Chat application using WebRTC, NodeJS, Socket.io

A COURSE PROJECT REPORT

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report "Chat application using WebRTC, Node.js and Socket.io" is the bonafide work of Akash Koottungal (RA1911026010010), Harikrishnaa S (RA1911026010012), Thejaswin S (RA1911026010029) who carried out the project work under my supervision.

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ABSTRACT

One of the last major challenges for the web is to enable human communication via voice and video without using special plugins and without having to pay for these services. WebRTC (Web Real-Time Communication) is a new web standard currently supported by Google, Mozilla, and Opera. It allows peer-to-peer communication between browsers. Its mission is to enable rich, high-quality RTC applications for the browser, mobile platforms, and the Web of Things (WoT), and allow them to communicate via a common set of protocols. WebRTC defines open standards for real-time, plugin-free video, audio, and data communication. Currently, many web services already use RTC but require downloads, native apps or plugins. These include Skype, Facebook (which uses Skype), and Google Hangouts (which use the Google Talk plugin). Downloading, installing, and updating plugins can be complex, error-prone, and annoying and it's often difficult to convince people to install plugins in the first place. This report discusses the implementation of WebRTC to build a web application for real-time communication including video/audio communication along with chat and many more features.

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1. ABSTRACT

One of the last major challenges for the web is to enable human communication via voice and video without using special plugins and without having to pay for these services. WebRTC (Web Real-Time Communication) is a new web standard currently supported by Google, Mozilla, and Opera. It allows peer-to-peer communication between browsers. Its mission is to enable rich, high-quality RTC applications for the browser, mobile platforms, and the Web of Things (WoT), and allow them to communicate via a common set of protocols. WebRTC defines open standards for real-time, plugin-free video, audio, and data communication. Currently, many web services already use RTC but require downloads, native apps or plugins. These include Skype, Facebook (which uses Skype), and Google Hangouts (which use the Google Talk plugin). Downloading, installing, and updating plugins can be complex, error-prone, and annoying and it's often difficult to convince people to install plugins in the first place. This report discusses the implementation of WebRTC to build a web application for real-time communication including video/audio communication along with chat and many more features.

2. INTRODUCTION

WebRTC (Web Real-Time Communication) is an open-source technology that enables Web applications and sites to capture and optionally stream audio and/or video media, as well as to exchange arbitrary data between browsers without requiring an intermediary. The set of standards that comprise WebRTC makes it possible to share data and perform teleconferencing peer-to-peer, without requiring that the user install plug-ins or any other third-party software.

Some of the main use cases of this technology include the following:

- Real-time audio and/or video communication
- Web conferencing
- Direct data transfers

Unlike most real-time systems (e.g. SIP), WebRTC communications are directly controlled by some Web server, via a JavaScript API. WebRTC consists of several interrelated APIs and protocols which work together to achieve this.

Some of the several JavaScript APIs are:

getUserMedia() : capture audio and videoMediaRecorder : record audio and video

• RTCPeerConnection: stream audio and video between users

• RTCDataChannel : stream data between users

WebRTC serves multiple purposes; together with the <u>Media Capture and Streams API</u>, they provide powerful multimedia capabilities to the Web, including support for audio and video conferencing, file exchange, screen sharing, identity management, and interfacing with legacy telephone systems including support for sending <u>DTMF</u> (touch-tone dialing) signals. Connections between peers can be made without requiring any special drivers or plug-ins, and can often be made without any intermediary servers.

Connections between two peers are represented by the <u>RTCPeerConnection</u> interface. Once a connection has been established and opened using RTCPeerConnection, media streams (<u>MediaStreams</u>) and/or data channels (<u>RTCDataChannels</u>) can be added to the connection.

Media streams can consist of any number of tracks of media information; tracks, which are represented by objects based on the <u>MediaStreamTrack</u> interface, may contain one of a number of types of media data, including audio, video, and text (such as subtitles or even chapter names). Most streams consist of at least one audio track and likely also a video track, and can be used to

send and receive both live media or stored media information (such as a streamed movie).

