

Conveying the Solution

By: Sarah Fathelbab, Sahara Fathelbab, Rasha Shahin,
Logan Morales, Patrick Tsui, Anthony Alfaiate, Frank
Chiavetta, Alex Pintado

Problem Statement

First year non transfer commuter students find it difficult to utilize their pockets of free time throughout the day to their advantage to meet and make friends with their classmates.

Problem Scenario

Mason has three years until he graduates from Montclair State University, however he wants to get a head start on developing applications. Based on the classes he is taking as a freshman, he feels that the university courses help only understand the basics, (such as Intro to Java), but it will take him far longer to learn the process of applying these skills learned in class. That's when Mason decided, just after the first month of his Fall semester, to take it upon himself to learn through other means (i.e. Youtube videos and Free Code Camp). Although he would like to advance his skills further as a programmer, his schedule leaves him with little free time. After coming home at 4PM from his weekend job as a waiter at IHOP, he worked on a coding side project until 3:00AM and went to sleep. Mason's alarm goes off at 8:00AM, he sleepily begins his morning routine getting ready for his Monday shift, 10:00am-3:30pm, at Best Buy in Woodland Park, NJ. Mason enjoys taking his time getting ready in the morning and eating a good breakfast. He begins his morning by checking the usual apps on his phone (i.e. -Email, Instagram, Facebook, etc.), eats his oatmeal and sunny-side up eggs (his favorite), and leaves his house with only a 20-minute ride to work.

Mason recently started working at Best Buy and is still training to work in the Computer Department. He arrives to work early (as always), clocks in, and waits for the customers to start pouring in and asking him questions related to computers. Not many customers were coming in today, so Mason takes out his laptop and checks Canvas. He is reminded by Canvas that he has a Java quiz for his programming class due at 11:59PM. He decides to tackle the quiz now to get it over with, and so he has time to work on his other projects later that night. For most of these ten question quizzes for this class he breezes through the first five of them, but then halfway through he usually gets confused. Everything was going fine until suddenly there was a question on *recursion*. His co-worker, Greg, a senior student who is studying Computer Science at NJIT, strolls by and helps Mason with the recursion question - by the end of the quiz he makes a note on his computer to watch a youtube video on recursion, what was once his enemy will soon be his best friend.

Mason, thanks to Greg, finishes the quiz and closes his laptop.

He spends the rest of his shift talking to customers, most of which have no idea what kind of computer they want. Mason sees this pattern a lot, people coming into Best Buy not knowing what they're looking for. All they really know is they want SOMETHING, so a big part of Mason's job is articulating his knowledge of computers in a way the customer would understand to make a smart purchase that will fit their needs. Mason was particularly talented at this, as well as making small talk and socializing with the customers.

Sometimes, Mason wishes managing some time to socialize with other students at school the way he does with his customers. The customers all think Mason is very friendly and funny from his clever and witty comments that usually leaves the customer laughing, developing a level of trust so the customer feels comfortable that this guy helping them knows what he's talking about. When there aren't any customers to help, he sneakily takes out his phone to look at his social media.

At 3:00PM, Mason clocks out and begins driving to campus for his class that begins at 4:30PM. He arrives around 3:30PM and heads to the Student Center where he orders his usual Iced-Coffee and a chocolate chip cookie waiting for his class to begin. When his class finishes at 5:45, most students were already bolting out the door before he could even attempt to have a conversation with them. Instead of utilizing his time to stay on Campus after class, he decides to head home to complete his homework and continue working on his side project since he wasn't able to get a hold of any classmates to study with or befriend.

