

## **Project Proposal**

### **SoloSphere: Travel Solo, Connect Together**

" SoloSphere is a social app for solo travelers to connect, share experiences, and create memories together. "

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CSIS 3375-001 UX Design in Web & Mobile App

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Feb 5, 2025

## **Proposed Application Idea for Prototype**

- **Application Description**

- SoloSphere is designed for individuals who love traveling alone yet desire companionship and shared experiences on the road. The app connects like-minded solo travelers, enabling them to:
  - Find travel companions.
  - Plan trips together.
  - Share experiences through posts and reviews.
  - Access safety features such as real-time location sharing, emergency contacts, and host verification.

- **Novelty**

- Niche Focus: While many travel apps primarily offer limited functionalities such as selling travel products or planning itineraries, SoloSphere targets solo travelers who are eager to build genuine relationships alongside enjoying social networking features.
- Safety-Centric Design: Integrated safety features such as geolocation tracking, in-app emergency alerts, and verified profiles provide extra security for solo adventurers.
- Community-Driven: The app leverages community reviews, meet-ups, and localized events to foster a supportive network, differentiating it from traditional travel planning apps.

- **Transformative Experience for the User**

- SoloSphere transforms the solo travel experience by:
  - Empowering Connection: Allowing travelers to meet new people who share similar interests, reducing feelings of isolation.
  - Enhancing Safety: Providing built-in safety tools that give users peace of mind while exploring unfamiliar destinations.
  - Simplifying Planning: Integrating trip planning, itinerary sharing, and real-time updates within one easy-to-use platform.
  - Building a Community: Creating lasting relationships and memorable shared experiences among solo travelers.

## **Background Research**

- **Market Competitor Apps**

- Travel Buddy: Matches travelers but lacks real-time safety features.
- Couchsurfing Travel: Offers cultural exchange but no structured travel planning.
- Meetup: Organizes events but does not focus on solo travelers.
- Tinder: Location-based matching but lacks safety & travel features.

- **Market Inspiration Apps**

- Airbnb Experiences: Inspires by offering local experiences that foster connection between visitors and locals.

- Meetup: Encourages community gatherings and events, inspiring SoloSphere's community meet-up features.
- Instagram: The visual storytelling element inspires the sharing of travel experiences and user-generated content.

## **PACK Framework**

- **People**

- Primary Users: Solo travelers seeking social connections, travel companions, and safety assurance.
- Secondary Users: Local hosts, travel bloggers, and local businesses (e.g., tour operators) who can provide services or participate in community events.

- **Activity**

- Creating and browsing profiles.
- Planning trips and itineraries.
- Connecting through Chat and Bulletin Boards.
- Sharing photos, reviews, and travel experiences.
- Accessing safety tools (e.g., location sharing, emergency alerts).

- **Context**

- Physical Context: Mobile use in diverse environments—urban, rural, and international travel locations.
- Social Context: Engaging with a global community of like-minded travelers.
- Technological Context: Utilizes GPS, real-time data updates, secure messaging, and social media integration.

- **Technologies Needed**

- Mobile Platform: Designing with Android Material Design Guidelines.
- Prototyping Tool: Figma (for wireframing, UI/UX design, and interactive prototypes).
- Security Considerations in UX: Trust-building UI elements such as password visibility toggles, intuitive authentication UX, and clear error messaging.

### **Value Proposition**

- Based on the PACT framework and the novel aspects of SoloSphere, our value proposition is:

“SoloSphere connects solo travelers through a secure, community-driven app. With safety tools, AI-based travel matching, and trip planning, it ensures a stress-free and enriching solo travel experience.”

### **Project Contract**

- **Team Contract Agreement**

- Meetings: Weekly meetings via Zoom or in-person for updates and planning, with additional sessions as needed.
- Communication: Quick discussions via WhatsApp; detailed discussions through email. All project files will be managed on GitHub.
- Work Distribution: Tasks are assigned based on the project timeline, with regular updates, progress reports, and feedback sharing.
- *Agreement: All team members commit to these terms for a smooth and successful collaboration.*

## **Preliminary List of Features**

- **User Profiles & Registration:** Secure signup with profile customization and identity verification.
- **Trip Planning:** Create itineraries, get AI-based destination suggestions, and schedule activities with travel companions.
- **Social Feed:** Share updates, post experiences, upload photos, and review destinations.
- **Safety Features:** Emergency button, real-time location sharing, verified profiles, and AI-powered safety tips.
- **Community Meet-Ups:** Join local events, plan group meet-ups, and connect with nearby solo travelers.
- **In-App Messaging:** Secure, encrypted direct and group chats for easy communication.

## Work Date/Hours Logs

- **Avneet Kaur**

Date	Number of Hours	Description of work done
Jan 25, 2025	2	Searching for project idea and finalize
Jan 30, 2025	1	An idea confirmation meeting
Jan 31, 2025	1.5	Review GitHub repo
Feb 4, 2025	2	tried making changes to the README document, but I wasn't able to. Then, I asked Dan for help
Feb 5, 2025	1	Finalize proposal document

- **Dan Do**

Date	Number of Hours	Description of work done
Jan 24, 2025	3	Project Idea Initiative
Jan 30, 2025	1	An idea confirmation meeting
Jan 30, 2025	2	Create GitHub repo
Jan 30, 2025	0.5	Update README file
Fab 1, 2025	6	Write Project Proposal draft version
Feb 5, 2025	1	Finalize proposal document

- **Shubham Shubham**

Date	Number of Hours	Description of work done
Jan 30, 2025	1	An idea confirmation meeting
Feb 2, 2025	1.5	Refined background research, expanded competitor analysis
Feb 3, 2025	1.5	Improved "Technologies Needed" section, added Figma
Feb 3, 2025	0.5	Enhanced value proposition and preliminary features list
Feb 3, 2025	0.5	Formatting of Word Document
Feb 5, 2025	1	Finalize proposal document

## **Closing and References**

- **References**

- Travel Buddy: <https://beatravelbuddy.com/>
- Couchsurfing Travel: <https://www.couchsurfing.com/>
- Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/>
- Tinder: <https://www.dating.com/>
- Airbnb: <https://www.airbnb.ca/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/>