



cp

collaboration,
personalized.

Overview and Proposal

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The Social Need

My target audience, college students, need help with difficult concepts in classes. Some very lucky institutions, such as USC, have the privilege of extended office hours from professors, TAs, and extensive course staff (yay course producers!). However, other institutions do not have such extensive help and support. Additional factors, such as scheduling conflicts and the embarrassment of approaching a professor, further prevent students from getting the help they need (1). These students need a more accessible and more comfortable way of getting help, and that's what this app seeks to accomplish. The goal of this app is not only to allow students to approach fellow students to seek help at reduced prices, but also to offer more flexible hours and to provide a more comfortable setting for students to get help. Without this help, students run the risk of falling behind in classes, which can have devastating effects later on (ie. failing, delayed graduation, inability to perform well on the job, etc...).

The Competition

Competing apps, such as peer-to-peer tutoring app "Sesh", charge \$20 or more per hour for tutoring sessions. Corporate tutoring companies charge \$45 to \$60 an hour, and private tutors average a cost of \$30 to \$40 an hour, but these rates can easily be much higher (2). This is clearly a huge amount to pay for extra help, and many college students simply can't afford these rates. Course producers at USC only get paid \$16 an hour, and their services are provided for students for free. Yes, it makes sense that students should pay for help from external tutors, but they should not overpay. There is an overwhelming need for additional help in school, but there should be a more accessible solution for students to get this help. That's where CP will excel as an app, and that's why it's needed. We succeed at solving the problem by providing students with multiple options of getting additional help outside of class. With so many tutor options available on CP, there is bound to be less scheduling conflicts and more price flexibility, since students would work pricing out on their own. Many students are oftentimes willing to help others for free, or for much more reasonable rates than what the competition offers right now.



Sources:

1. <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2011/3/3/students-hours-office-faculty/?page=1>
2. <https://www.angieslist.com/articles/how-much-should-tutoring-cost.htm>

App Overview

CP (the app) seeks to accomplish the goals that actual course producers at USC seek to accomplish. I want to provide students with a reliable method of getting the help they need in difficult classes at little to no cost. To do this, I'm creating a peer-to-peer tutoring app that will connect students who are struggling with students who are understanding the material well. Based on my experiences in SAL, I've found that many students are willing to help those who are in need of help, so there would be a plethora of students willing to help others at very reasonable rates.

My app will allow a user to sign up for a tutor or a student account. On a student account, the user is able to input information about their current classes, and a screen with tutor "matches" will display tutors who are also taking or have taken that class before. Tutors with similar experience can also be displayed. The student user can then see more details about the tutors and decide which tutor is the right fit. If there's a fit, the student can "request" the tutor, and the tutor will be able to accept or decline the request. If accepted, a one-to-one message channel will be started between the two parties, and they can discuss how to proceed (whether a payment is involved, where and when to meet, etc...). After the communication channel is opened, a student user can rate the tutor based on how the communication or tutoring session went. The rating system is to ensure that students get the highest quality tutors possible.

Ultimately, the app was designed to give students more accessible help in terms of time, pricing, and quality. We want students to succeed, and the app's features are all designed to that end. The app will not collect any revenue or money from any party.

The logo consists of the lowercase letters "cp" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a white speech bubble. The speech bubble has a small tail pointing towards the bottom left. The background of the slide is a solid teal color, with a diagonal white and dark teal stripe running from the bottom right corner towards the top right.

