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Project Report

In this document, we derive a relational schema for a web application that supports location-based user communities. The web application allows a user to register an account to access the services and build up social networks within two levels of locality, hoods, and blocks. A user can add friends and neighbors in his/her social networks and send direct messages with them. A user can also post and reply messages within a community of a block or a hood to make his or her messages visible to all the community members. A user can filter and display incoming messages with various scopes. We will explain how we achieve those core functional requirements as well as many user scenarios in this document.

1. Logical Design

ER model

The first step is the logical design. We started with the ER model. we modeled six entities as well as the relationships associate among them. Then used the ER diagram to express the overall logical structure of our database. In part 2 of the project, we decided to add another relation, Approval, to describe the action when a user who is an existing block member approves a pending member of that block. With the aid of Approval schema, we can ensure one user can only approve a pending member once. The ER diagram is attached below:

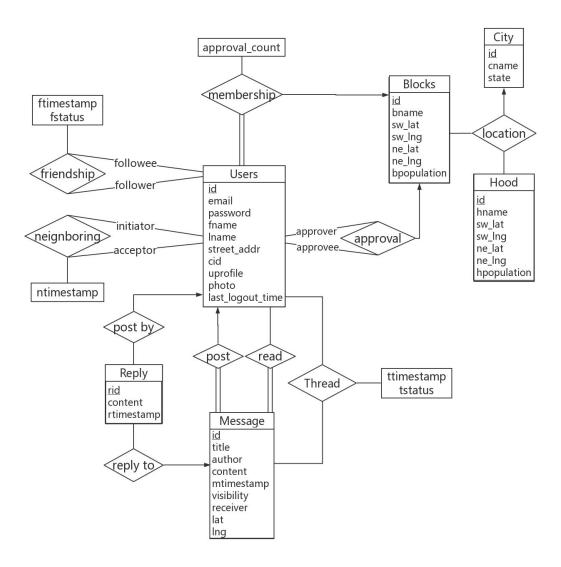


Figure 1 ER diagram

Relational Schemas

Then we translated the above ER schemas into relational schemas:

- Users (<u>id</u>, email, pword, fname, lname, street_addr, *cid*, uprofile, photo, last_logout_timestamp)
- Hood (<u>id</u>, hname, sw lat, sw lng, ne lat, ne lng, hpopulation)
- Blocks (<u>id</u>, bname, sw lat, sw lng, ne lat, ne lng, bpopulation)
- Location (bid, hid, cid)
- Membership (*uid*, *bid*, approval_count)
- Friendship (*follower*, *followee*, ftimestamp, fstatus)
- Neighboring (*initiator*, *acceptor*, ntimestamp)
- Message (<u>id</u>, *author*, title, content, mtimestamp, visibility, *receiver*, lat, lng)
- Reply (<u>rid</u>, *mid*, *author*, content, rtimestamp)
- Thread (*uid*, *mid*, tstatus, ttimestamp)
- City (<u>id</u>, cname, cstate)
- Approval (*approver*, *approvee*, *bid*)

In the schemas above, the primary key is labeled with an <u>underline</u>, and the foreign key is in *italics*.

Next, we are going to claim the constraints, assumptions, and justifications we made for the schemas

Users	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
email	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL, UNIQUE
pword	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
fname	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
lname	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
street_addr	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
cid	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing cid in City
uprofile	TEXT
photo	TEXT
last_logout_timestam	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
p	ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP

Table 1 User

- id is an auto-generated and auto-incremented number serves as a unique identifier of a user. It is generated upon user registration. The value is not recycled when a user is deleted.
- A user does not know his or her id. An email directly serves as a username. A user registers and logins via his or her email and password.
- fname and lname store the first name and last name of a user, respectively.
- street_addr stores street address of a user, which be manually entered by the user or by selected on a map upon user registration.
- uprofile stores a profile, like a bio, for a user. It is nullable.

- photo stores an avatar for a user. It is nullable.
- last_logout_timestamp is a timestamp auto-generated and updated every time a user logouts.

Hood	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
hname	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
sw_lat	FLOAT, NOT NULL
sw_lng	FLOAT, NOT NULL
ne_lat	FLOAT, NOT NULL
ne_lng	FLOAT, NOT NULL
hpopulation	INTEGER, NOT NULL

Table 2 Hood

- id is an auto-generated and auto-incremented number that serves as a unique identifier of a hood. The value is not recycled when a user is deleted. According to the project description, we can predefine hoods. Users register into a block and a hood predefined in the system. So, we assume that the addition or deletion of a hood is not common.
- hname stores the name of a hood.
- sw_lat, sw_lng, ne_lat, ne_lng store the coordinates of a rectangle defining the region of a hood on a map.
- hpopulation stores the population of a hood. It should be a sum of the population in all blocks within the hood. This will be implemented in our backend application.

