1 Analysis

1.1 Introduction to problem

Currently, my family uses a whiteboard in the kitchen to track upcoming events. However, this can be inconvenient as this can only be seen and edited in person.

This project aims to solve this by creating a digital emulation of a physical whiteboard, along with adding other utility functions that are made possible by the digital medium. This will enable coordination and planning to be done remotely at any time, as opposed to requiring everybody to be in the same room.

For this project, I plan to only create a web client as this will be compatible with the most devices, but in the future I may go on to create native apps for different devices.

1.2 Interview with Client

What sort of functionality would you like the whiteboard to have?

I think the following features are most important:

- Being able to use it on a phone and a laptop
- Adding to the whiteboard with both text boxes and some sort of pen tool
- Adding in text boxes
- Being able to move things around on the board and delete them
- · Having multiple people edit the same board in parallel so that everybody sees the same thing

What other functionality would be useful?

- I would like to be able to cross off items somehow
- It would be useful to be able to switch between multiple whiteboards
 - Sending items between boards would be useful

What other tools or canvas items could the whiteboard have?

Some sort of way to categorise or order information would be good

What about a system of "tags" which can be placed anywhere on a board, and a search tool that lets you list tags and jump to their location on the board?

Yes, please. That sounds really helpful.

Inserting web links would be useful, including a thumbnail of the page the link points to.

I can do web links fine, but fetching a thumbnail would not be feasible within the project timescale

I would like to be able to upload/drag+drop a file (such as a spreadsheet/word doc) and display it on the board

Parsing Office documents is not feasible, but images/text files could work

No problem. Would I be able to cut and paste information from a text document into a text box?

That wouldn't be a problem to implement I would like to be able to upload an image such as a screenshot That should be fine

What other features would you like to include?

I think some sort of private board would be a good system

How about passcode protected boards

I think that would work well

1.3 Investigation

I decided to build a web app for my project as:

- The system can be used on a variety of devices without needing to build it separately for each one
- Synchronisation between devices already requires some form of networking so I would be using a web server anyway

For the frontend, I have therefore decided to use HTML5+CSS+TypeScript, as HTML+CSS are standard, and TS provides many advantages over plain IS.

For the backend, I will be using Rust with the Warp web server and Tokio runtime as I found these to work well together for other projects.

1.3.1 Communication

In previous projects I have used either a custom system or the serder son library for serialisation. However, both of these have the issue that parsing and generating messages client-side is error-prone and/or requires repeating the structure of types used in messages. To avoid this, I found server, a Rust library that enables generation of TS type declarations from Rust types, which combined with serde_json should enable a seamless programming experience.

1.3.2 Rendering

In an earlier prototype I used the Canvas API to render the board, however this required manual rendering from basic shapes, and so I plan to use SVG to render the board.

1.4 Existing Solutions

1.4.1 Microsoft OneNote

I had been forced to use this previously in lessons and so I have some familiarity with it, though its many frustrations drove me away from it somewhat. When trialling it more thoroughly, I found that it had several issues that made it unsuitable for the problem.

Firstly, the software is divided into 5 different versions (Windows 10, iOS, Mac, Android, and Web), which despite accessing the same notebooks have varied feature support and reliability. This can make a task which is trivial on one device impossible on another.

Secondly, editing ability is limited at best. There is currently no way to rotate any object except for in increments of 90 degrees, and furthermore this functionality does not seem to be available on all platforms. Furthermore, this help page recommends using a separate application to edit photos beforehand. This is not only slow and inconvenient but cannot be applied to other objects such as text or "ink" drawings.

1.4.2 Miro

I had not used Miro before, but had heard of it from various friends and family. Upon trying it, the first thing I noticed was that the web version was somewhat slow to load, and occupied a significant amount of my laptop's resources. While my laptop is not particularly powerful, the system I aim to create should work on phones where this level of resource usage would be unacceptable. Miro does also provide a mobile app, though in this case the app is not feature-complete as it appears to be developed separately from the web version.

While Miro is a significant improvement over OneNote, it is not without some flaws, such as limited ability to work with custom shapes, along with selection of objects being clunky and confusing. For example, the rotation tool appears as a not immediately obvious icon in the bottom left corner of the selection. When releasing the mouse the selection box, and therefore rotation handle, is recomputed to fit the grid. This interrupts the flow of editing.

Another disadvantage is the lack of features in the free tier. While the most import parts are available, several utilities are limited or unavailable.

One notable feature that sets Miro apart is the existence of a separate "Interactive Display" mode targeted at static screens such as on a wall in an office. This makes it a much more powerful tool for group organisation as discussions and collaboration can be simultaneously done in person and remotely.

2 Objectives

O Definitions

The following words (written in **bold**) are defined here:

0.1 Visual components

- · board the area of the program that shows an infinite scrollable and editable virtual whiteboard
- panel an interactive floating window that provides a set of actions
 - visibility button a button next to a panel that can show/hide it
 - · disabled a state in which a panel's contents are not relevant and should not be displayed
- item all canvas objects

0.2 Interaction and Editing

- tool a configuration of click and drag actions
- · property an attribute of an item or tool which determines its behaviour
- selection the item(s) currently being interacted with
- transform box the border shown around currently selected item(s)
- · click An immediate pointer event in the board area
- · drag A sustained pointer event in the board area
- multi-press action an interaction procedure that consists of multiple sequential clicks

0.3 Units/Types

- distance unless specified, centimetres of screen space
- point a 2-dimensional coordinate encoding distance to the right and up respectively from the board origin.

- angle rotation in degrees clockwise from vertical, stored from -180 to 180
- color RGBA hex color value (#RRGGBBAA)
- list[T] An arbitrary length ordered collection of T
- string a single line of characters, represented in UTF-8
- text a multiline block of characters, represented in UTF-8

1 Layout and Interface

The program interface should consist of the following components:

1.1 Board

The full program area should be covered by the board

1.2 Panels

Panels should have the following properties:

- 1. A visibility button should be located adjacent to the panel which toggles its visibility
- 2. In certain contexts, a panel's contents are not relevant and the panel should be disabled.
- 3. While a **panel** is **disabled**, it should be hidden regardless of its visibility, and its **visibility button** should be greyed out or hidden unless specified otherwise.
- 4. When the panel is no longer disabled, it should restore its previous visibility status

1.3 Toolbox

The program must display a "Toolbox" panel which consists of a grid of tool icons:

- 1. When clicked, the corresponding tool will be activated
- 2. The icon corresponding to the active tool must be indicated or otherwise highlighted
- 3. During a multi-press action, the toolbox should be disabled and its visibility button replaced with a button to cancel the multi-press action.

