

Chatterbox

A FULL STACK CASE STUDY

Jamie Tracy

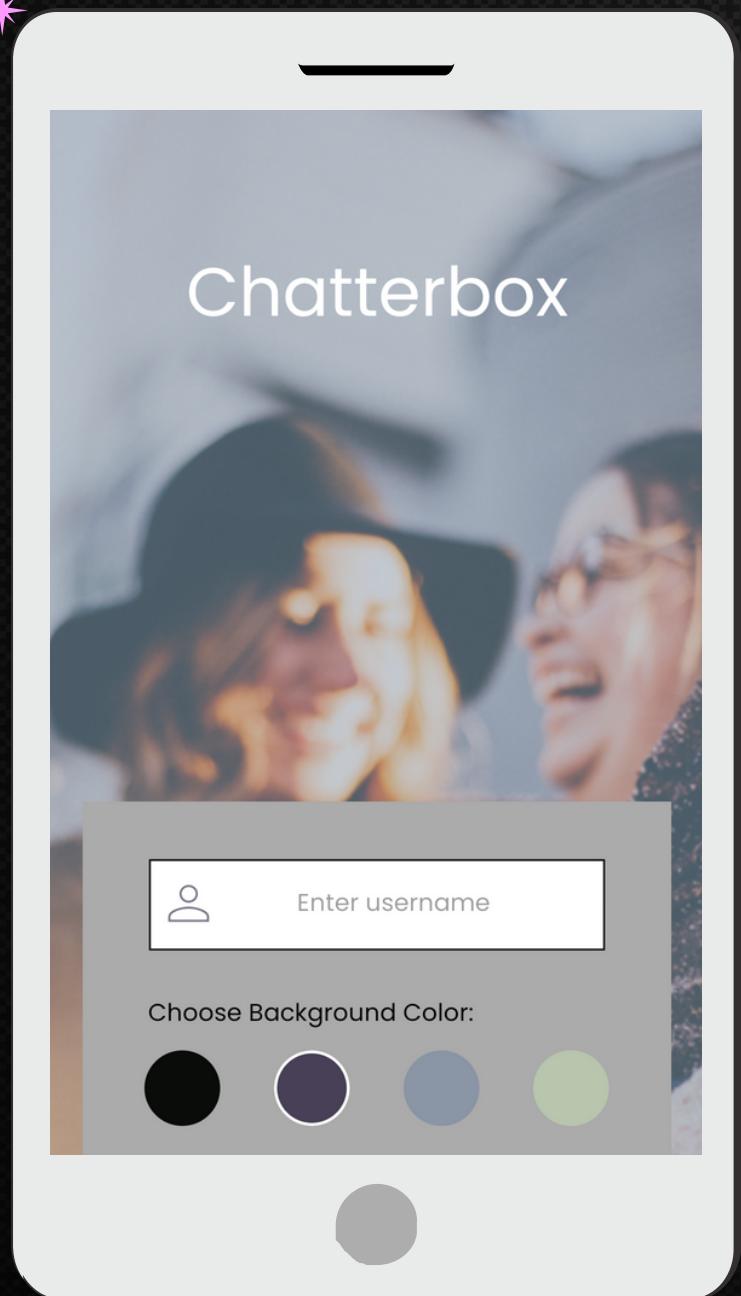
[See my code](#)

Overview



A mobile chatting app that allows users to communicate with friends and family through sending text messages, images, and location data.

Objective



This project was part of the full-stack immersion course from the web development program at CareerFoundry to demonstrate my knowledge of JavaScript mobile development.

The goal was to build a chat app for mobile devices using React Native to showcase in my portfolio. The app will provide users with a chat interface and options to share images and their location.



Roles

Role: Lead Developer

Tutor: Ebere Iweala

Mentor: Mahesh Rodrigo



Duration

This project took me just shy of 2 weeks to complete from start to finish.



Methodologies

- React Native
- Expo
- Google Firebase/Firestore
- Android Studio

The Process

1

Getting Started

I installed Expo and a compatible version of Node, then used Expo CLI to create a React Native app.

2

Setting up

I set up an Android Emulator using Android Studio.

3

Design

I implemented the Gifted Chat library to create a chat interface including text input and speech bubbles.



The Process

4

Storage

I created a Google Firestore database to store user messages.