Features

- Multi-participants
- Toggling of the video stream
- Toggling of the audio stream (mute & unmute)
- Screen sharing
- Text chat
- Mute individual participant
- Expand participants' stream
- Screen Recording
- Video Recording

Connection setup and management

There are interfaces, dictionaries, and types used to set up, open, and manage WebRTC connections. Interfaces representing peer media connections, data channels, and interfaces are used when exchanging information on the capabilities of each peer in order to select the best possible configuration for a two-way media connection.

3. REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

1. Hardware Requirements

• Processor : 2.4 Ghz

• RAM : 3GB

• Storage space : 500 MB (Minimum free space)

2. Software Requirements

• Operating System: Windows 10

• Tools: VScode, Node.js, GitHub

• Frontend: HTML,CSS

• Backend: Javascript

• Dependencies:

- express: 4.17.1

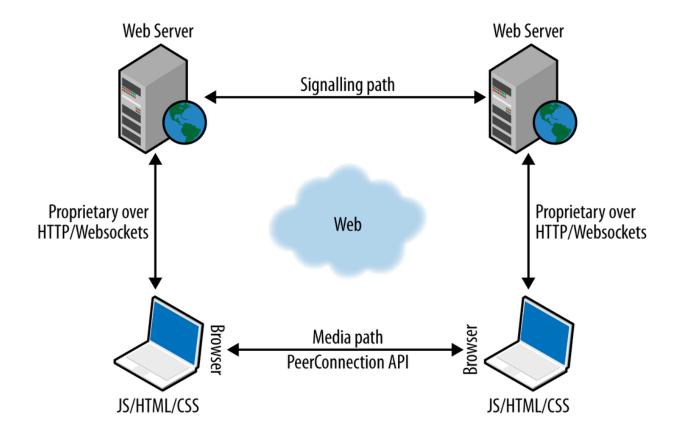
- serve-favicon: 2.5.0

- socket.io: 2.4.0

• DevDependencies: nodemon: 2.0.6

4. ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

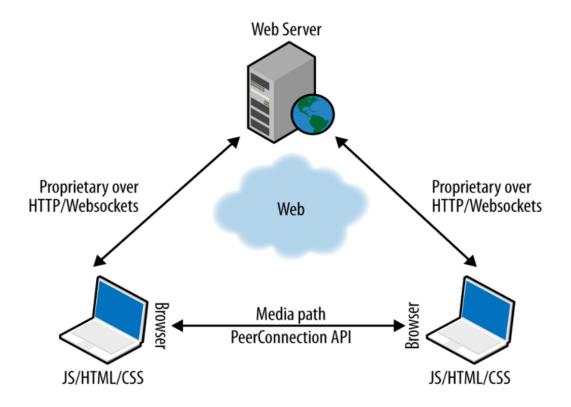
WebRTC extends the client-server semantics by introducing a peer-to-peer communication paradigm between browsers. The most general WebRTC architectural model (see Figure 1-1) draws its inspiration from the so-called SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) Trapezoid (RFC3261).

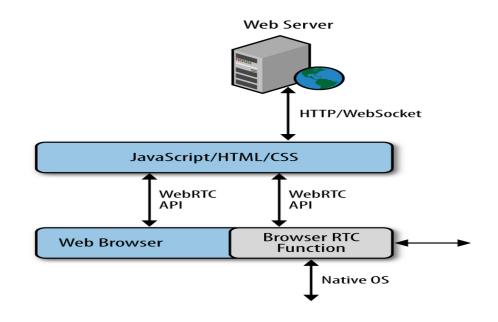


In the WebRTC Trapezoid model, both browsers are running a web application, which is downloaded from a different web server. Signaling messages are used to set up and terminate communications. They are transported by the HTTP or WebSocket protocol via web servers that can modify, translate, or manage them as needed. It is worth noting that the signaling between browser and server is not standardized in WebRTC, as it is considered to be part of the application (see Signaling). As to the data path, a PeerConnection allows media to flow directly between browsers without any intervening servers. The two web servers can communicate using a standard signaling protocol such as SIP or Jingle (XEP-0166). Otherwise, they can use a proprietary

signaling protocol.

The most common WebRTC scenario is likely to be the one where both browsers are running the same web application, downloaded from the same web page. In this case, the Trapezoid becomes a Triangle.





