***User Manual***

Basic Chatting Site with User Authentication (SPJ Chatting)

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**1.0 Introduction**

**1.1 Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the project is to develop a basic chatting site where users can communicate with others through a real-time messaging system. The objectives of the project are to ensure the project has an easy-to-use front-end experience, a secure system for storing users’ account information and their messages, and an appealing design.

**1.2 Statement of Scope**

The site will offer a real-time messaging system after registering and logging in to an account. Each created username will be unique as this will be used as their identity in the chatroom. The project will need to gather two inputs: user credentials (username and password) and messages sent from the user. The output will include displaying the messages sent in from the user. An email is also collected from the user during registration as it can be used to login instead of the username.

 **1.3 Software Context**

The basic chatting site contains HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to build an appealing front-end design. The back-end design is constructed with Node.js. Socket.io is used for the messaging system, bcrypt is used to securely hash passwords, and express is used to start the website server. MySQL is used to store user accounts securely in the local database.

**1.4 Diagram of Project**

A diagram of a message

Description automatically generated

**2.0 Information for Users**

**2.1 Goals and Objectives**

The goal of SPJ, the basic chatting site, is to develop a real-time communication platform with user authentication. This project allows users to register a secure account using bcrypt, a password hashing library. This safely protects a user’s account in the MySQL database. Additionally, these users can message other people in real-time while the messages are stored from previous sessions. This project does not collect any additional information, and it is strictly used for the project. The three developers accomplished this in the two-month timeframe.

**2.2 Rules**

The rules of the chatting site are simple. A username shouldn’t be created with harmful intent, or the user may face consequences such as being removed. Additionally, messages should not be hateful or harmful to others. Foul language should not be directed or used to attack anyone or they will face similar consequences. There will be no spamming of messages although we took measures to prevent this by initiating a three-second countdown before each message.

**2.3 Additional Information**

The site is meant to ensure communication between individuals and teams. Connecting people and allowing a secure platform for messaging is a beneficial and positive goal. SPJ Chatting is meant to serve this purpose and have a platform that exceeds the user’s expectations. It is important to note to pick a secure password so that each user’s account can be protected securely. Users should know their information is securely stored with multiple layers of security through a proper SQL database.