Blocks	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
bname	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
sw_lat	FLOAT, NOT NULL
sw_lng	FLOAT, NOT NULL
ne_lat	FLOAT, NOT NULL
ne_lng	FLOAT, NOT NULL
bpopulation	INTEGER, NOT NULL

Table 3 Blocks

- The setting of this schema is similar to Hood.
- bpopulation tracks the population of a block. According to the project description, a user's request to join a block needs to be approved by three members in that particular block or by all members if this block has less than three members. We will need to compare approval count in Membership with boppulation to achieve that.

Location	
bid	INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Blocks
hid	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Hood
cid	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in City

Table 4 Location

• We use the composite primary key here to handle the problem of repetition of hood names or block names in different cities. For example, names like "High Street", "Main Street", and "Midtown" often appear in many cities.

Membership	
uid	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
bid	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Blocks
approval count	INTEGER, NOT NULL, DEFAULT 0

Table 5 Membership

- The uid and the bid here represent a potential membership, which means a user is a member of a block. This membership is uniquely identified by the composite primary key.
- As we mentioned in Blocks, we will compare approval_count with boppulation to determine if this potential membership is pending or passed. We decided once the user is approved to join a block, his/her approval_count is set to -1.

Friendship	
follower	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
followee	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
ftimestamp	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
fstatus	VALUE IN ('pending', 'rejected', 'accepted'), DEFAULT 'pending'

Table 6 Friendship

- follower and followee here are foreign keys referencing to id in Users. A follower adds a followee to create a potential friendship at the ftimestamp, and a followee can accept the request to confirm the friendship or not.
- Because a friendship request can be made multiple times, we add ftimestamp to identify them. For example, when A adds B, B rejects it, then A adds B again.
- fstatus is set to 'pending' when a friendship request is created. A followee will receive a notification and be able to accept or reject the request. Upon acceptance, the follower will receive a notification. Also, when a fstatus is 'accepted', the follower and the followee will have access messages with visibility of 'friend' from each other.

Neighboring	
initiator	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
acceptor	INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
ntimestamp	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP

Table 7 Neighboring

- The setting of this schema is similar to Friendship.
- Adding of a neighbor is uniliteral according to the project description. An initiator can add an acceptor to his/her neighbor directly without permission. So, we do not need to mark its status like 'pending' or 'accepted'.

Message	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
author	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing uid in Users
title	TEXT, NOT NULL
content	TEXT, NOT NULL
mtimestamp	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
visibility	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL, VALUE IN ('direct', 'friend', 'neighbor',
	'block', 'hood')
receiver	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users, NULLABLE,
	DEFAULT NULL
lat	FLOAT, NULLABLE
lng	FLOAT, NULLABLE

Table 8 Message

- id is an auto-generated and auto-incremented number, serves as a unique identifier of a message. It is generated upon posting a message. The value is not recycled when a reply is deleted.
- mtimestamp here is for displaying when the message is posted.
- A message has visibility of 'direct', 'friend', 'neighbor', 'block', and 'hood'. When a user chooses to post a direct message, a text field for entering a message receiver is shown. This is done by the front end. Then the receiver is recorded in receiver attribute. However, when visibility is set to be 'friend', 'neighbor', 'block', or 'hood', the receiver text field is hidden, and receiver attribute is set to be NULL.
- lat and lng are coordinates where the message is pinned on a map. Users can choose to not pin the message.

Reply	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
mid	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Message
author	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users
content	TEXT, NOT NULL
rtimestamp	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP

Table 9 Reply

- rid is an auto-generated and auto-incremented number, serves as a unique identifier of a reply. It is generated upon posting a reply. The value is not recycled when a reply is deleted.
- mid represents that this reply is replying to the message with the particular message.
- rtimestamp here is for displaying when the reply is posted.
- According to the project description, a replay has the same visibility as the original message, so we do not need a visibility attribute here.
- According to the project description, we can decide the reply depth on our own judgment. So, we decided the reply depth to be 1, which means all replies are replying to the original message. They are organized by chronological order with the aid of rtimestamp.

