionality. Students can also use the app to find other students that are willing to tutor them in a subject. School and club events can be posted to the map to let students know that there are events that are going on around them instead of just using email. The app can also suggest study breaks and let students know that there are coffee shops and restaurants near by to visit.

Competition:

There are currently no dedicated group study apps out there. However the biggest competitor is Facebook and their ability to just create events and post when people are free to study or do work. There are other study apps in the App Store, however most of them focus on notes and not on group study.

Next Step:

As of now I do not have a team on board with the idea yet. Currently finding a well-balanced team is the first priority before moving forward.

Team Members:

1. John Ward
2. Kevin Zeng