

Criterion A: Planning

Anonymous Chat for Teenagers

Defining the Problem:

Client/ Ms. Xx, an IB Graduate at the European School of Bucharest, wants an app that allows her to communicate to her friends. Most importantly, she wants to be completely anonymous while doing this.

In May 2020 Ms. Xx approached me on the halls of our school and told me about her problem with online chats and their lack of anonymity. She told me what she would like to have an anonymous webchat with a friendly interface, in order to talk to her friends, completely anonymously.

I thought this could be a good Internal Assessment because Ms. Xx wished for a chat application. My Computer Science teacher agreed to this plan.

For me to better understand the issue, I decided to have an interview with Ms. Xx and discuss the details of this future app.

Rationale for Proposed Solution:

A web type app is the most suited for this problem. This way the users can receive message and notifications in real time. Web applications are more user friendly than desktop apps. Creating accounts will be based on an invite link received from a previous user, and the minimum credentials, (username, password ± email). Users will be able to add, remove or block friends, create/delete conversations and send messages to other people, ± media files (images or videos). Users will also be able to edit their profile page and other customizations. Notifications can be sent via Chrome browser or via email.

According to these requirements, I decided to make the back-end of the web application using Java, and the front-end of the app using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, and BOOTSTRAP because of:

- I am learning all these programming languages at school and I had previous contact with some of them in the past.
- Java is one of the most used programming languages for the back end of a web application.
- Eclipse IDE enables me to write the server side of my web app faster due to already integrated shortcuts.
- After creating one chat between two people, it will be easier to create chats between others (copy, change and paste)
- I can assign functionality to my web components using JavaScript and jQuery.
- BOOTSTRAP allows me to create a friendly interface for the users due to already designed HTML elements by professionals.
- BOOTSTRAP, enables me to shorten my working time (Styling HTML elements by attaching a class)
- HTML is the display language of any browser, so no content of a website could be shown without it
- CSS allows me to further customize and override some of the styles integrated by BOOTSTRAP to further suit the liking of my client.

Stating Success Criteria:

1. The app will allow users with a valid invite link to create an account.
2. The app will allow users that have an account to log in.
3. The app will have an option to add/remove/block other users.
4. The app will have an option to search for users in the user's contact list.
5. The app will allow users to modify attributes of their account (username and password)
6. The app will allow you to start conversations.
7. The app will allow you to send and receive messages and it will update in real time.
8. The app will allow you to look into the history of a conversation
9. The app will allow users to delete an account