1.4 Properties

The program must display a "Properties" panel which contains a list of properties relevant to the currently selected item(s):

- 1. When a single **item** is **selected**, each of the **properties** of the **item** are listed and can be edited, any **item**-specific actions, along with the ability to delete the **item**
- 2. The following properties should be omitted as they can be edited interactively with the selection box:
 - 1. Transform
 - 2. Start/End points for Line
 - 3. Points for Polygon
- 3. When multiple items are selected, each of the following properties is listed if it applies to at least one of the selected items:
 - Stroke
 - Fill
- 4. When no items are selected, the properties of the current tool are displayed, if any.
- 5. If there are no properties that can be displayed, the panel should be disabled

1.5 View controls

The program must display a "View" panel with the following buttons:

- 1. Zoom in
- 2. Zoom out
- 3. Reset zoom

2 Items

A board may contain any number of items, which are the basic visual pieces of the board

2.1 Common properties of items

The following properties apply to many items:

- 1. Transform, consisting of the following sub-properties:
 - 1. Position: the global position of the centre of the item's bounding box as a point
 - 2. Rotation: the angle of an item relative to its centre
 - 3. Scale: the unit-less X and Y stretch of an item, applied before rotations
- 2. Stroke:
 - 1. Weight: a distance representing the width of the item's border
 - 2. Color: the **color** of an item's border

3. Fill: the color which a shape is filled in with

2.2 Item types

The following types of item exist:

- 1. Basic shapes:
 - A simple item which draws one of the following shapes:
 - 1. Rectangle A 1cm by 1cm filled rectangle
 - 2. Ellipse A circle of radius 0.5cm
 - Properties: Transform, Stroke, Fill
- 2. Multi-point shapes:
 - 1. Line: a segment connecting two points
 - Properties: Stroke
 - Start: point
 - End: point
 - · Actions: Swap start/end
 - 2. Polygon: a closed loop of points:
 - Properties: Stroke, Fill
 - Vertices: list[point]
- 3. Path: a hand-drawn curve
 - Once completed, a path cannot be modified, but may be transformed
 - Unlike other items, a path should be shown to other users while it is still being drawn
 - Properties: Transform, Stroke
- 4. Image: an image file loaded from a URL
 - The program should also provide clients with the means to upload images themselves
 - Properties: Transform
 - URL: string
 - The location from which to fetch the image
 - If the image is uploaded by the program, only a path should be included (e.g. /upload/12345/image.png)
 - · Description: string
 - An optional description of the image, for screen readers
- 5. Text: a text box
 - The text should be rendered using Markdown to enable formatting
 - Transform is applied to the text box, not the text itself, so font sizing is unaffected by scaling
 - If the text can no longer fit in the box after editing, the box should be automatically stretched vertically to accommodate this.
 - Properties: Transform
 - Font style: Enumeration of a small selection of fonts
 - Font size: Number (standard font size unit)
 - Text: text
 - If the item is deselected while the property consists only of whitespace it should be deleted
 - Actions:
 - · Bold, Italic, Strikethrough, Underline
 - Apply the formatting options (through Markdown) around the cursor (or the whole field if nothing is selected)
- 6. Link: a hyperlink
 - Displays a clickable link which opens in a new tab
 - Properties: Transform
 - Text: string
 - URL: string
- Tag: an indexed searchable identifier
 - Properties: Transform
 - Name: string
 - Data: string

3 Tools

The following tools should be available:

3.1 Selection

- 1. Select
 - On click, selects the topmost item under the cursor if one is present

- On drag, selects the item under the cursor and begins moving it
- Properties: None
- 2. Multi-select
 - · On click, selects all items under the cursor
 - · On drag, selects all items fully contained within a rectangle between the beginning and end of the drag
 - Properties: None

3.2 Creation

- 1. Rectangle
 - On click, creates a rectangle with the default size centred at the cursor
 - On drag, creates a rectangle with corners at the beginning and end of the drag
 - Properties:
 - Scale: defaults to 1x1, determines the size of rectangles created by clicking
 - · Stroke, Fill: Default values for all rectangles created
- 2. Ellipse
 - Creates an ellipse, functions identically to Rectangle except on drag, creates a circle centred on the beginning point and passing through the end point
 - Properties: Scale, Stroke (defaults)
- 3. Line
 - On drag, creates a line from the beginning to end of the drag
 - Properties:
 - Stroke (defaults)
- 4. Polygon
 - · On click, creates a polygon item with one vertex at the cursor, and begins a multi-press action for adding points to the polygon
 - · Successive clicks add further points
 - · Clicking on the start point should close the polygon
 - · Cancelling the action should deselect the item and not remove it
 - Properties: Stroke, Fill (defaults)
- 5. Path
 - · On drag, draws a path item
 - Properties: Stroke (defaults)
- 6. Image
 - On activation, prompts the user to either upload an image or input a URL, then places it at the centre of the screen
 - The image is then **selected** and the **tool** is then immediately deactivated
- 7. Text
 - On click, creates a Text item and moves keyboard focus to editing the text property
- 8. Link
 - On click, prompts the user to input a description and URL, and places a Link item at the cursor

4 Editing

4.1 Controls

The board should display an transform box around the currently selected item(s)

- 1. The box should consist of non-filled rectangle around the bounding box of the items
 - If a single item is selected, and that item has a Transform property, the bounding box should be rotated and scaled to match the transform
 - If a single **item** is **selected**, and that **item** does not have a Transform **property**, the bounding box should default to the smallest aligned rectangle which completely contains the **item**
 - If multiple items are selected, the bounding box should be the smallest aligned rectangle which fully contains the bounding box of every selected item
- 2. The box should be computed once at the beginning of the selection and not change relative to the items while the selection is active
 - The exception to this is Text and Link items, which may change size when edited. As such, no modification to any item which may change its size is permitted while multiple items are selected
- 3. At the corners and midpoints of the edges of the transform box, there should be square stretch handles:
 - Midpoint handles stretch the **item**(s) only in the direction normal to the edge, such that the opposite edge is not affected by the movement
 - Corner handles stretch the item(s) such that the opposite corner does not move and the aspect ratio of the selection is unchanged
- 4. At the "top" of the transform box there should be a circular rotation handle
 - Dragging the handle rotates the selection around its centre