Thread	
uid	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Users, PRIMARY KEY
mid	INTEGER, FOREIGN KEY referencing id in Message, PRIMARY
	KEY
tstatus	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL, VALUE IN ('read', 'unread'),
	DEFAULT 'unread'
ttimestamp	TIMESTAMP, NOT NULL, DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP

Table 10 Thread

- A thread here is defined as a piece of information consisting of a message and corresponding replies. In essence, we decide to pre-compute what information a user should be able to see when he or she accesses the timeline news feed. Such pieces of information are identified by uid and mid. Twitter uses pre-computed information for its timeline too. But the information is stored in memory by the aid of Redis. Definitely, Twitter's algorithm will be much more sophisticated. We would like to try a simplified approach here by storing pre-computed timeline in Thread schema.
- By pre-computing the timeline, we mean that when a message is posted, we immediately determine who can read this message. For example, when A post a direct message to B, with A's uid=1, B's uid=2, and mid=3, we add (2, 3, 'unread', CURRENT_TIMESTAMP) to Thread schema. So, when B loads his or her timeline news feed, a message with mid=3 will be displayed. Similarly, when A post a message to his or her friends, entries with A's friends' id will be added. Anyone who is not his or her friend will not even know the message is posted by the querying Thread table, and hence the thread is not going to be in his or her timeline. In this way, we pre-compute the timeline for each user. Automatically computing uids and inserting entries into the Thread table are done by a server application.
- tstatus determines whether a user has read the message. It helps when we need to display the unread message only.
- Each time a reply is posted for a message, we automatically set tstatus back to 'unread'. This is done by the same server application. So, the audience will be about to notice the reply.
- ttimestamp can help when we need to display messages or replies after the last login.

City	
id	INTEGER, UNIQUE, PRIMARY KEY
cname	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL
state	VARCAHR(45), NOT NULL

Table 11 City

- id is an auto-generated and auto-incremented number, serves as a unique identifier of a city. The value is not recycled when a reply is deleted. According to the project description, blocks and hoods are predefined for simplicity. So, we assume cities and states are also predefined. We will retrieve cities and states information from open-source data on the internet. Users select them upon user registration.
- By using id as a primary key, we can distinguish the cities with the same name but in different states. For example, the name 'Portland' appears in both Oregon and Maine.

Approval	
approver	INTEGER, NOT NULL, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing
	id in Users
approvee	INTEGER, NOT NULL, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing
	id in Users
bid	INTEGER, NOT NULL, PRIMARY KEY, FOREIGN KEY referencing
	id in Blocks

Table 12 Approval

- approver and approvee here are foreign keys referencing to id in Users. An approver approves an approvee's pending membership to join his/her block.
- bid is a primary key and a foreign key referencing to id in Blocks. It specifies which blocks approval is for.

Function Implementation

We create our schema by using SQLite. The required functions are done using the following SQL queries:

(1) User Y lives in city X and becomes a member of block Z

Sign up:

```
INSERT INTO Users(email, pword, fname, lname, street_addr, cid) VALUE ('zl1477@nyu.edu', 'pword', 'Vin', 'Liu', '110 1st St.', X);
```

Become a member of a block:

INSERT INTO Membership(uid, bid) VALUE (X,Y);

Create or edit profile:

```
UPDATE Users SET uprofile = 'I love SQL!'
WHERE id = Y;
```

(2) User X posts a message U at coordinate (Y, Z). User V replies it.

Post an initial message:

INSERT INTO Message(author, title, content, mtimestamp, visibility, receiver, lat, lng) VALUE (X, 'Posting test case', 'Hi there! I am testing the c2 by posting a new message', CURRENT TIMESTAMP, 'hood', NULL, Y, Z);

Reply to a message:

```
INSERT INTO Reply(mid, author, content, rtimestamp) VALUE (U, V, 'Hi there! I am testing the c2 by replying a new message', CURRENT TIMESTAMP);
```

(3) User X adds Y as a friend. User X adds Y as a neighbor. User Y accepts the friendship.

Add friend:

```
INSERT INTO Friendship VALUE (X, Y, CURRENT_TIMESTAMP, 'pending');
```

Add neighbor:

```
INSERT INTO Neighboring VALUE (X, Y, CURRENT_TIMESTAMP);
```

Accept friendship:

```
UPDATE Friendship SET fstatus = 'accepted' WHERE followee = Y AND follower = X;
```

List all friends:

(SELECT follower FROM Friendship WHERE followee = X)
UNION

(SELECT followee FROM Friendship WHERE follower = X);

List all neighbors:

SELECT accepter FROM Neighboring WHERE initiator = X;

(4) User X

List all threads that have new message since last access:

SET @llt = (SELECT last_logout_timestamp FROM Users AS u WHERE u.id = X);

SELECT mid FROM Thread WHERE ttimestamp > @llt AND uid = X;

SELECT * FROM Message
WHERE id IN (SELECT mid FROM Thread
WHERE ttimestamp > @llt AND uid = X);

SELECT * FROM Reply
WHERE mid IN (SELECT id FROM Message
WHERE mid IN (SELECT mid FROM Thread
WHERE ttimestamp > @llt AND uid = X));

List all unread thread in friend feed:

SELECT * FROM Message AS w,

(SELECT id FROM Message

WHERE author IN

(SELECT follower FROM Friendship

WHERE followee = X AND fstatus = 'accepted'

UNION

SELECT followee FROM Friendship

WHERE follower = X AND fstatus = 'accepted')