On his way home, Mason wonders what his old friends from highschool are doing while away at college. He no longer sees them in person because of their conflicting schedules, but based on his quick looks at social media when walking into his house he realizes that they are having just as much fun even without him around. Walking through the door he heads upstairs to his room and signs into his computer to be productive. He starts studying powerpoints but decided to minimize it and work on a side-project of his - a simple chat application. He figures it was ironic that he was making this application knowing that he wouldn't even have anyone to message once it was done. After a few hours of coding and studying, Mason decided to go to bed, knowing he had class at 8:00am the following morning. He lies down, and slowly drifts into a sleeps. (night night Mason)

Context Scenario

It's Monday evening, which means that upon completing work at 3:00PM, Mason heads to MSU for his Intro to Java class. He arrives on campus at 3:30 and notices he has some free time before class starting at 4:30. While he sips on his coffee in one hand and chews the last bit of his cookie, he opens up Instagram on his phone. After a minute or two of mindless browsing, he gets bored and leaves the app to listen to music before class. Looking back, after his first couple days of classes at the start of the Fall semester, he's been finding it strangely challenging just to figure out a way to connect with classmates or simply have a quick chat. He then remembers downloading the app *CollegeVibes* a few days ago and decided to open it up.

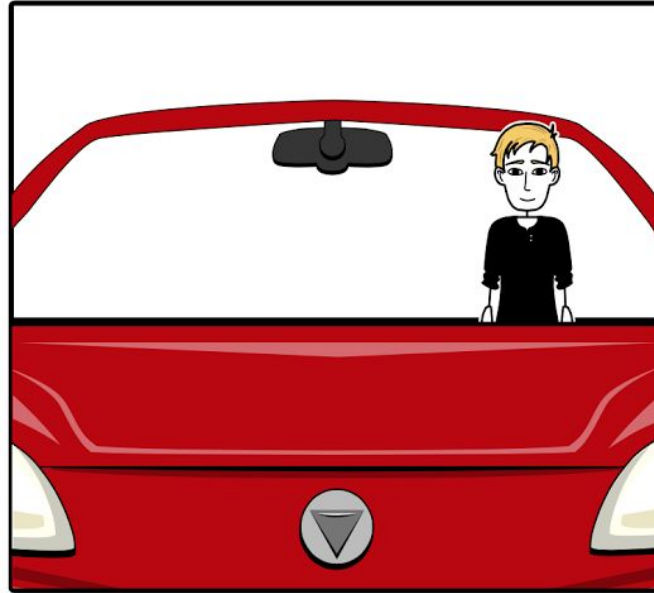
He taps the search bar on the top of the screen, and given his interest in developing his own application, he searches the keyword "app". On the top section of the search engine, the application shows him people to swipe through that have "app" mentioned in their profiles. After swiping through a few he went to the second half and began skimming through some posts made by students in his classes that also mentioned "app". He stumbled upon the post "Dang, can't get the code to work on my app - debugging is going to take FOREVER," by a student named Samantha Collins who also happens to be another class of his. Mason thought to himself "maybe we can become friends and help each other out". Noticing that she too may have an interest in developing an app - he clicked the "icebreakers" button next to her name and scrolled through the topics provided by the app. He clicked the topic "technology" and the app generated a question that they would both be left to answer through direct messaging to get a conversation going.

After the app sent the generated question, Mason drank the last of his coffee and checked the time - 4:20. He tossed his empty cup in the trash and began speed-walking to his class in Richardson. After class, Mason starts walking to his car and checks his phone to see if he received a response back from Samantha, but he did not. Mason drives back home, starts to work on his homework until 10 p.m. and went to sleep. The following day, Mason drives to work early so he can relax before his 10 a.m. shift. As he arrives to work fifteen minutes early, he receives a response back from Samantha, answering the question he asked before and telling Mason "Sorry for the late response! My phone died during the day yesterday!".