cp

Key Features

Tutor Matching

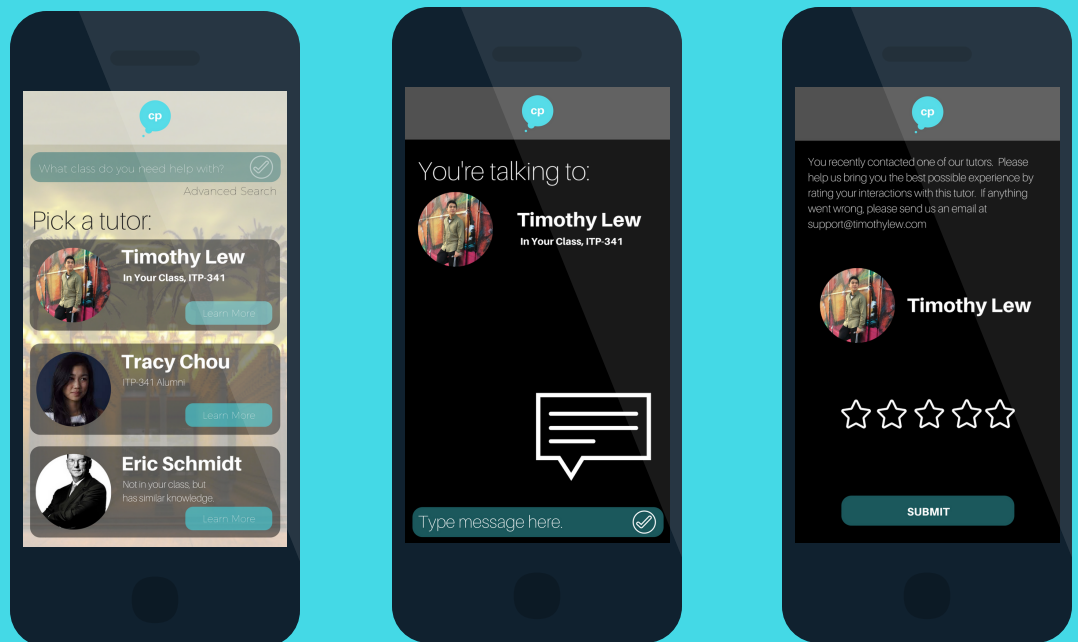
Tutors based on your classes and needs will be displayed on the screen. When you click on a tutor, you can see more details, and if you like what you see, click the accept button. The accept button will send the request to the tutor, who will be able to accept or decline your request. If the tutor decides to accept, you will be "matched", and a private message channel will be started between the matched parties.

Messaging

You can message your tutor after matching with one to arrange logistical and payment details.

Ratings

We don't want bad tutors taking students' money. Any tutor dropping below 4 stars will undergo a review process.



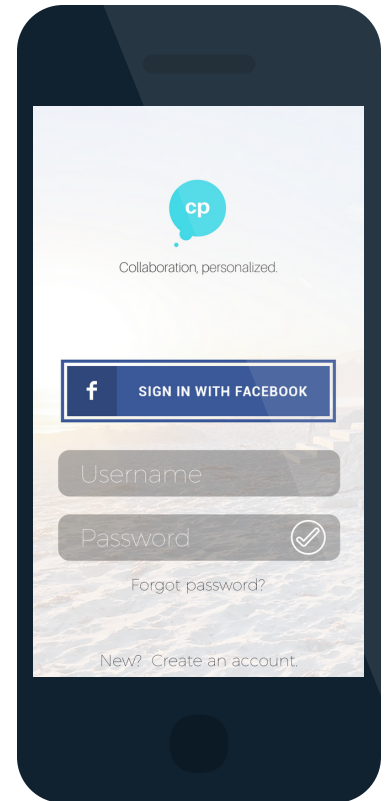
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Technology/Services



Firebase for Authentication, User Management, and Databases

- *Authentication: Firebase will handle basic email and password authentication.*
- *User Management: Firebase will handle password resets, username resets, and account verification.*
- *Databases: Firebase will be the primary database used to store user information.*
- *Messaging Services (1): Using the Firebase Database, a messaging service will be implemented for peer to peer interactions.*
- *Notifications - Firebase Cloud Messaging (formerly Google Cloud Messaging) will handle notifications for company promotions or reminders.*



Facebook Login ***

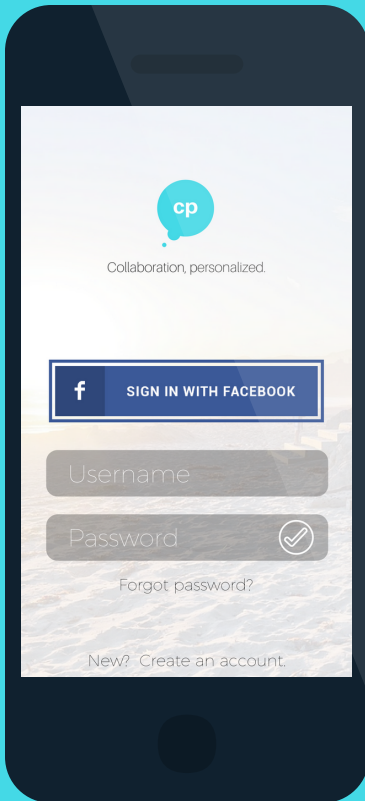
Will be implemented only if time permits.