Real-time flow of data is streamed across the network in order to allow direct communication between two browsers, with no further intermediaries along the path. This clearly represents a revolutionary approach to web-based communication.

Communication involves direct media streams between the two browsers, with the media path negotiated and instantiated through a complex sequence of interactions involving the following entities:

- The caller browser and the caller JavaScript application (e.g., through the mentioned JavaScript API)
- The caller JavaScript application and the application provider (typically, a web server)
- The application provider and the callee JavaScript application
- The callee JavaScript application and the callee browser (again through the application-browser JavaScript API)

5. IMPLEMENTATION

CODE:

5.1. FRONTEND HTML

```
| Deficiency | Street | Street
```

5.2 BACKEND MODULES

5.2.1 app.js

```
EXPLORER
                       JS app.js
                                                         JS helpers.js
                                                                          JS rtc.js
                       src > JS app.js > ...
OPEN EDITORS
                         1 let express = require( 'express' );
VIDEO-CALL-APP-NODEJS...
                              let app = express();
> node_modules
                              let server = require( 'http' ).Server( app );
∨ src
                              let io = require( 'socket.io' )( server );
                              let stream = require( './ws/stream' );
  ∨ css
                              let path = require( 'path' );
   # app.css
                               let favicon = require( 'serve-favicon' );
                               app.use( favicon( path.join( __dirname, 'favicon.ico' ) ) );
   JS autolink.js
                               app.use( '/assets', express.static( path.join( __dirname, 'assets' ) ) );
   JS events.js
   JS helpers.js
                            v app.get( '/', ( req, res ) => {
                                   res.sendFile( __dirname + '/index.html' );
                               } );
  JS stream.js
 JS app.js
                               io.of( '/stream' ).on( 'connection', stream );
 ★ favicon.ico
                               console.log("Server running...")
                         18
 o index.html
.gitignore
                               server.listen( 3000 );
R LICENSE
{} package-lock.json
{} package.json
③ README.md

▼ SECURITY.md
```