- 5. A drag action anywhere else in the transform box should translate the item(s) along the mouse movement
- 6. When editing multiple **items**, or **item**(s) with no Transform **property**, changes may be shared with other clients in a qualitative form, but the final state *as computed by the editing client* must be shared when the **selection** is dropped

5 Synchronisation

The program should enable multiple clients to edit and view a board simultaneously

5.1 Synchronicity

Any edits made to the **board** should be displayed on other clients with minimal delay:

- 1. The creation of simple items should be immediately synchronised
- 2. The beginning of path-like **item**s should be immediately synchronised, and any incremental stages should be shared within one second of the individual stage being sent. (This enables bundling of edits in the case of limited bandwidth)
- 3. Any edits made to existing items should be shared within one second of the edit

5.2 Consistency

The board state must be the same across all clients:

- 1. At any point at which no information remains to be transmitted to or from any client, the complete list of **items** and their **properties** held by each client must be exactly identical
- 2. When a client selects an item, this must be transmitted to other clients, which must not attempt to select the same item
 - 1. If two or more clients simultaneously attempt to **select** an **item**, the first to be processed will be successful and the others must be notified that the **item** is unavailable
 - 2. A client should not attempt to edit an item which it has not selected, and any attempt to do so must be rejected.
 - The client may permit the user to attempt to edit an **item** before confirmation of **selection** is received, but must not assume that such an edit will be successful
 - 3. When a client creates an item, it will immediately be selected and the client may assume this

5.3 Reliability

The program must function as expected whenever possible

- 1. In the case of network failure, the program should quietly alert the user and enable changes to be made client-side where possible
 - 1. The program should attempt to reconnect periodically and notify the user when it is successful
 - 2. If a client loses connection while an **item** is **selected**, the **item** will stay **selected** for a configurable duration before other clients are able to **select** it
 - 3. Conflicting changes made during the interruption should be resolved by following the most recent edit
- 2. In the case of a power failure or unexpected termination of the host, the board should *always* be restorable to a state less than 10 seconds (or a configurable duration) old

3 Documented Design

3.1 Key algorithms

3.1.1 Selection

A user's selection is modelled as a separate coordinate space from the global/canvas space, which has its origin at the centre of the user's transform and the same basis at the moment when the selection is initialised.

The selection is then processed in terms of two transformation matrices:

- The Selection Root Transform (abbreviated to SRT)
 - This is the transformation mapping selection space back to canvas space
 - This is updated when the whole transform is edited by dragging it around or rotating it, and regenerated when adding or removing items from the selection
- The Selection Item Transforms (abbreviated to SITs)
 - · These transform each item from its original location in canvas space to its current location in selection space
 - These are updated when new items are added to the selection

3.1.1.1 Implementation in SVG

The selection hierarchy is implemented by the following layout

- Root selection container
 - Item container root for all items in the selection
 - SRT container applies the SRT to its children
 - SIT containers Each item is wrapped in a container applying its SIT

· Staging container - new items being added are moved here so the new bounding box can be computed by the item container

3.1.1.2 Adding items for the selection

The algorithm can be derived based on the following constraints:

- For every item, its final transform must be unchanged by the whole procedure
 - The final transform of an item is equal to the product of the SRT and the item's SIT
 - For new items, this must be the identity
- The new selection space should be axis-aligned with canvas space and have no scaling, and should be centred on the bounding box of the complete set of items This forces the new SRT to consist only of a translation This leads to the following steps:
- First, compute the bounding box of the new selection
 - · Move all new items to the staging container
 - Acquire the bounding box through the SVG getBBox API
- The new SRT can be calculated as the translation from the origin to the centre of the bounding box
- For existing items, their new SITs are derived as follows:

$$R_1I_1 = R_0I_0 \ R_1^{-1}R_1I_1 = R_1^{-1}R_0I_0 \ I_1 = (R_1^{-1}R_0)I_0$$

• For new items, their SITs should be the inverse of the new SRT such that the net transform cancels out

3.1.1.3 Moving the selection

- Dragging is simply translating the SRT
- · Rotation:
 - At the beginning of the gesture, store the current SRT and the direction (in canvas space) from the selection origin to the cursor
 - When the cursor moves, find the new direction from the selection origin to the cursor
 - Update the SRT to the initial value rotated by the difference between the initial angle and the current angle
- Stretching:
 - · At the beginning of the gesture, store the current SRT and the vector from the selection origin to the cursor
 - When the cursor moves, find the new vector from the selection origin to the cursor
 - . The scale factor is computed as the component of the new vector in the direction of the initial one
 - Update the SRT by scaling in the x and/or y directions as appropriate

3.2 Server Overview

The server-side code operates on a coroutine-based event driven system, largely powered by the following constructs:

- Concurrent Hash Map, from scc
 - Implements a hash table able to insert and fetch items without locking the table as a whole, allowing the system to scale better on multi-threaded systems
- Multi-producer channels
 - Used in two forms: mpsc (Multi-producer single-consumer, from tokio) and mpmc (Multi-producer multi-consumer, from async_channel)
 - mpsc channels are used for relaying messages to clients to be stored
 - mpmc channels are used for sending messages to the board so that multiple tasks can process messages in parallel
- Read-Write Locks, from tokio
 - These are used when a structure needs to be completely owned to be mutated
 - · Any number of read-only references to the wrapped value can be held, but writing requires exclusive access
 - Used in this project to wrap sets of IDs since scc's maps don't have a good mechanism for iterating over them

Serving pages and communicating with clients is done through Warp, a lightweight implementation of an HTTP server

- Warp operates though "filters", patterns that match requests and can generate a reply
- Filters can be chained and composed to produce the final application, enabling different subsystems to each produce filters which add together to produce an application

3.2.1 Modules

- lib top-level code including composition of filters and shared object declarations
- upload filters for storing and serving media files
- client filters for establishing a connection between client and server
- message declaration of structures which are sent to and from clients
 - Split across several sub-modules for different sections of the protocol
- canvas declaration of structures relating to the canvas itself

- items Item type declarations
- active wrapper around the tables used to store a board
- board implementation of whiteboards
 - file disk format and saving/loading boards
 - manager keeping track of active boards and loading/saving as necessary
 - active processing messages and actually maintaining a board
 - · Several sub-modules for implementation of different components of this

