Team St. Johns: Encouraging Curious Christian Minds

Entrepreneurial Project By: Jarod Collier, Mazen Ashgar, and Brendan Cronan

Overview

Goal:

Create an app that gave users the feel and look of Instagram while also providing similar functionality as reddit. The plan was to build an app—from the ground up—that allows users of all ages and technical backgrounds to get in contact with a certified pastor.
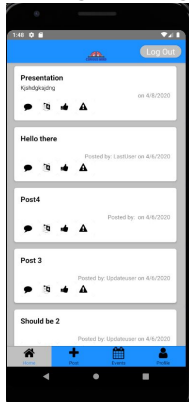

Figure 1: Curious Minds Home Page

Full Description / Comments

As a user scrolls on the main screen, as seen in Figure 1, if they are curious to learn more about a question then they are able to click on it and it will show a full description of what the poster is asking about. They also, depending on the original poster's choice as shown in Figure 4, are able to comment on it and provide feedback.

Figure 2: The Thread Screen

Creating Events

To achieve Curious Mind's goal of connecting people to pastors, the pastors on the app are allowed to create events that have times, dates, and locations. These events can be church services, Bible studies, apologetics meetings, or anything that the pastor is involved in and would like to spread the word about.

Figure 3: The events screen

Creating a New Question

When a user feels so inclined to ask a question to the community, Curious Mind gives them a couple of options. If the question is sensitive and the user wants their name to be private, they are allowed to post it anonymously. If the user happens to decide that they only want to hear thoughts from pastors then they can also enable an option that only allows pastors to comment on the post.
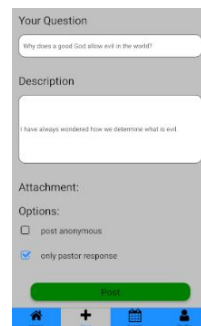

Figure 4: A Sample Post With Sample Post Options
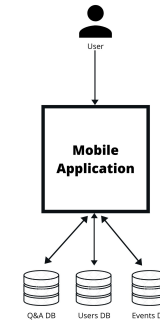
Technical Details

Figure 5: System Diagram for Curious Mind

Components

- React Native mobile application frontend
- Google Firebase Database backend
  - Database for questions data
  - Database for event details
  - Database for user statistics
    - Includes a randomly generated pastor security key for verification.
- Third party packages such as Shadow Cards and Vector Icons to add style to Curious Mind.

Future Work

Although Curious Mind does function as was intended, there is always room for more features. There is a decent chance some of us still work on this app and features we would like to add are having Google Translate integrated into the cards, Google Maps integrated into the events screen, and anything to improve the UI of Curious Mind.

Reflections

Building this app was one of the best computer science related tasks most of us have done. We came into the project having zero knowledge on how to build an app and we are now leaving feeling confident that we created something that people will be able to use. It was an incredible experience and we enjoyed the process.