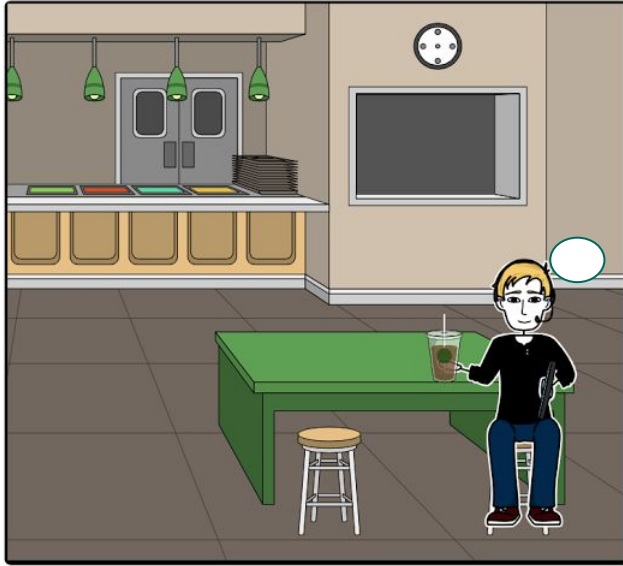
After they both answered the app generated question, they both learned that they each were creating an app of their own. A few messages later, Samantha decided to share her calendar with Mason on the app. Mason also shared his calendar with Samantha and realized that they were both free on Monday evenings. He messaged her back suggesting they could meet in person at Au Bon Pain on campus to help each other out with the problems they were having in the development process of their app over a cup of coffee, to which she agreed to.

10:00AM hits and Mason begins his shift at work.

Storyboard



Mason clocks out of his job at Best Buy at 3:00PM and is on his way to campus for his 4:30PM class.



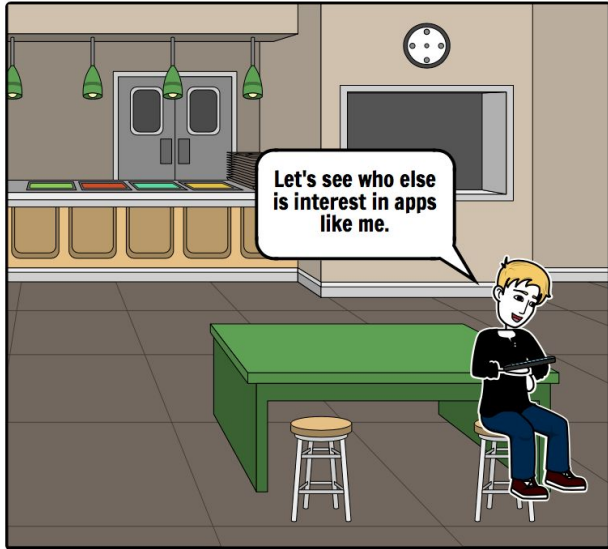
Mason gets to campus at 3:30PM and decides to pass time by going to Dunkin Donuts and grabbing an Iced Coffee. He begins listening to music till his class starts.



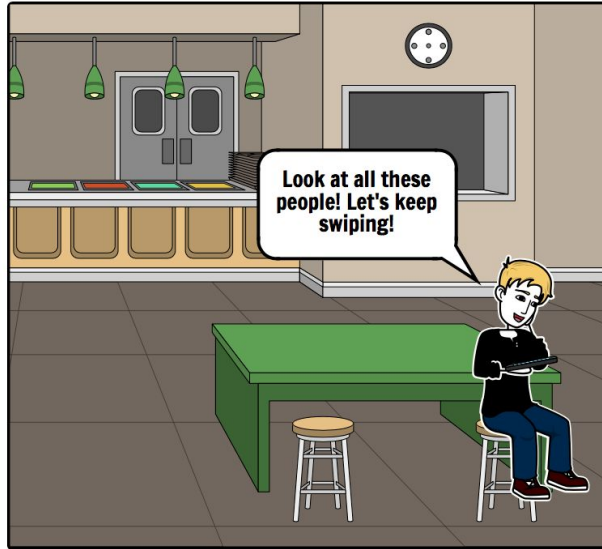
While Mason is listening to music, he begins to have a flashback of how his first couple weeks of trying to make friends in classes went. Students leaving before he had the time to chat with them after class.