3.2.2 Compilation targets

The project has two different compilation outputs:

- codegen building TypeScript declaration files
 - Collects types and outputs them to a configurable location
- main running a server
 - Handles command-line arguments and initialising the server

3.3 Data Structures

3.3.1 Canvas items

3.3.1.1 Basic structures

Aliases for specific uses of types:

```
type Color = string;
```

Point - a general 2D vector:

```
interface Point {
     x: number;
     y: number;
}
```

Stroke - a combination of stroke width and colour:

```
interface Stroke {
     width: number;
     color: Color;
}
```

Transform - a 2D transformation, corresponds to a 3x2 matrix:

```
interface Transform {
    origin: Point;
    basisX: Point;
    basisY: Point;
}
```

Spline Node - a part of a hand-drawn path:

```
interface SplineNode {
    position: Point;
    velocity: Point;
}
```

3.3.1.2 Item types

Common properties of items:

```
interface TransformItem {
          transform: Transform;
}
interface StrokeItem {
          stroke: Stroke;
}
interface FillItem {
```

fill: Color;
}

Item types:

```
interface RectangleItem extends TransformItem, StrokeItem, FillItem {
       type: "Rectangle";
}
interface EllipseItem extends TransformItem, StrokeItem, FillItem {
       type: "Ellipse";
}
interface LineItem extends StrokeItem {
       type: "Line";
       start: Point;
       end: Point;
}
interface PolygonItem extends StrokeItem, FillItem {
       type: "Polygon";
        points: Point[];
}
interface PathItem extends StrokeItem, TransformItem {
       type: "Path";
        nodes: SplineNode[];
}
interface ImageItem extends TransformItem {
       type: "Image";
       url: string;
       description: string;
}
interface TextItem extends TransformItem {
       type: "Text";
        text: string;
}
interface LinkItem extends TransformItem {
       type: "Link";
       text: string;
       url: string;
}
```

3.3.1.3 Other supporting types

Location update - change in the position of an item:

```
type LocationUpdate = { "Transform": Transform } | { "Points": Point[]};
```

Batch changes - changes that can be made to multiple items at once:

```
interface BatchChanges {
    fill?: Color;
    stroke?: Stroke;
}
```

3.4 Client-side code

3.4.1 Classes and structures

3.4.1.1 The property system

In several places the application needs to display and store attributes of things, and so to avoid repetition this is described in terms of properties, which are a representation of a data structure along with how it should be displayed.

The first component of this is a PropKey, which is a unique identifier for a piece of data stored by a property, along with other information such as a default value and/or data validators.

As a convenience feature, a CompositeKey allows bundling the components of a composite data structure into a function which composes the values returned by sub-keys into a single output

The second component is PropertySchema, which describes a property with its type, key, and other attributes such as display name and constraints

Finally, the abstract type PropertyStore defines the interface for getting and setting properties by key

Alongside this is a basic implementation of a property store, SingletonPropertyStore, which simply stores properties in a key-value map

To make properties easier to work with, two systems are implemented:

- Property templates, which build the keys and schema for common properties such as stroke or points
- property builders, which accumulate multiple sets of keys and schemas in a single object to enable properties to be more concisely defined

3.4.1.1.1 Class tables

(note that in this section "value" refers to the value type corresponding to a key) PropKey:

Field	Туре
validator	(value) => bool
defaultVal?	(value)
type	string

CompositeKey<T>

Field	Туре
extractor	(property getter) => T

PropertyStore

Method	Туре
read(PropKey)	value
read <t>(CompositeKey<t>)</t></t>	Т
store(PropKey, value)	bool
abstract get(PropKey)	value NoValue
abstract set(PropKey, value)	void

3.4.1.2 State

The state mechanism prevents manual updates to parts of the application by creating a wrapper with two fundamental operations:

- Read the current value
- Attach a callback to be notified when the value changes

This is then used to implement other operations such as:

- Create a derived state from a function mapping the current value to a new one
- · Combining multiple states together in order to create a state derived from multiple inputs

The core of this is the abstract State<T> class, which implements the basic operations and has operations for creating derived instances

The other key component is MutableState<T>, which is used to provide a source of state and includes several means of modifying the contained value

Most of the other subclasses of State wrap one or more source states and produce a new value from them.

3.4.1.2.1 Class tables

The following shorthand applies to this section:

- action(T) is a function taking a readonly value of T and returning nothing
- map(T, U) is a function taking a readonly value of T and returning a value of U

State<T>

Field	Туре
private watchers	Map <number, action(t)=""></number,>
private weakWatchers	Map <number, weakref<action(t)="">></number,>

·	·		
Method	Parameters	Return Type	Notes
get		readonly T	
getSnapshot		Т	returns a clone of the held value
protected update	T	void	Updates the held value and runs update callbacks
watch	action(T)	WatchHandle	
watchWeak	action(T)	WatchHandle	
watchOn	object,	void	Will run the callback for as long as the object is alive

Method	Parameters	Return Type	Notes
	action(T)		
private removeWatcher, private removeWeak	number	void	
derived <u></u>	map(T, U)	State <u></u>	
derivedI	string,	State	Creates a derived state from calling an instance method of the held value with the specified parameters
derivedT		State	For tuple states, like derived but the callback receives each element of the tuple as a separate parameter
flatten		State	Flattens a state of a state into a single state
inspect <u></u>	map(T, U)	U	calls the function on the contained value and returns its result
with	state	State	Collects a tuple of states together and returns a state of a tuple
debug	Logger, string?	this	Watches the state with the provided logger for debugging

MutableState<T>

Method	Parameters	Return	Notes
set	Т	void	
updateBy	T => T	void	Shorthand for setting a new value based on the old one
mutate	T => void	void	Allows the held value to be mutated in-place
derivedM <u></u>	MutableTransformer <t, u=""></t,>	MutableState <u></u>	Creates a new mutable state from a two-way mapping
extract <u></u>	(field name) MutableExtractor <t, u=""></t,>	MutableState <u></u>	Creates a new mutable state extracting a component of the wrapped value, with a shorthand for a field of the value

3.4.1.3 Channels

A channel consists of a sender and a receiver and is used for asynchronous data streams