5.2.2 rtc.js

```
JS rtc.js
> OPEN EDITORS
 VIDEO-CALL-APP-NODEJS...
                            5 import h from './helpers.js';
 > node_modules
                                 window.addEventListener( 'load', () => {
   const room = h.getQString( location.href, 'room' );
   const username = sessionStorage.getItem( 'username' );
                                      if ( !room ) {
                                           document.querySelector( '#room-create' ).attributes.removeNamedItem( 'hidden' );
   JS events.js
                                      else if (!username) {
   JS helpers.js
                                           document.querySelector( '#username-set' ).attributes.removeNamedItem( 'hidden' );
  ∨ ws
                                           let commElem = document.getElementsByClassName( 'room-comm' );
  ★ favicon.ico
                                           for ( let i = 0; i < commElem.length; i++ ) {</pre>
  index.html
                                                commElem[i].attributes.removeNamedItem( 'hidden' );
 gitignore
 {} package-lock.json
 {} package.json
 (i) README.md

▼ SECURITY.md

                                           var socketId = '';
                                           var randomNumber = __${h.generateRandomString()}__${h.generateRandomString()}__;
                                           var myStream = '';
                                           var screen = '';
                                           var recordedStream = [];
var mediaRecorder = '';
                                           //Get user video by default
                                           getAndSetUserStream();
> OUTLINE
```

```
JS rtc.js
getAndSetUserStream();
socket.on( 'connect', () => {
    socketId = socket.io.engine.id;
document.getElementById('randomNumber').innerText = randomNumber;
        room: room,
         socketId: socketId
    } );
    socket.on( 'new usen', ( data ) => {
    socket.emit( 'newUsenStart', { to: data.socketId, sender: socketId } );
         pc.push( data.socketId );
    });
         pc.push( data.sender );
         init( false, data.sender );
    });
        data.candidate ? await pc[data.sender].addIceCandidate( new RTCIceCandidate( data.candidate ) ) : '';
    });
    socket.on( 'sdp', async ( data ) => {
   if ( data.description.type === 'offer' ) {
              data.description ? await pc[data.sender].setRemoteDescription( new RTCSessionDescription( data.description ) ) : '';
```

```
function shareScreen() {
     h.shareScreen().then( ( stream ) => {
          h.toggleShareIcons( true );
          //disable the video toggle btns while sharing screen. This is to ensure clicking on the btn does not interfere with the screen shar: //It will be enabled was user stopped sharing screen
          h.toggleVideoBtnDisabled( true );
          //save my screen stream
screen = stream;
          broadcastNewTracks( stream, 'video', false );
          //When the stop sharing button shown by the browser is clicked screen.getVideoTracks()[0].addEventListener( <code>'ended'</code>, () => {
              stopSharingScreen();
     } ).catch( ( e ) => {
    console.error( e );
function stopSharingScreen() {
     h.toggleVideoBtnDisabled( false );
     return new Promise( ( res, rej ) => {
    screen.getTracks().length ? screen.getTracks().forEach( track => track.stop() ) : '';
     } ).then( () => {
          h.toggleShareIcons( false );
broadcastNewTracks( myStream, 'video' );
     } ).catch( ( e ) => {
    console.error( e );
     } );
                                                                                                                                      Ln 2, Col 11 (1 selected) Spaces: 4 UTF-8 LF {} Jan
```

```
function startRecording( stream ) {
    mediaRecorder = new MediaRecorder( stream, {
    mimeType: 'video/webm; codecs=vp9'
    } );
    mediaRecorder.start( 1000 );
    toggleRecordingIcons( true );
    mediaRecorder.ondataavailable = function ( e ) {
         recordedStream.push( e.data );
    mediaRecorder.onstop = function () {
         toggleRecordingIcons( false );
         h.saveRecordedStream( recordedStream, username );
         setTimeout( () => {
    recordedStream = [];
         }, 3000);
    mediaRecorder.onerror = function ( e ) {
         console.error( e );
document.getElementById( 'chat-input' ).addEventListener( 'keypress', ( e ) => {
   if ( e.which === 13 && ( e.target.value.trim() ) ) {
         e.preventDefault();
         sendMsg( e.target.value );
         setTimeout( () => {
             e.target.value = '';
} );
```

```
src > assets > js > JS rtc.js > ...
               //When record button is clicked
               document.getElementById( 'record' ).addEventListener( 'click', ( e ) => {
                    * Get the stream based on selection and start recording
                   if ( !mediaRecorder || mediaRecorder.state == 'inactive' ) {
                       h.toggleModal( 'recording-options-modal', true );
                   else if ( mediaRecorder.state == 'paused' ) {
                       mediaRecorder.resume();
                   else if ( mediaRecorder.state == 'recording' ) {
                       mediaRecorder.stop();
               } );
               //When user choose to record screen
               document.getElementById( 'record-screen' ).addEventListener( 'click', () => {
                   h.toggleModal( 'recording-options-modal', false );
                   if ( screen && screen.getVideoTracks().length ) {
                       startRecording( screen );
                   else {
                       h.shareScreen().then( ( screenStream ) => {
                           startRecording( screenStream );
                       } ).catch( () => { } );
               } );
```

```
src > assets > js > JS rtc.js > ♦ window.addEventListener('load') callback > ♦ addEventListener('click') callback
               document.getElementById( 'toggle-mute' ).addEventListener( 'click', ( e ) => {
                   e.preventDefault();
                   let elem = document.getElementById( 'toggle-mute' );
                   if ( myStream.getAudioTracks()[0].enabled ) {
                       e.target.classList.remove( 'fa-microphone-alt' );
                       e.target.classList.add( 'fa-microphone-alt-slash' );
                       elem.setAttribute( 'title', 'Unmute' );
                       myStream.getAudioTracks()[0].enabled = false;
                   else {
                       e.target.classList.remove( 'fa-microphone-alt-slash' );
                       e.target.classList.add( 'fa-microphone-alt' );
                       elem.setAttribute( 'title', 'Mute' );
                       myStream.getAudioTracks()[0].enabled = true;
                   broadcastNewTracks( myStream, 'audio' );
               } );
               document.getElementById( 'share-screen' ).addEventListener( 'click', ( e ) => {
                   e.preventDefault();
                   if ( screen && screen.getVideoTracks().length && screen.getVideoTracks()[0].readyState != 'ended' ) {
                       stopSharingScreen();
428
                   else {
                       shareScreen();
               } );
```