AND visibility = 'friend') AS m

WHERE w.id IN

(SELECT mid FROM Thread

WHERE uid = X AND tstatus = 'unread') AND m.mid = w.id;

List all "bicycle accident" threads:

SELECT * FROM Thread

WHERE uid = X AND mid IN

(SELECT id FROM Message

WHERE title LIKE '%bicycle accident%' OR content LIKE '%bicycle accident%');

Sample Data

We list some sample data below:

Users:

uid	email	pword	fname	Iname	street_addr	cid	uprofile	photo	last_login_timesta
1	ewaters@me.com	pword1	Shaneka	Franck	110 Pikachu Rd	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
2	okroeger@yahoo.com	pword1	Kathry	Grimsley	607 Shady Court	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
3	lstaf@comcast.net	pword1	Rochell	Brigance	7477 Pearl St	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
4	auronen@live.com	pword1	Cami	Silk	56 Marvon St	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
5	grdschl@icloud.com	pword1	Ryan	Dilks	9700 Armstrong St	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
6	inico@sbcglobal.net	pword1	Helen	Uresti	3 Wentworth Dr	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
7	harpes@outlook.com	pword1	Kylee	Deskins	33 Hill St	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
8	mrdvt@gmail.com	pword1	Cristie	Bonnell	37 Holly Road	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
9	dodong@yahoo.com	pword1	Alden	Mee	7569 Grant Ave	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
10	killmenow@optonline.net	pword1	Todd	Carl	68 Oakwood Drive	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
11	vin_lz@outlook.com	pword1	Vin	Liu	110 1st St	3	NULL	NULL	NULL
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 2 sample data for User

City:

cid	cname	cstate
1	New York	New York
2	White Plains	New York
3	Jersey City	New Jersey
4	Yonkers	New York
5	Hoboken	New Jersey
6	Harrison	New Jersey
7	Weehawken	New Jersey
8	West New York	New Jersey
9	Newark	New Jersey
10	Long Beach	New York
NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 3 sample data for City

Hood:

hid	hname	sw_lat	sw_Ing	ne_lat	ne_Ing	hpopulati
3	Financial District	0	0	0	0	300
4	Two Bridges	0	0	0	0	100
5	SoHo	0	0	0	0	400
6	Bowery	0	0	0	0	2
7	Brooklyn Heights	0	0	0	0	1000
8	Grove Street	0	0	0	0	300
9	Newport	0	0	0	0	1
10	Downtown Newark	0	0	0	0	500
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 4 sample data for Hood

Blocks:

bid	bname	sw_lat	sw_lng	ne_lat	ne_Ing	bpopulati
3	45 Christopher Street	0	0	0	0	25
4	49 Delancy Street	0	0	0	0	2
5	Newport Center	0	0	0	0	3
6	Cadman Plaza	0	0	0	0	60
7	Prince Street	0	0	0	0	110
8	Provost Square	0	0	0	0	70
9	First Street	0	0	0	0	80
10	Newark Avenue	0	0	0	0	100
11	Warren Street	0	0	0	0	10
NULL	NOLL	NULL	NULL	HULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 5 sample data for Blocks

Location:

bid	hid	cid
3	1	1
7	5	1
4	6	1
6	7	1
8	8	3
9	8	3
10	8	3
11	8	3
5	9	3
NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 6 sample data for Location

Membership:

uid	bid	approval_count
1	4	1
2	3	3
3	2	3
4	1	2
5	5	0
6	4	0
7	1	0
8	7	3
9	7	3
10	8	3
11	8	3
NULL	NULL	NULL

Figure 7 sample data for Membership

Friendship:

followee	ftimestamp	fstatus
8	2017-09-21 20:24:00	accepted
1	2018-03-07 20:24:00	accepted
2	2018-06-07 20:24:00	accepted
3	2018-03-09 20:24:00	accepted
4	2018-08-07 20:24:00	accepted
5	2018-12-07 20:24:00	accepted
6	2018-03-01 20:24:00	accepted
7	2018-04-08 20:24:00	accepted
8	2018-10-10 20:24:00	rejected
10	2018-11-03 20:24:00	pending
NULL	NULL	NULL
	8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10	1 2018-03-07 20:24:00 2 2018-06-07 20:24:00 3 2018-03-09 20:24:00 4 2018-08-07 20:24:00 5 2018-12-07 20:24:00 6 2018-03-01 20:24:00 7 2018-04-08 20:24:00 8 2018-10-10 20:24:00 10 2018-11-03 20:24:00