3.4.1.3.1 Class table

Channel<T>

Field	Туре		
private queue	T[]		
private handles	PromiseHandle <t>[]</t>		
private closed	bool		
Method		Parameters	Туре
private handlePromises			void
public push		T	void
private pop			Promise <t></t>
public close			void
internal getIter			AsyncIterator <t></t>

3.4.1.4 Communication with the server

Communication is split into three components:

RawClient, which handles the WebSocket communication and protocol

HttpApi, which is a collection of static methods for the other server APIs

SessionClient, which handles the connection logic and provides an abstract interface to the server protocol

In addition, the IterateReceiver helper type handles decoding multi-part responses from the server

3.4.1.4.1 Class tables

IterateReceiver

Field	Туре
private futureParts	Record <number, item[]=""></number,>
private nextPart	number
private lastPart	number
finished	bool

HttpApi

Name	Туре	Description
openSession(string, ClientInfo)	Promise <result<connectioninfo>></result<connectioninfo>	Calls the HTTP api to open a new session on a board
uploadFile(File)	Promise <url></url>	Uploads a file to the server

Name	Туре	Description
startTime	Promise <number></number>	The UNIX timestamp when the server was launched

RawClient

Field (private)	Туре
callId	number
socket	WebSocket
calls	Record <number, callrecord=""></number,>
notifyCHandlers	callback for each type of Notify-C
iterateReceivers	Record <number, iteratereceiver=""></number,>
messageQueue	Channel <string></string>
messageStream	AsyncIter <string></string>
url	URL

Method	Parameters	Return	Notes
private bindSocket		void	
private sendPayload	string	void	
callMethod	name: string, args	Promise <return type=""></return>	
calliterate	name: string, args	AsyncIter <item type[]=""></item>	
setNotifyHandler	name: string, callback: (notify args) => void	void	
private handleMessageObject	MsgRecv	void	
private onSocketOpen	Event	void	
private onSocketError	Event	void	
private onSocketMessage	MessageEvent	void	
private onSocketClose	CloseEvent	void	

SessionClient

Field	Туре
private rawClient	RawClient
readonly socketUrl	URL
readonly boardName	string
private sessionCode	number
readonly clientID	number
readonly info	ClientInfo

3.4.1.5 Tools

Tools can be divided into three categories:

- Instantaneous tools, which perform a single action when activated
 - The interface for this is a single execute method
- · Mode tools, which stay active until deselected
 - This is represented by bind and unbind methods
- Action tools, which stay active until the user completes a single action
 - . This is represented by a bind method which takes a callback, which in turn receives an Action object when the action starts
 - · An Action contains two fields, a Promise for the completion of the action and a method to cancel it

Additionally, each tool can have a set of properties connected to it

To support this a set of abstract base classes are defined

- ToolBase, which adds a few helper properties for accessing parts of the board
- InteractiveToolBase, which builds on ToolBase to automatically build a gesture filter from optional virtual methods
- ActionToolBase, which builds on InteractiveToolBase to implement the action tool interface
- ModeToolBase, which similarly builds on InteractiveToolBase
- InstantaneousToolBase, which directly extends ToolBase

3.4.1.5.1 Class Tables

Aliases

Name	Туре
OnBegin	(Action) => void
Action	{ cancel(): void, completion: Promise <void> }</void>

ToolBase

Field (protected)	Туре
board	Board
canvas	CanvasController
ctx	CanvasContext

InteractiveToolBase

Field	Туре
gestureFilter	FilterHandle

Method	Parameters	Туре
private makeFilter		FilterHandle
protected onDragGesture?	DragGestureState	void
protected onPressGesture?	PressGesture	void
protected onLongPressGesture?	LongPressGesture	void

ActionToolBase

Field	Туре
private onBegin?	OnBegin
private completionResolve?	() => void

Method	Parameters	Туре
bind	OnBegin	void
protected start		void
protected end		void
protected abstract cancel		void

ModeToolBase

Method	Parameters	Туре
bind		void
unbind		void

InstantaneousToolBase

Method	Туре
abstract execute	void

3.4.1.6 UI

The structure of the UI is based primarily around icons and panels:

- A SimpleIcon loads an SVG icon file and renders it as an image
- A ToolIcon wraps a SimpleIcon and connects it to a tool as well as showing whether it is selected
- A VisibilityButton also wraps a SimpleIcon and updates its display to reflect a panel's state
- A PanelController wraps an element and adds a VisibilityButton along with the logic to show/hide the contents

Finally, the UIManager wraps all of these and ties them together

3.4.1.6.1 Class tables

Aliases

Name	Туре
Tool I con Callback	(Tool) => void
PanelEvents	{ cancel(): void }

SimpleIcon

Field	Туре
readonly element	HTMLImageElement

ToolIcon

Field	Туре
private icon	SimpleIcon
readonly element	HTMLElement
private toolState	DeferredState <toolstate></toolstate>
readonly active	State boolean>

Field	Туре
onselect?	ToolIconCallback
ondeselect?	ToolIconCallback

VisibilityButton

Field	Туре
private container	HTMLDivElement
private icon	SimpleIcon
readonly openState	MutableState boolean>
readonly events	EventProvider <panelevents></panelevents>

PanelController

Field	Туре
private visibility	VisibilityButton
readonly contents	HTMLElement
readonly openState	State boolean>
readonly events	MultiTargetDispatcher <panelevents></panelevents>
private containerElement	HTMLElement

Method Type
private getContents HTMLElement

UIManager

Field	Туре
readonly containerElement	HTMLDivElement
readonly viewPanel	PanelController
readonly toolPanel	PanelController
readonly propertiesPanel	PanelController
readonly properties	PropertyEditor
private toolState	MutableState <toolstate></toolstate>
readonly toolState	State <toolstate></toolstate>

Method	Parameters	Туре
addToolIcon	Toollcon, "edit" "view"	void
private cancelTool		void
private onIconSelect	Tool	void
private onIconDeselect	Tool	void
private createPanel	string, State <enabledstate>,string[]</enabledstate>	PanelController

3.4.1.7 Basic canvas structure and utilities

The canvas is laid out in SVG as follows:

The hierarchy is split into two parts:

- · Scaled content, such as items, which should zoom uniformly with the canvas
- Unscaled content, such as UI, which should move to follow the board but not change in size

This structure is implemented by CanvasContext, which is the foundation of most SVG manipulation and provides a wide collection of helper methods

To group unscaled elements, CanvasContext has an inner class, UnscaledHandle that stores a group of elements and enables them to be removed together