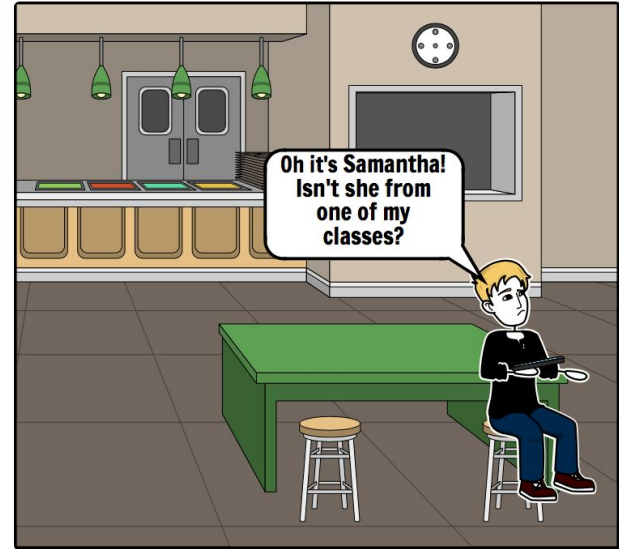
**Mason takes his phone out and opens up
"CollegeVibes"**



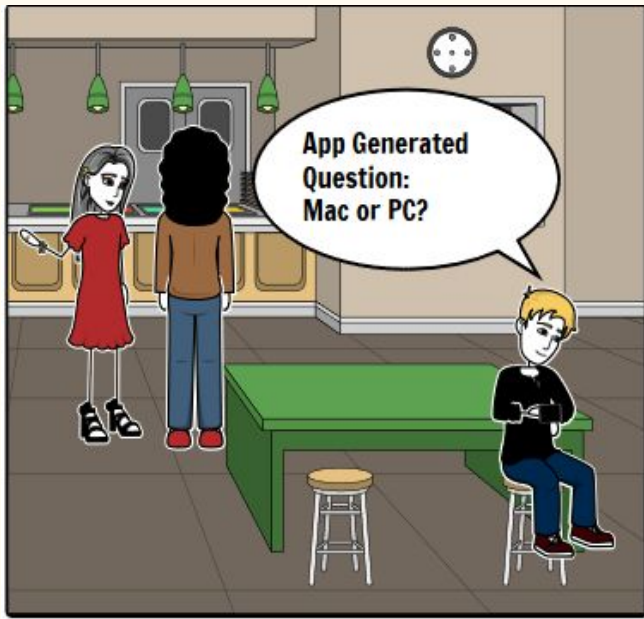
He searches the keyword "app"



Swiping through people in his class that have the keyword 'app' mentioned in their bios



Stumbles on the post "Dang, can't get the code to work on my app - debugging is going to take FOREVER," by a student named Samantha Collins who also happens to be another class of his.



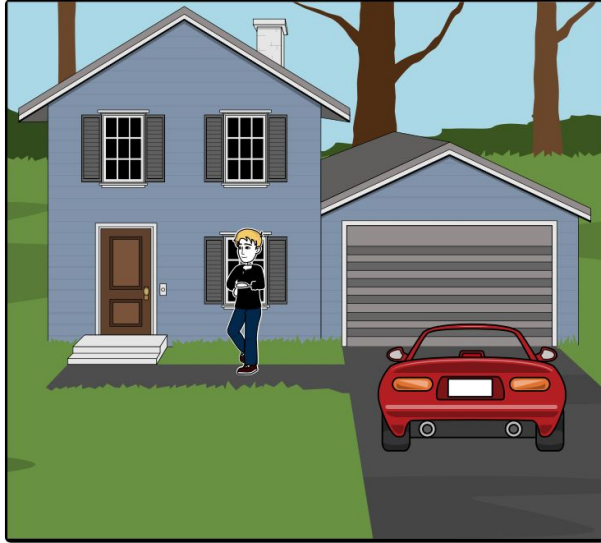
4:00: Mason clicks the "Technology" topic and the app generates a question to answer.



After the app sent the generated question, Mason realizes it is 4:20 and he has to get to class. He drinks the last of his coffee and heads to class.



