Concepts

Availability

      Purpose: To let users indicate when they are available to meet should they be matched with another user, and thereby allow matches to be made.

      Operational Principle: When a user signs up to our App, the will be directed to a calendar page where they see a calendar representation of a week from that date, where they can indicate which times they are free (would be available to meet), by painting over blocks (whenisgood style). The user can choose to put their availabilities in later, and change it at any time, but not having any availabilities means that they will not be matched with any other user.

      Misfit: Outdated availability. To ensure that we do not make matches based on outdated availabilities, we limit the user's availability input to one week from the date of entry, so that they need to keep updating every week.

Matching

      Purpose: To let users know of other users who are in the same location as them and have overlapping availabilities with them, who they can potentially meet.

      Operational Principle: When a user logs in, they are directed to their dashboard, where they see a list of people who they are matched with. This match depends on them being in the same location and having overlapping availabilities and the user's preferences (eg, whether they want the other user to share topics with them, etc).

Preference

      Purpose: To allow the list of matchings shown to the user be more suited to the user's preferences.

      Operational Principle: A user can go to their settings page and change their preferences. Preferences can include whether they want their matches to share topics or if different topics are acceptable, what range of locations will result in a match, etc. Their preferences changes the matching criteria and the list of matches change accordingly. The user can change their preferences at any time.

      Misfit: Having really selective preferences might limit the user's choices so they might not be getting very many matches, so we allow the user to change their preferences and broaden or tighten them accordingly.

Interest

      Purpose: To let a user indicate that they want to talk to or meet another user with whom they have matched.

      Operational Principle: When the user logs in, they see their matches in their dashboard. They can read some information about these users such as their descriptions, their topics of interest, etc., and they can click a button/check to indicate that they are interested to talk to/meet them. If the other user also checks the first user as interested, then they can have a connection, which opens up a channel of communication.

Misfit: Mutual interests might not result in a connection. Our app is built such that users get one connection at a time (more on that under Connection), so it might be the case that user1 could potentially have a connection with user2 and user3, and we connect them with user2, then the user1-user3 connection is not made. However, we are not expecting this to happen very often, and if it does, we can tweek the algorithm to select more "meaningful" connections to present (eg, if user2 has lots of potential connections, but user3 has very few, perhaps the user1-user3 connection should be weighted more).

Connection

    Purpose: To open a line of communication of between two users who are interested in meeting each other

    Operational Principle: Once two users express interest in each other, we connect may them, to allow a line of communication. This involves assigning a app email address to each user that they other can use to send them messages, which will be routed by the app and sent to their real email. This connection is added to the users' journals, and they can keep taking notes about the other user if they want. Only one connection is open for each user at a time, so once the users have met and are ready to meet new people, they can close their connection, whence they can be connected to other people. Notes about the connection can also be made after the connection is closed. On connection, both users receive a suggestion for a social interaction at a mutually available time.

    Misfit: Many connections at once. We want to disallow a user having many open connections at once, because a user can probably meet only one person per week, but having a connection open means both users see that, and the other user expects the first user to talk to them and meet with them. So then the user will have to tell them that they can't meet this week, because they are meeting another user, etc., which can be a stressful and disappointing process. The user is also given the problem of choosing who to talk to, which is also stressful. For this reason, we will allow one connection to be open at a time, and once the users are done with that connection and ready to move on, they can close it.

    Misfit: Can connect to people even after closing connection. A closed connection does not necessarily mean that the users can't communicate any more. With the permission of both users, the users can use the same app email to keep in contact. But they are allowed to change their minds at any time, and if the permission is revoked, messages will no longer be forwarded to the real email.

    Misfit: A user can try to block another user from getting other connections by not closing it, so we let either user close the connection.

    Misfit: Messages are not saved, only routed via the app. This is to protect the privacy of the users, so that we don't ever read their messages.

Journal

    Purpose: To keep a record of all the connections a user has made.

    Operational Principle: Every time a user makes a connection, it is added to their journal. This includes information about when the connection was made, whether they met, when the connection was closed or if it is still open, user made notes about the connection and

nicknames the user gives to the other users. They can also access options to put the user in the do not match again list or report users they have previously connected to in their journal.

Do Not Match Again

      Purpose: To prevent users that another user doesn't want to be matched with to not be matched with them again.

      Operational Principle: After a two users are connected, either of the users can go to their journal and choose the other user and check that they do not want to matched again. Then in future matches, that user will not show up in the list, unless the first user changes their mind, which they can do by going to their settings and taking them off the list.

      Misfit: Not match again is not exactly the same as blocking them, because the email communication can still continue until one of them decided to revoke the permission to allow that. This is to allow two users who still want to talk but don't want to be meet to keep communicating without matching again.

Block

      Purpose: To prevent blocked users from making any sort of communication with the blocker via the app.

      Operational Principle: After a two users are connected, either of the users can go to their journal and choose the other user and block them. Then in future matches, that user will not show up in the list, not can the send the blocker messages, unless the blocker changes their mind, which they can do by going to their settings and taking them off the list.