

ROOMIECONNECT

A Social Media application that helps college students find housing and roommates.

Final Project Report

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Project Objectives

General Objectives:

- Facilitate connections among students seeking new rooms or roommates.
- Create a clear and user-friendly process for finding accommodations and roommates to boost student engagement.
- Oversee a collaborative team of developers and managers working in harmony.

Specific Objectives:

- **User Verification and Onboarding:**
 - a. Confirming the identity of new users to maintain credibility.
 - b. Providing a seamless onboarding journey for newcomers.
- **24/7 Support Systems:**
 - a. Establishing an AI-driven support and live chat feature.
- **Matching the Users:**
 - a. Crafting an algorithm to pair users with similar interests.
 - b. Developing the necessary infrastructure to support the matching process and leverage the algorithm.

Short description of the project

- **Project Overview:** RoomieConnect is a platform aimed at simplifying the challenges students face in securing appropriate rooms or roommates. It serves as a centralized space for students to find potential roommates and discover available housing options, starting with the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and planning for future global reach.
- **Project Scope:** The project is divided into backend and frontend development stages, with a deadline for operational readiness by the end of November.

Major Project Activities

- **Backend Development:** Setting up databases, user verification systems, and algorithm implementation for user matching.
- **Frontend Development:** Designing the user interface, integrating user onboarding processes, and implementing support features.
- **Testing and Quality Assurance:** Conducting rigorous testing to ensure app functionality and security, overseen by the QA specialist.

- **Team Collaboration:** Coordinating across different roles—product manager, developers, UI/UX designer, and QA specialist—to ensure seamless integration of all components.

Project Assessment

- **Outcomes:** The initiative effectively delivered a working platform that aligned with the outlined goals, such as user authentication, seamless onboarding, and efficient user pairing.
- **Success:**
 - Created a strong backend infrastructure to facilitate AI-driven functionalities.
 - Achieved successful user matches through the implemented algorithm.
- **Challenges:** Faced setbacks in frontend development due to unexpected challenges, but these issues were addressed by allocating extra resources and extending timelines.
- **Reflection:** Overall, the project was a success, meeting most of the original objectives, though some features like global expansion were deferred for future versions.

Summary of Risks

Identified Risks:

- **User Verification Issues:** Initial challenges with fake profiles and bot detection were resolved by enhancing our verification algorithms.
- **Technical Difficulties:** Unexpected backend integration problems caused delays in project timelines; these were tackled by redistributing team resources and adjusting deadlines.
- **Budget Constraints:** The project stayed within the \$60,000 budget, although vigilant oversight was necessary due to unforeseen software expenses.

Risk Management:

Ongoing monitoring and strategic resource reallocation played a crucial role in managing risks, ensuring the project was completed on time and within budget.

Conclusion

The RoomieConnect project was developed to solve a common problem faced by students: finding suitable accommodation and compatible roommates. Our team worked together to create a platform that simplifies this process by connecting students with potential roommates and housing options.

We set clear objectives, including user verification, a smooth onboarding process, and an AI-powered support system. Despite some challenges, such as technical difficulties in backend integration and ensuring the authenticity of users, we managed to overcome these obstacles through teamwork and resource management.

The project was completed within the budget and met most of our goals. The platform is now ready to serve students in the Greater Toronto Area, with the potential for future expansion. Although there were some delays, the project ultimately succeeded in delivering a functional and user-friendly app.

Looking forward, RoomieConnect has the potential to grow and become a vital tool for students worldwide. The foundation we've built will allow for further improvements and expansions, ensuring that RoomieConnect continues to provide value to its users in the years to come. We're proud of what we've accomplished and excited about the future possibilities.