Figure 8 sample data for Friendship

Neighboring:

initiator	acceptor	ntimestamp
11	1	2018-03-07 20:24:00
11	2	2018-06-07 20:24:00
11	3	2018-03-09 20:24:00
11	4	2018-08-07 20:24:00
11	5	2018-04-08 20:24:00
11	6	2018-10-10 20:24:00
11	10	2018-11-03 20:24:00
6	11	2018-03-01 20:24:00
5	11	2018-12-07 20:24:00
3	8	2017-09-21 20:24:00
2	3	2019-07-07 20:24:00
NULL	HULL	NULL

Figure 9 sample data for Neighboring

Message:

mid	author	title	content	mtimestamp	visibility	receiver	lat	Ing
3	10	Brain problem	My right brain has noting left.	2018-03-02 20:00:00	block	NULL	1.2	1.2
4	10	Brain problem	My left brain has nothing right	2018-03-03 20:00:00	block	NULL	1.1	1.1
5	11	Pokemon go fans	Anyone found a pikachu near the new Xmas tree?	2019-11-29 16:00:01	friend	NULL	1.1	1.1
6	11	Hitchhicker for Woodbury shopping	Hi Cami! One spare spot to Woodbury on Friday	2019-11-20 01:40:49	direct	5	1.1	1.1
7	1	FFVII Remake is coming	Yo, bro! Final Fantasy VII Remake is coming ne	2019-08-20 01:40:33	direct	11	NULL	NULL
8	5	Street Food Festival	Chilli Daddy has the best noodle soup for you!	2018-01-02 20:00:00	block	NULL	1.1	1.1
9	5	AD: Free cake	Free cake give away at the Plaza	2018-01-02 20:00:01	block	NULL	1.1	1.1
10	5	Street Food Festival Again	Chilli Daddy has the best noodle soup for you!	2018-01-02 21:00:00	friend	NULL	1.1	1.1
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL
						*		

Figure 10 sample data for Message

Reply:

rid	mid	author	content	rtimestamp
3	1	10	Sorry to hear that.	2018-03-03 21:00:00
4	7	11	Gotta buy a PS4 for gaming!	2019-08-20 10:41:33
5	6	6	I wish I could go but I'm working on the databas	2019-11-21 00:00:49
6	5	5	I got it!	2019-11-29 16:00:05
7	5	3	· ·	2019-11-29 16:00:07
8	3	2	I didn't get it.	2018-03-02 20:20:04
NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL
1				

Figure 11 sample data for Reply

Thread:

uid	mid	tstatus	ttimestamp
3	1	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	2	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	3	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	4	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	5	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	6	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	7	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	8	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
3	9	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	1	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	2	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	3	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	4	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	5	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
5	6	unread	2019-12-04 02:32:36
Thr	ead 1		

Figure 12 sample data for Thread

Function Test

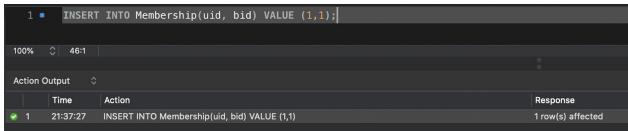
In this part, we test the required function asked in project 1

(1) Account

Sign up:



Become a member of a block:

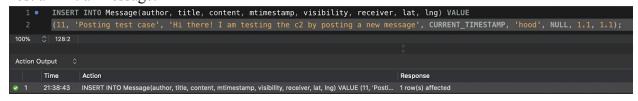


Create or edit profile:



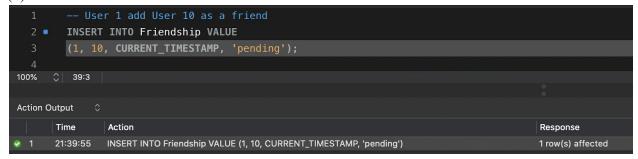
(2) Message

Post an initial message:

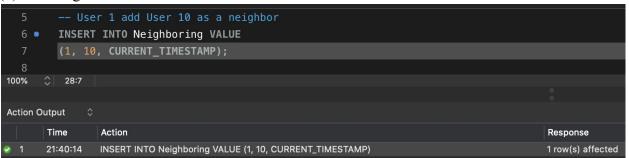


Reply a message:

(3) Add friend:



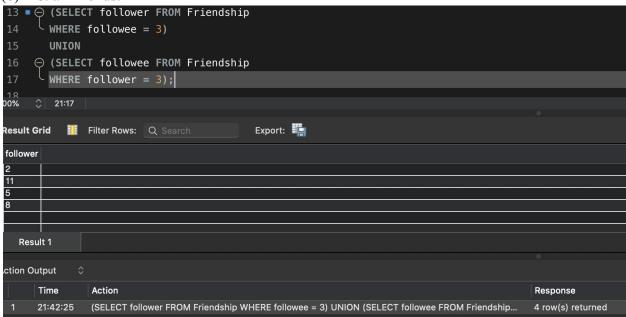
(4) Add neighbor:



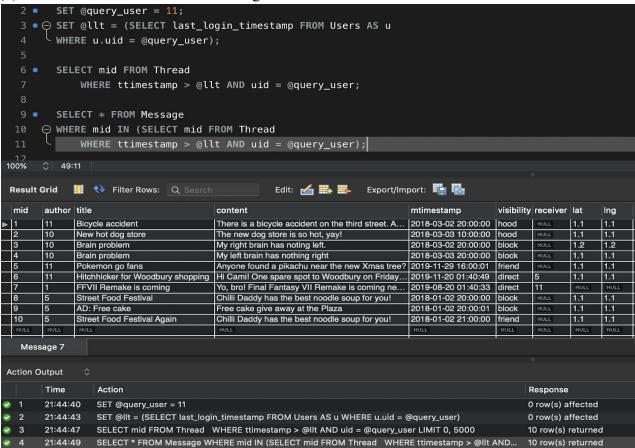
(5) Accept friendship:



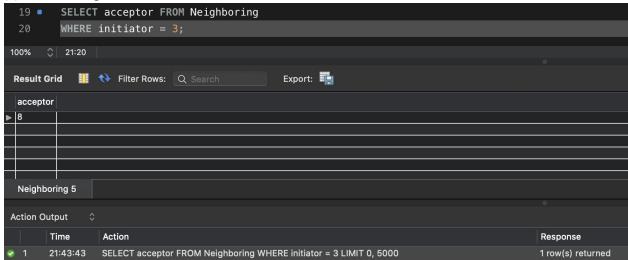
(6) List all friends:



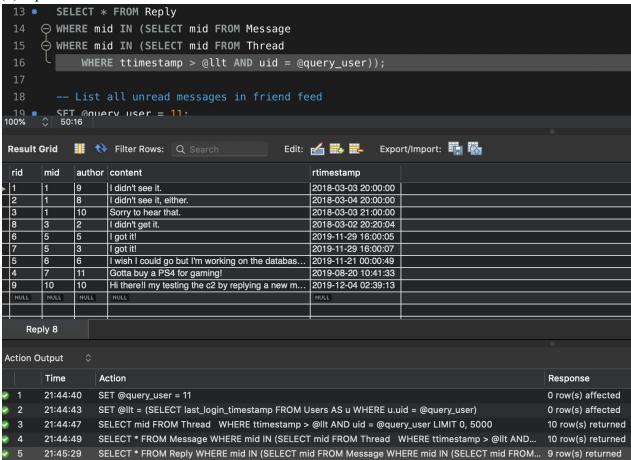
(7) List all threads that have new message since last access:



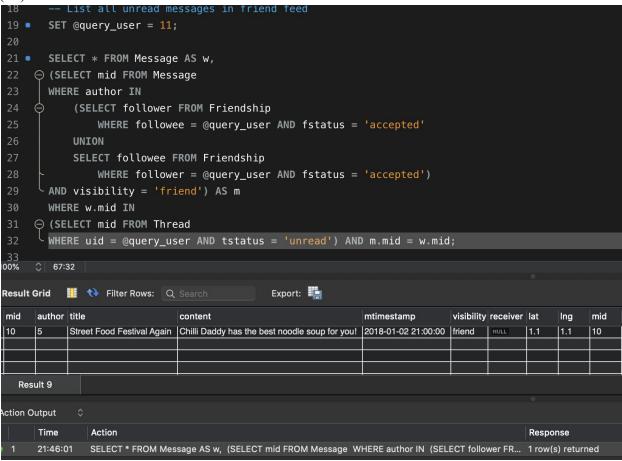
(8) List all neighbor:



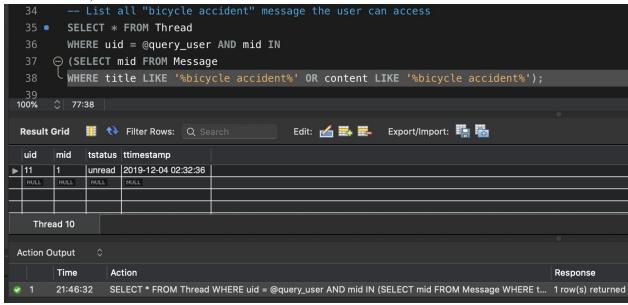
(9) replies:



(10) List all unread thread in friend feed:



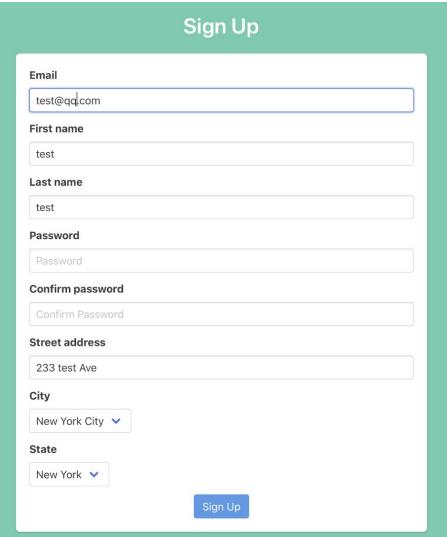
(11) List all "bicycle accident" threads: (we omit the actual message content, just showing thread)