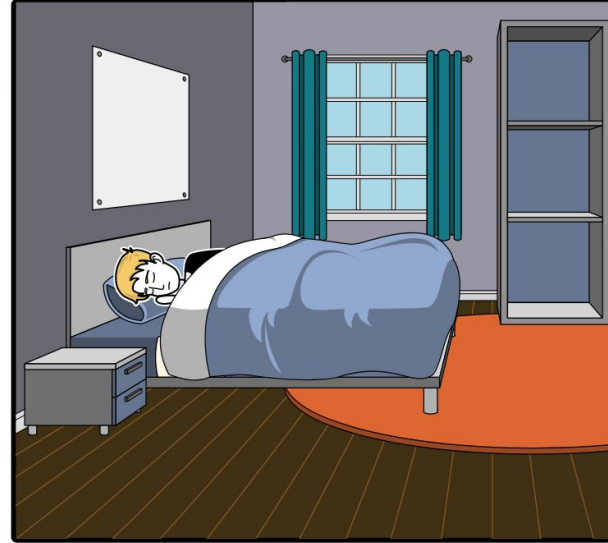
5:55 : After class, Mason walks to his car and checks his phone to see if he received a response back from Samantha, but he did not



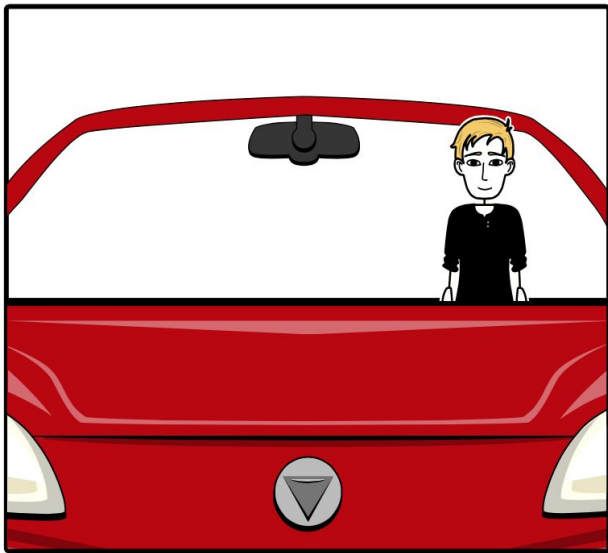
Mason arrives at his home and heads straight to his room.



Mason starts to work on his pile of homeworks



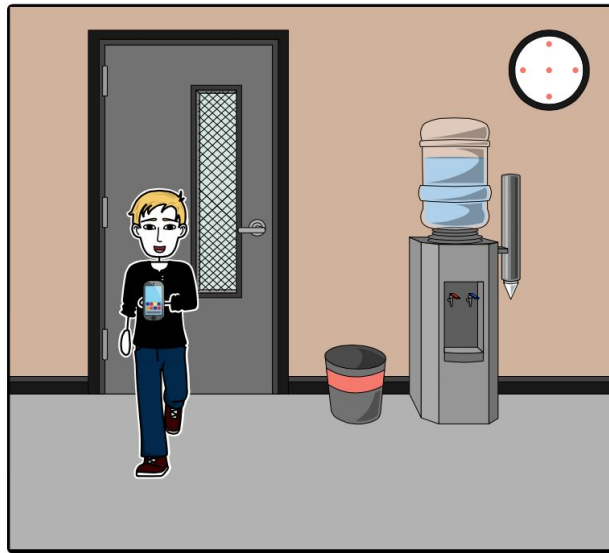
At 10 p.m., Mason heads to bed to sleep.



The following day, Mason heads to work for his 10AM shift - clocking 15 minutes early to work.



Mason checks his phone before his shift officially starts and sees that Samantha responded to the App Generated question adding that her phone died hence her late response.



A few messages later, Samantha decided to share her calendar with Mason on the app. Mason shared his calendar with Samantha and realized that they were both free on Monday evenings. He messaged her back suggesting they could meet in person at Au Bon Pain on campus to which she agreed to. 10:00AM hits and Mason begins his shift.