5.2.3 helper.js

```
src > assets > js > JS helpers.js > 🕪 default > 😚 closeVideo
      export default {
          generateRandomString() {
              const crypto = window.crypto || window.msCrypto;
              let array = new Uint32Array(1);
              return crypto.getRandomValues(array);
          closeVideo( elemId ) {
 10
              if ( document.getElementById( elemId ) ) {
                  document.getElementById( elemId ).remove();
                  this.adjustVideoElemSize();
          pageHasFocus() {
              return !( document.hidden || document.onfocusout || window.onpagehide || window.onblur );
          getQString( url = '', keyToReturn = '' ) {
              url = url ? url : location.href;
              let queryStrings = decodeURIComponent( url ).split( '#', 2 )[0].split( '?', 2 )[1];
               if ( queryStrings ) {
                  let splittedQStrings = queryStrings.split( '&' );
                  if ( splittedQStrings.length ) {
                       let queryStringObj = {};
                      splittedQStrings.forEach( function ( keyValuePair ) {
                           let keyValue = keyValuePair.split( '=', 2 );
                           if ( keyValue.length ) {
                               queryStringObj[keyValue[0]] = keyValue[1];
```

```
ets > js > JS helpers.js > 🕪 default > 🗘 closeVideo
   addChat( data, senderType ) {
        let chatMsgDiv = document.querySelector( '#chat-messages' );
        let contentAlign = 'justify-content-end';
        let senderName = 'You';
        let msgBg = 'bg-white';
        if ( senderType === 'remote' ) {
    contentAlign = 'justify-content-start';
            senderName = data.sender;
            msgBg = '';
            this.toggleChatNotificationBadge();
        let infoDiv = document.createElement( 'div' );
        infoDiv.className = 'sender-info';
infoDiv.innerText = `${ senderName } - ${ moment().format( 'Do MMMM, YYYYY h:mm a' ) }`;
        let colDiv = document.createElement( 'div' );
colDiv.className = `col-10 card chat-card msg ${ msgBg }`;
        colDiv.innerHTML = xssFilters.inHTMLData( data.msg ).autoLink( { target: "_blank", rel: "nofollow"});
        let rowDiv = document.createElement( 'div' );
        rowDiv.className = `row ${ contentAlign } mb-2`;
        colDiv.appendChild( infoDiv );
        rowDiv.appendChild( colDiv );
        chatMsgDiv.appendChild( rowDiv );
```

```
src > assets > js > JS helpers.js > 🔎 default > 😚 closeVideo
           shareScreen() {
               if ( this.userMediaAvailable() ) {
                   return navigator.mediaDevices.getDisplayMedia( {
                       video: {
                           cursor: "always"
                       audio: {
                            echoCancellation: true,
                            noiseSuppression: true,
                            sampleRate: 44100
                   throw new Error( 'User media not available' );
           getIceServer() {
                   iceServers: [
                             urls: [ "stun:bn-turn1.xirsys.com" ]
                           username: "BjoSbQASFNChhXJsrYBS7CACxeBiiCRWn-krWzxQZ0oRY5bPUnqxHBueXab9sfi0AAAAAGGA1R5ha2FzaDcxNw==",
                            credential: "db2a0ca4-3ba2-11ec-a0e7-0242ac140004",
                            "turn:bn-turn1.xirsys.com:3478/transport=tcp",
"turns:bn-turn1.xirsys.com:443?transport=tcp",
"turns:bn-turn1.xirsys.com:5349?transport=tcp"
```