Alongside this is a set of small helper types:

- MatrixHelper maintains an SVG transformation from a state of a matrix
- TranslateHelper similar but only does translation

- TransformHelper works with Transform instances along with extra helper methods
- StrokeHelper and FillHelper applies properties to an item, including static methods
- CenterHelper wraps an element in a container that translates it to its centre
- PathHelper builds a list of SplineNodes and concatenates them into an SVG path string

3.4.1.7.1 Class tables

CoordinateMapping

Field	Туре
screenOrigin	Point
stretch	number
targetOffset	Point

CanvasContext

Field	Туре	
private svgroot	SVGSVGElement	
private scaledRoot	SVGGElement	
private unscaledRoot	SVGGElement	
readonly coordMapping	State <coordinatemapping></coordinatemapping>	
readonly cursorPosition	State <point></point>	
private gestures	GestureHandler	
Method	Parameters	Туре
createGestureFilter	GestureLayer	FilterHandle
createElement	tag name string	corresponding SVGElement
createTransform	DOMMatrixReadOnly?	SVGTransform
createPoint	Point?	SVGPoint
createPointBy	State <point></point>	SVGPoint
createRect	Point, Point	SVGRect
createRootElement	tag name string	corresponding SVGElement
insertScaled	SVGElement	SVGElement
getUnscaledHandle		CanvasContext.UnscaledHandle
getUnscaledPos	State <point></point>	State <point></point>
create Unscaled Element	tag name string, State <point></point>	corresponding SVGElement
insertUnscaled	SVGElement, State <point></point>	SVGElement
translate	Point, CoordinateMapping?	Point

CanvasContext.UnscaledHandle

Field	Name			
private elem	ents	Set <svgelement></svgelement>		
Method	Para	meters		Туре
insert	SVG	SVGGraphicsElement, State <point></point>		${\sf SVGGraphicsElement}$
insertStatic	SVG	SVGGraphicsElement		${\sf SVGGraphicsElement}$
create	tag name string, State <point></point>		${\sf SVGGraphicsElement}$	
getPoint	State	State <point></point>		SVGPoint
clear	clear		void	

3.4.1.8 Canvas Items

Rendering canvas items to the board is done through the CanvasItem abstract class, which provides an API for drawing and manipulating items, including editing and moving.

Since some items have many details in common, some additional abstract classes are defined:

- StrokeItem and FillItem, which automatically handle stroke and fill respectively
- TransformMixin, which wraps around any class deriving from CanvasItem to produce a new class which additionally handles transformations

The other key component is properties, so ItemPropertyStore is an implementation of PropertyStore which holds functions to extract and store keys in items of a specific type, and also references a set of currently selected items.

3.4.1.8.1 Class Tables

readonly element	SVGGElement		
protected abstract innerElemen	t SVGGraphicsElement		
protected abstract item	Item		
Method	Parameters	Туре	
update	Item	void	
protected abstract updateItem	Item	void	
static schemaFor	CanvasItem, ItemProper	tyStore PropertySchema	1[]
protected getBounds		Bounds	
testIntersection	Point	bool	
abstract getLocationUpdate	DOMMatrix	LocationUpdate	
abstract applyLocationUpdate	LocationUpdate	void	
protected checkType	Item, string	void	

ItemPropertyStore

Field

Field	Туре	
private currentItems	ItemEntry[]	
private accessorTabl	Mapping from item types to key-accessor table	
Method	Parameters	Туре
private getAccessor	ItemType, PropKey	ItemAcc
bindEntries	Iterable <itementry></itementry>	void
getter	ItemType, PropKey, (item) => value	void
setter	ItemType, PropKey, (item, value) => void	void

3.4.1.9 Gesture handling

To enable easy handling of user input, screen interaction is modelled as gestures such as a press or drag.

These are then processed by attempting to match them to filters, which include a test function to check if a gesture is in range, and handlers for one or more gesture types.

To enable more fine-grained control, filters are also divided into priority layers, where the highest-priority layers are checked first.

Filters can also be enabled and disabled freely, so something like a tool can build its filter once and pause it when not active

This system is implemented in terms of three types

- GestureHandler, which handles decoding pointer events and dispatching events
- The FilterHandle interface, which is the public API for manipulating filters
- The private FilterImpl class, which implements FilterHandle and communicates information to the GestureHandler

3.4.1.9.1 Class tables

FilterHandle (all methods return the same instance they are called from)

Method	Parameters
pause	
resume	
setTest	(Point) => bool
setMode	FilterMode
addHandler	GestureType, (Gesture) => void
removeHandler	GestureType

FilterImpl (excluding FilterHandle methods)

Field	Туре
active	boolean
types	GestureType bitflags
mode	FilterMode
check	(Point) => bool
handlers	Map from GestureType to handler function

FilterLayer

Field	Туре
active	Set <filterimpl></filterimpl>
inactive	WeakSet <filterimpl></filterimpl>

GestureHandler

Field	Туре			
filterLayers	Record <gesturelayer, filterlayer=""></gesturelayer,>			
Method		Parameters	Туре	
processEvents		${\bf Pointer Event Stream}$	void	
private handleGesture		Gesture	void	
private updateActive		FilterImpl	void	
makeFilter		GestureLayer	FilterHandle	

3.4.1.10 Selection

The selection algorithms are described elsewhere, so this section will just list the classes used:

- ItemHolder wraps an item and applies a SIT
- SelectionBorder draws an outline around a selection
- HandleBase and derived classes implement stretch and rotation handles
- SelectionBox has code common between both types of selection box
- RemoteSelection implements other client's selection
- LocalSelection implements the current user selection

3.4.1.10.1 Class Tables

ItemHolder

Field		Туре	
readonly element		SVGGElement	
readonly sit		SVGMatrix	
private transform		SVGTransform	1
Method	Parame	Туре	
updateSit	DOMMatrixReadOnly		void

Type

SelectionBorder

Field	Туре
readonly element	SVGPolygonElement
points	SVGPointList (only stored to work around a GC bug causing a crash in firefox)

HandleBase

Field

protected handle	FilterHandle		
readonly element	SVGGraphicsElen	nent	
Method	I	Parameters	Туре
protected abstract	getElement	CanvasContext	SVGGr