There's a lot going on with just Firebase already (ie. authentication, notifications, messaging).

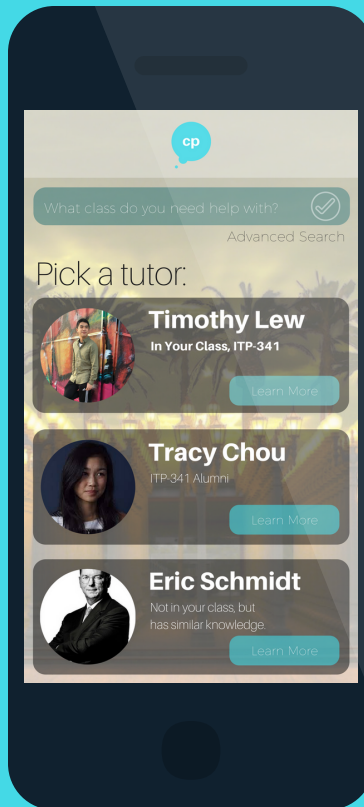


(1) Twilio chat API might be used instead depending on the viability of using Firebase as a messaging service. Based on my research, there are ways to do implement this feature on Firebase, but not many people have done it this way.

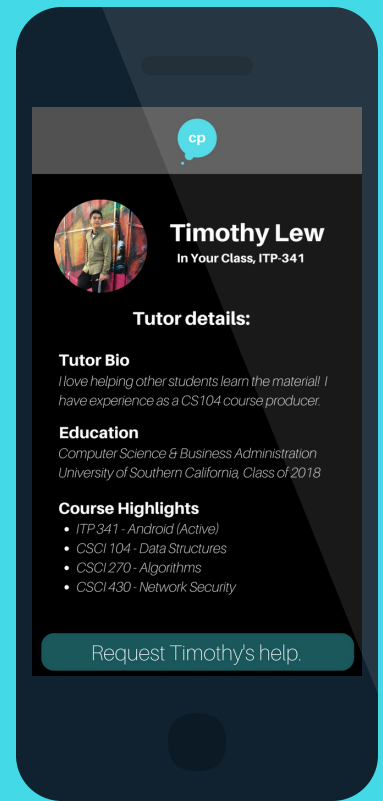
Wireframe/Mockups



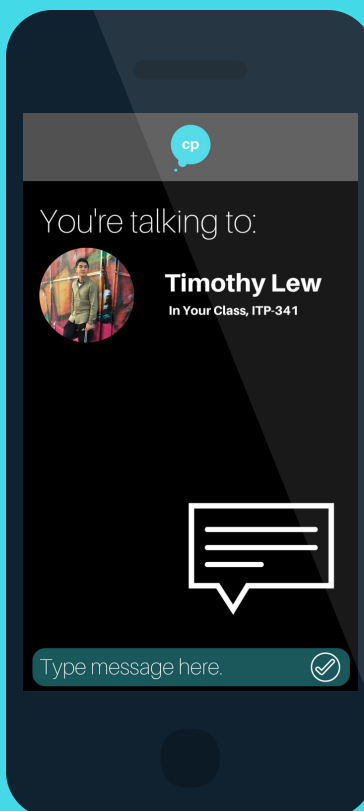
Login



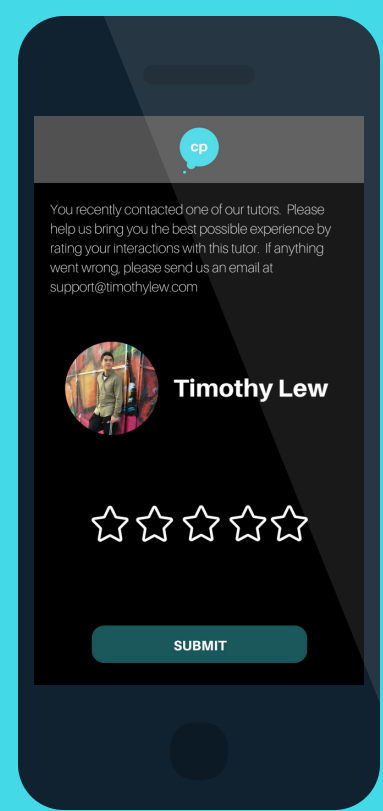
Tutor Matches



Tutor Details



Messaging



Rating





collaboration, personalized.

beat the learning curve

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