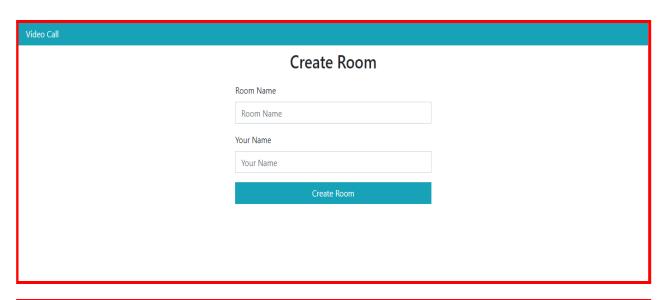
5.2.4 events.js

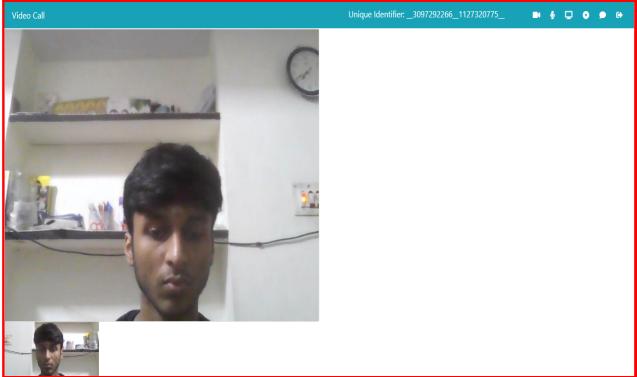
```
src > assets > js > JS events.js > ♦ window.addEventListener('load') callback
         import helpers from './helpers.js';
         window.addEventListener( 'load', () => [
              document.querySelector( '#toggle-chat-pane' ).addEventListener( 'click', ( e ) => {
   let chatElem = document.querySelector( '#chat-pane' );
   let mainSecElem = document.querySelector( '#main-section' );
                   if ( chatElem.classList.contains( 'chat-opened' ) ) {
   chatElem.setAttribute( 'hidden', true );
   mainSecElem.classList.remove( 'col-md-9' );
                         mainSecElem.classList.add( 'col-md-12' );
chatElem.classList.remove( 'chat-opened' );
                         chatElem.attributes.removeNamedItem( 'hidden' );
                          mainSecElem.classList.remove( 'col-md-12' );
                          mainSecElem.classList.add( 'col-md-9' );
                          chatElem.classList.add( 'chat-opened' );
                    setTimeout( () => {
                          if ( document.querySelector( '#chat-pane' ).classList.contains( 'chat-opened' ) ) {
                               helpers.toggleChatNotificationBadge();
                    }, 300 );
              } );
              //When the video frame is clicked. This will enable picture-in-picture document.getElementById( 'local' ).addEventListener( 'click', () => {
                    if ( !document.pictureInPictureElement ) {
                          document.getElementById( 'local' ).requestPictureInPicture()
                               .catch( error => {
    // Video failed to enter Picture-in-Picture mode.
                                     console.error( error ):
```

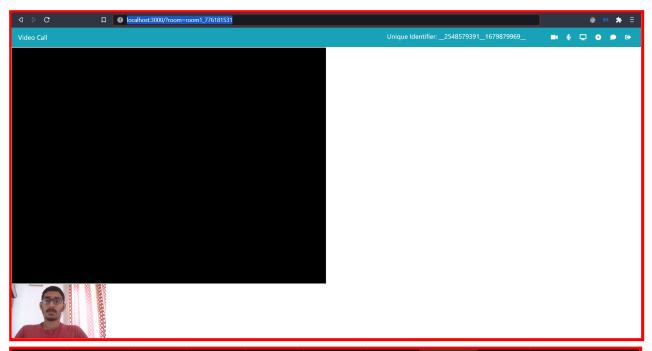
```
src > assets > js > JS events.js > ♀ window.addEventListener('load') callback
            //When the video frame is clicked. This will enable picture-in-picture document.getElementById( 'local' ).addEventListener( 'click', () \Rightarrow {
                  if ( !document.pictureInPictureElement ) {
                      document.getElementById( 'local' ).requestPictureInPicture()
                            .catch( error => {
    // Video failed to enter Picture-in-Picture mode.
                                 console.error( error );
                            } );
                      document.exitPictureInPicture()
                            .catch( error => {
    // Video failed to leave Picture-in-Picture mode.
                                 console.error( error );
            //When the 'Create room' is button is clicked
document.getElementById( 'create-room' ).addEventListener( 'click', ( e ) => {
                 e.preventDefault();
                 let roomName = document.querySelector( '#room-name' ).value;
let yourName = document.querySelector( '#your-name' ).value;
                 document.querySelector('#err-msg').innerText = "";
                       //save the user's name in sessionStorage
sessionStorage.setItem( 'username', yourName );
                       let roomLink = `${ location.origin }?room=${ roomName.trim().replace( ' ', '_' ) }_${ helpers.generateRandomString() }`;
```