Method	Parameters	Туре
protected abstract getElement	CanvasContext	${\sf SVGGraphicsElement}$
protected abstract handleGesture	DragGestureState, srt: DOMMatrixReadOnly	void

StretchHandle and RotateHandle add no new fields/methods

StretchHandleSet

Field	Туре
handles	StretchHandle[]

SelectionBox

Field	Туре
protected rootElement	SVGGElement
protected itemContainer	SVGGElement
protected rootTransform	SVGGElement
private stagingContainer	SVGGElement
protected unscaled	UnscaledHandle
protected srt	MutableState <dommatrix></dommatrix>
protected size	State <point></point>
protected items	Map <itemid, itemholder=""></itemid,>
protected ctx	CanvasContext
protected table	BoardTable

Method	Parameters	Туре	
add From Transforms	Transform Record [], Transform	void	
addFromCanvas	ItemEntry[]	arguments for SelectionAddItems	

RemoteSelection

Field		Туре		
private border		SelectionBorder		
Method	Parameters			Туре
addItems	TransformRecord[], Tra		Transform	void
moveltems	Tra	nsform, Transforr	mRecord[]	void

LocalSelection

Field (private)	Туре		
border	SelectionBorder		
rotateHandle	RotateHandle		
stretchHandles	StretchHandleSet		
srtUpdateSent	bool		
_sendSrtUpdate	OwnedInterval (small helper type that cancels a periodic function after it has been freed)		
Method	Parameters	Туре	
private updateSr	t DOMMatrix	void	
private handleDr	ag DragGestureState	void	
createAddPayload	d ItemEntry[]	SelectionAddItems	
getFinalTransform	ns	Iterable<[ItemId, DOMMatrix]>	
clear		void	

3.4.1.11 Managing the canvas

The CanvasController class manages the displayed canvas and selection

3.4.1.11.1 Class tables

CanvasController

Field	Туре		
private gestures	GestureHand	ler	
private coordMapping	MutableState	<coordinatemapping></coordinatemapping>	
private cursorPos	MutableState	<point></point>	
readonly ctx	CanvasConte	ct	
readonly svgElement	SVGSVGEleme	ent	
private targetRect	DOMRect		
readonly elementBour	nds State <domre< td=""><td>ct></td></domre<>	ct>	
private activeGestures			
private cursorTimeout	s TimeoutMap<	number>	
private currentCursors	MutableState	<set<number>></set<number>	
readonly isGesture	State <bool></bool>	State <bool></bool>	
readonly propertyStor	e ItemProperty	Store	
readonly origin	MutableState	<point></point>	
readonly zoom	MutableState	<number></number>	
Method	Daramotors	Typo	

Method	Parameters	Туре
probePoint	Point	Iterable <itementry></itementry>
getPropertyInstance	ReadonlySet <itementry></itementry>	PropertyInstance
private pointerDown	PointerEvent	void
private pointerUp	PointerEvent	void
private pointerMove	PointerEvent	void

3.4.1.12 Tracking board state

The BoardTable class is the core of the system, keeping track of the board state and relaying events to and from other parts of the client.

The other key process is the bootstrap routine, which incrementally fetches data from the server and synchronises the local state with it.

Linked to this is the ItemEntry, RemoteEntry, and SelfEntry types, which track individual pieces of board state and link them to their local representation.

3.4.1.12.1 Class tables

ItemEntry

Field	Туре
id	ItemID
item	Item
canvasItem	CanvasItem
selection	Option <itemid></itemid>

Remote Entry

Field	Туре
id	ClientID
items	Set <itemid></itemid>
info	ClientInfo
connection	ConnectionState
box	Option <remoteselection></remoteselection>

SelfEntry

Field	Туре
id	ClientID
items	MutableStateSet <itemid></itemid>
info	ClientInfo
connection	ConnectionState
box	Option <localselection></localselection>

BoardTable

Field	Туре
private items	Map <itemid, itementry=""></itemid,>
private clients	Map <clientid, remoteentry=""></clientid,>
private self	SelfEntry
readonly ownID	ClientID
readonly selecteditems	StateSet <itementry></itementry>

readonty estectedates et al		
Method	Parameters	Туре
private bootstrap		void
private bindClientEvents		void
$private\ bind Selection Events$		void
private addClient	ClientID	Promise <void></void>
addItem	ItemID, Item	void
get	Iterable <itemid></itemid>	Iterable <option<itementry>></option<itementry>
get	Iterable <itemid>, true</itemid>	Iterable <itementry></itementry>
get	ItemID	Option <itementry></itementry>
entries		Iterable <itementry></itementry>
private ensureLocalBox		SelfEntry which definitely has a box
addOwnSelection	ItemID[]	void
moveOwnSelection	Transform	void
cancelSelection		void
editSelectedItem	ItemEntry	void

3.4.1.13 Combining everything together

The Board class contains each of the subsystems and setup logic

3.4.1.13.1 Class Tables

BoardInfo: ClientInfo

Field	Туре	
boardName	string	
clientID	ClientID	

Board

Field	Ту	pe		
readonly ui	UI	UIManager		
readonly client	Se	SessionClient		
readonly canvas	CanvasController			
readonly table	Вс	BoardTable		
readonly info	В	BoardInfo		
Method		Parameters		Туре
private init				void
private handlePath		ClientID, Stroke, PathID		void