2. Web Application

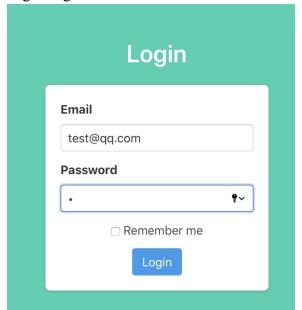
In this part, we design a web-based user interface for the database designed in the first project. We use Python for the web application design, with the help of Flask and SQLAchemy to communicate with the database. The following are examples of how to use this application. (For the installation of the environment, please see README.md in the project folder)

• Creating a New User



Here we are signing up a test user.

• Login Page



After login, a session will be created for the user to grant access until the user logouts.

• Embedded Map



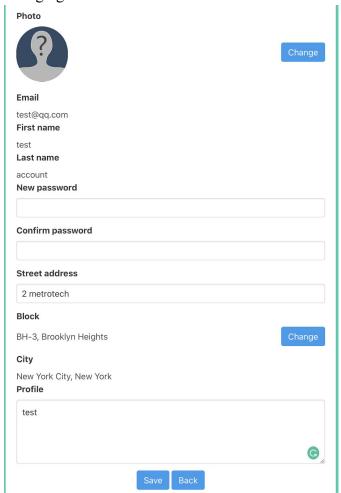
Notifications involving geological data are pinned on the map.

Navigation Banner



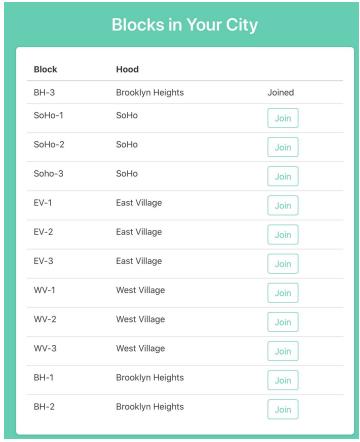
A navigation banner on the top of the page provides a menu for the user to explore the application.

• Changing Account Info

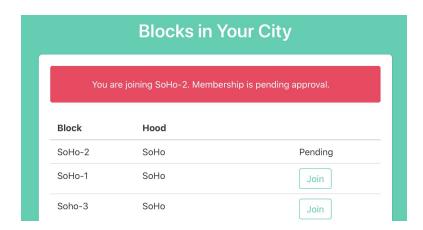


Users can change his/her account information on the Account page.

• Change to another Block or Join a Block

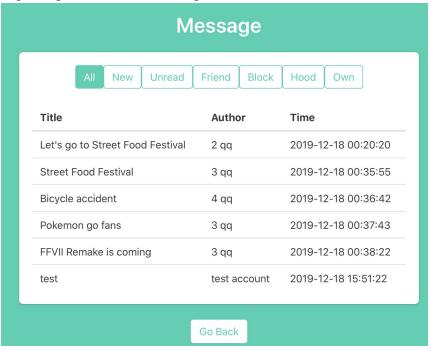


Click the "change block" button on the Account page lead the user to explore a block list in his/her city. The user can apply to join a block here.

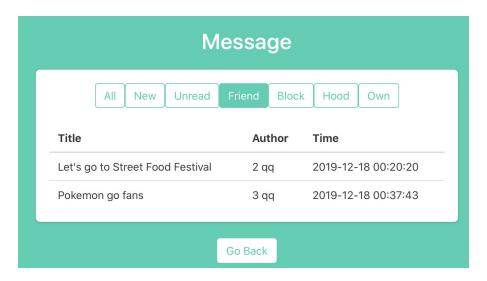


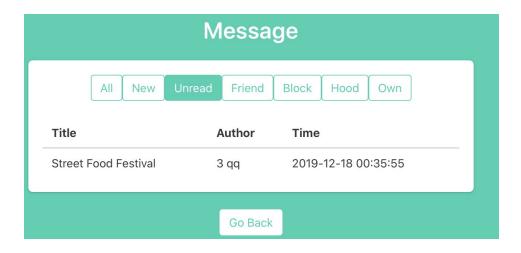
Once a joining application is sent, the membership is pending under approval by existing members in that block. If there the user is the first member in this block, the application will be accepted at once.