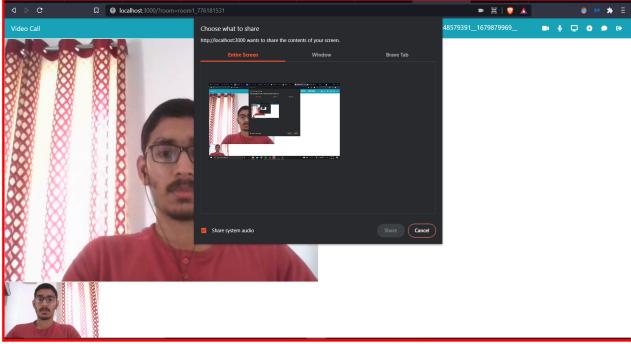
6. EXPERIMENT RESULTS & ANALYSIS

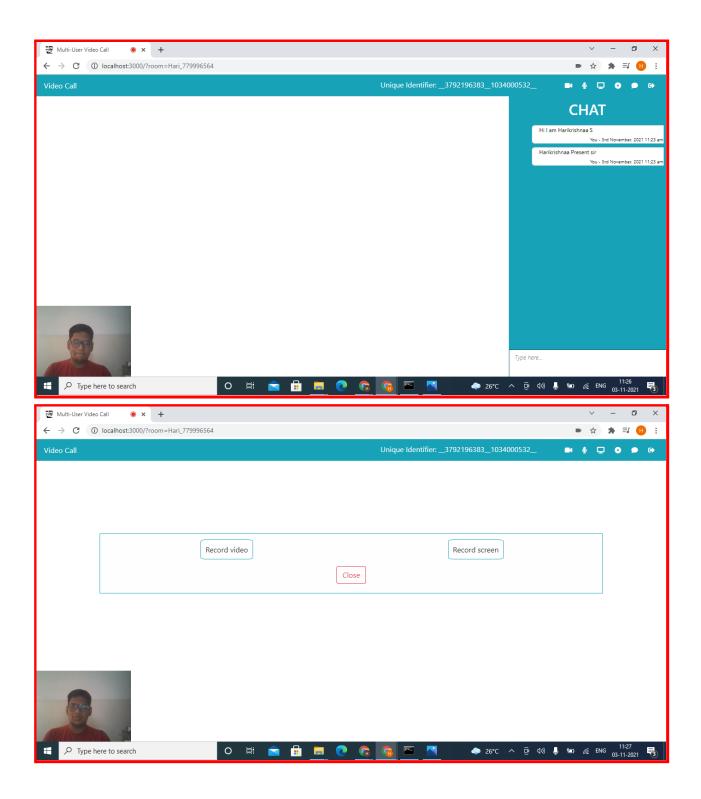
6.1 RESULTS











6.2 RESULT ANALYSIS

A simple WebRTC chat application has been created in Javascript using the NodeJS framework and other JavaScript APIs. The web application has features similar to Google Meet. It provides features such as real-time communication with audio or/and video along with options for disabling and enabling video as well as audio, chat, screen sharing, and meet recording.

The application is run on the localhost and it can be deployed on a server and people from across distant regions can communicate with each other.

6.3 CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORK

Thus a WebRTC web application for real-time communication can be created using NodeJS and socket.io and Javascript APIs.

This project can be further expanded by improving the UI and implementing other features such as Visual effects for the background as in recent WebRTC applications such as Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc...

The web application can be deployed on a server and hosted for people across different regions to communicate with each other.

7. REFERENCES

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- 5. https://www.tutorialspoint.com/webrtc/webrtc_architecture.htm
- 6. https://github.com/amirsanni/Video-Call-App-NodeJS