5

Offline storage

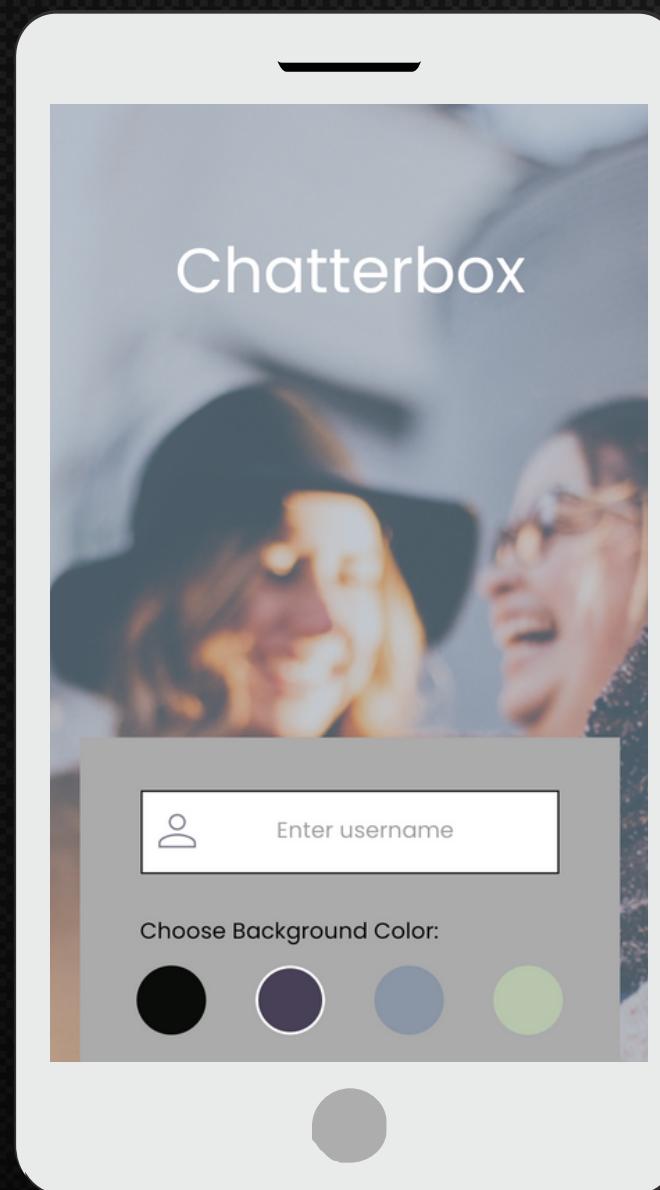
I implemented a real-time network connectivity detection system and installed React Native's async storage to store messages offline.

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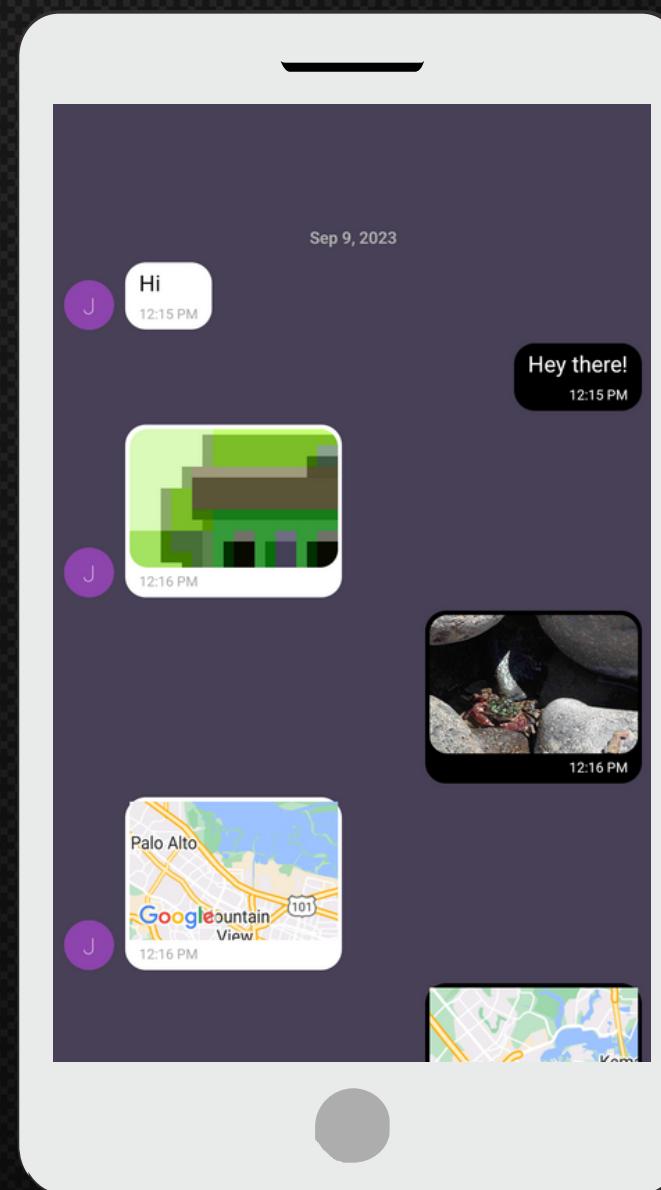
Features

I integrated some additional communication features like the ability to send one's location and take and send pictures and store them using cloud storage for Firebase.

Interface Views



Start Screen



Chat Screen

Retrospective



What Went Well

This project went pretty smoothly overall, and I enjoyed using Google Firebase for the first time as well as learning about the functionality of the Gifted Chat library.



Challenges

I had a few issues using Expo, as it was not compatible with my current version of Node, but soon figured out the correct version to make everything work.



Final Thoughts

I would've liked being able to see what else I could do using the Gifted Chat library, seeing as this is only a single chat room. In the future I plan on experimenting more with this to explore its full capabilities.