Overview of Project

**Topic**

Being able to learn a second language through an app rather than taking physical, face-to-face classes is required in our fast-paced world. It allows for people to learn at their own pace and wherever they are. Most language apps are free as well, so learning a language is something people can learn at their leisure.

LingChat is an app based off a blend of Duolingo, Babbel and My Language Exchange. It allows users to practice their conversational skills with fluent speakers around the world. It’s a free app that pairs up native speakers and their student counterparts across the world, based on a CEFR system that is utilised in European nations and is well recognised as a

*An overview of what you propose to do in your project. Concentrate on the big picture and outcomes, rather than intricate details. At least two paragraphs is expected.*

**Motivation**

*What are your motivations for your project. Why is this project important or interesting? How does it fit in with current IT trends? What would it show to a future employer if you were able to work on this project? At least one paragraph is expected.*

**Landscape**

Apps like Duolingo and Babbel teach language in specific lessons- like greetings, foods, names for items of clothing- and allow for chats with bots about certain subjects. Duolingo is free, and Babbel boasts that it can teach a semester of a college language class in twenty one hours for minimal cost. The programs are both crafted by language experts- linguists as well as native speakers. Duolingo allows for learners to chat together in both their native language and the language they’re learning, but it does not allow for a native speaker to converse with them in the language they’re learning, or teach them how to use phrases in a way that is conversational instead of stilted. Duolingo also has carefully crafted structured conversations with bots. Babbel is very similar to Duolingo, except that it is a subscription service and also allows for quick lessons that are based on a learners individual learning style.

The most similar competitor is an app called HelloTalk, which connects native speakers to each other- for example, someone who is a native speaker of German who wants to learn English will get paired with somebody who speaks fluent German (but may want to improve their conversational skills) but is a native speaker of English. It also has a Facebook-style newsfeed that allows people to post “statuses” in the language they’re trying to learn.

When we originally started work on this project, HelloTalk did not yet exist, and so the development of our app was based on the gap in the market that called for a conversational language app that offered more than just structured lessons.

**Group Communication**