4 Technical Solution

4.1 Server-side code

4.1.1 main.rs

```
use std::time::Duration:
use camino::Utf8PathBuf;
use clap::Parser;
use flexi_logger::Logger;
use log::{error, info};
use tokio::runtime;
use virtual_whiteboard::{
        board::BoardManager, create_api_filter, create_media_filter, create_script_filter,
        create_static_filter, ConfigurationBuilder, GlobalRes, GlobalResources,
};
use warp::{filters::BoxedFilter, reply::Reply, Filter};
#[derive(Parser, Debug)]
#[command(author, version, about, long about = None)]
struct Args {
        // #[arg(short = 'r', long, default value = ".")]
        #[arg(short = 's', long = "static-root")]
        static path: Utf8PathBuf,
        #[arg(short = 'j', long = "script-root")]
        script_root: Utf8PathBuf,
        #[arg(short = 'm', long = "media-root")]
        media_root: Utf8PathBuf,
        #[arg(short = 'b', long = "board-root")]
        board_root: Utf8PathBuf,
        #[arg(long, default_value_t = true)]
        serve_ts: bool,
fn main() -> Result<(), Box<dyn std::error::Error>>> {
        let _logger = Logger::try_with_env()?
                //.write_mode(WriteMode::Async)
                .start()?;
        let args = Args::parse();
        let config = ConfigurationBuilder::default()
                .static root(args.static path.into())
                .script root(args.script root.into())
                .media root(args.media root.into())
                .board root(args.board root.clone().into())
                .serve ts(args.serve ts)
                .build()
                .unwrap();
        info!("Program Startup");
        info!("Building runtime");
        let runtime = runtime::Builder::new_multi_thread()
```

```
.enable_io()
                .enable_time()
                .worker_threads(2)
                .build()
                .map_err(|e| {
                        error!("Failed to build Tokio runtime: {}", &e);
                })?;
       info!("Successfully constructed Tokio runtime");
        runtime.block_on(async move {
                info!("Loading boards");
               let boards = BoardManager::new_debug(&args.board_root.as_std_path());
               let res = GlobalResources::new(boards, config).as_static();
                tokio::task::spawn(async {
                        loop {
                                info!("Beginning autosave");
                                let current_task = tokio::task::spawn(res.boards.autosave());
                                tokio::time::sleep(Duration::from_secs(10)).await;
                                current_task.await.unwrap_or_else(|e| {
                                        error!("Autosave task panicked: {e}");
                                });
               });
               let filter = create_filter(res);
                info!("Starting server");
                warp::serve(filter).bind(([0, 0, 0, 0], 8080)).await
       });
       0k(())
fn create_filter(res: GlobalRes) -> BoxedFilter<(impl Reply,)> {
       info!("Building filters");
       let index_filter =
               warp::path("index.html").and(warp::fs::file(res.config.static_root.join("index.html")));
       let api_filter = warp::path("api").and(create_api_filter(res));
        let static_filter = warp::path("static").and(create_static_filter(res));
        let script_filter = warp::path("script").and(create_script_filter(res));
        let media_filter = warp::path("media").and(create_media_filter(res));
        return api_filter
                .or(static_filter)
                .or(index_filter)
                .or(script_filter)
                .or(media_filter)
                .boxed();
```

4.2 Client-side code

4.2.1 Board.ts

```
import { Logger } from "./Logger.js";
import { CanvasController } from "./canvas/Canvas.js";
import { StrokeHelper } from "./canvas/CanvasBase.js";
import { BoardTable } from "./BoardTable.js";
import { PathHelper } from "./canvas/Path.js";
import { SessionClient } from "./client/Client.js";
import { ClientID, ClientInfo, PathID, Stroke } from "./gen/Types.js";
import { ToolIcon } from "./ui/Icon.js";
import { createEditToolList, createViewToolList } from "./ui/ToolLayout.js";
import { UIManager } from "./ui/UIManager.js";
import { None } from "./util/Utils.js";
```

```
const logger = new Logger("board");
type BoardInfo = ClientInfo & {
        boardName: string,
        clientID: number,
}
export class Board {
        public static async new(name: string, info: ClientInfo): Promise<Board> {
                const client = await SessionClient.new(name, info);
                const table = new BoardTable(client);
                const canvas = new CanvasController(table);
                const ui = new UIManager(canvas, table);
                const boardInfo = { ...info, boardName: name, clientID: client.clientID };
                const board = new this(ui, client, canvas, table, boardInfo);
                queueMicrotask(() => board.init());
                return board;
        }
        private constructor(
               public readonly ui: UIManager,
                public readonly client: SessionClient,
                public readonly canvas: CanvasController,
                public readonly table: BoardTable,
                public readonly info: BoardInfo,
        ) { }
        private async init() {
                for (const [name, tool] of createEditToolList(this)) {
                        const icon = new ToolIcon(name, tool);
                        this.ui.addToolIcon(icon, "edit");
                }
                for (const [name, tool] of createViewToolList(this)) {
                        const icon = new ToolIcon(name, tool);
                        this.ui.addToolIcon(icon, "view");
                }
                this.ui.containerElement.classList.setBy("gesture-active", this.canvas.isGesture);
                this.client.bindNotify("PathStarted", ({ path, stroke, client }) => {
                        this.handlePath(client, stroke, path);
                });
        private async handlePath(client: ClientID, stroke: Stroke, path: PathID) {
                if (client == this.client.clientID) return;
                const points = this.client.iterate.GetActivePath({
                        path,
                });
                const first = await points.next();
                if (first === None) return;
                const pathElem = this.canvas.ctx.createRootElement("path");
                pathElem.setAttribute("fill", "none");
                const helper = new PathHelper(pathElem, first.shift()!.position);
                new StrokeHelper(pathElem.style, stroke);
                helper.addNodes(first);
                for await (const chunk of points) {
                       helper.addNodes(chunk);
                }
                pathElem.remove();
```

5 System Testing

5.1 Test Plan

5.1.1 Layout and interface

- Open program
- · Verify that basic layout is as described in objectives
 - (1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5)

5.1.2 Items and Tools

5.1.2.1 Creation tools

For each of the following tools, perform the following steps:

- · Select the tool from the tool panel
- If the tool has properties, change the values of them
- Attempt to use the tool with a press or drag as appropriate
- · Verify that the item created reflects the property values set
- If the tool is supposed to support both drag and press inputs, deselect the item and create another with the other input mode
- Attempt to set properties of the created item and verify that they are immediately reflected on the board Tools with only drag input:
- . Don
- Line Tools with only click input:
- Image
- Text
- Link
- Polygon Tools with both click and drag input:
- Rectangle
- Ellipse

5.1.2.2 Selection tool

- Using the selection tool, select one item and verify that its specific properties can be edited
- · Select more items and verify that fill and stroke can be edited for multiple items simultaneously
- When selecting and deselecting items, verify that items never move during these operations

5.1.2.3 View tools

- · While using other tools, occasionally verify that the following tools may be used and behave appropriately:
 - Pan
 - Zoom In
 - Reset Zoom
 - Zoom Out

5.1.3 Synchronisation and reliability

5.1.3.1 Basic synchronisation

- · Open the board on multiple different devices
- · Create and edit several items simultaneously
- · Verify that the board state is shared correctly

5.1.3.2 Consistency and reliability

Verify that the following do not cause any significant loss of data

- Reloading a client while editing the board
- Disconnecting a client from the network while editing the board
- Restarting the server while editing the board

6 Evaluation