• Exploring the Timeline Messages



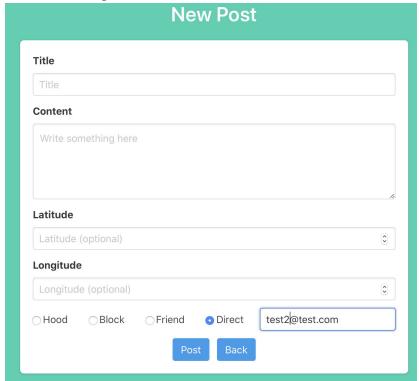
Click Timeline -> View on the navigation to see messages in the user's timeline.





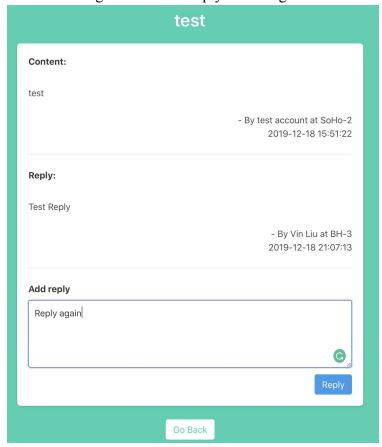
Messages can be categorized into different scopes. Click the tabs to filter the messages. 'New' displays all messages posted after the time when the user last logout. 'Unread' displays all messages have not been read by the user. 'Friend' displays all messages from the user's friends. 'Block' and 'Hood' display messages within the geographical scope. The messages posted by the user will be displayed under the 'Own' tab.

• Create a Message



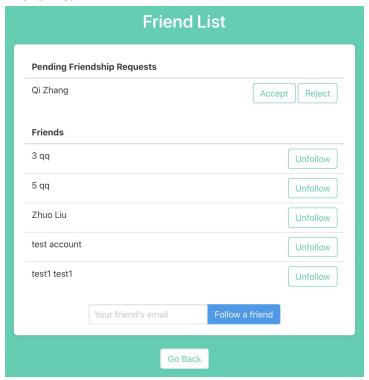
Click Timeline -> Create to compose a new post. The user can choose who can see the post. If the user wants to send a direct message, an email of the recipient user is needed.

• View a Message Detail and Reply a Message

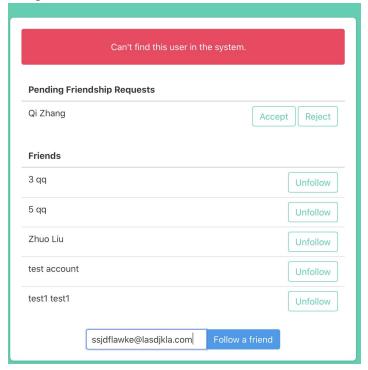


Click the title of any message on the timeline to see the content of the message, along with all existing replies. The user can also reply below the message.

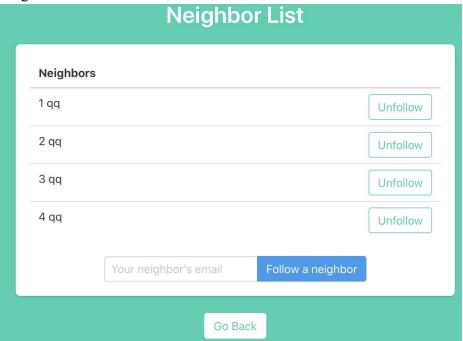
Friend List



Click Follow -> Friend to see a friend list. Pending friendship request is listed on the top in the friend list page. The user can also add a new friend via email. Here we assume that if one user wants to send a friendship request to others, they have to know each other and their email addresses. A friendship request will be sent to the followee. Also, adding an unregistered user is not allowed.

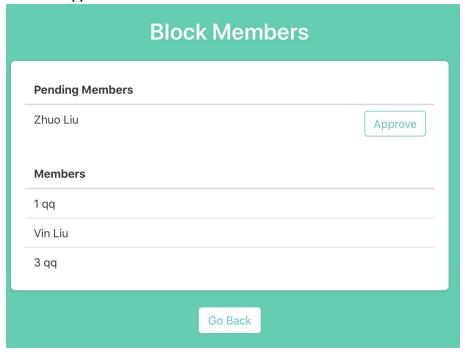


• Neighbor List



Click Follow -> Neighbor to view a neighbor list. Functions are similar to Friend List.

• View or Approve Block Members



Click Follow -> Block Member to view a list of members in the user's block. Pending membership is listed at the top part. The user can approve the pending membership.

3. Addressing Security Concerns

- The SQL injection is prohibited by using flask-sqlalchemy module to handle all queries. We are not writing raw SQL statements to communicate with the database. Any special characters are automatically escaped and quoted by the SQL engine object. Also, the SQL statement is also automatically prepared by SQLalchemy.
- XSS is handled by flask-login module. (https://flask.palletsprojects.com/en/1.0.x/security/)
- All passwords are hashed before storing them into the database.
- The application is divided into Unauth & Auth parts. Any action in the Auth part can only be performed with a valid user session.