**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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**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: Primarily supports the Indian region by matching solo travelers with travel companions.
  + Couchsurfing Travel: Focuses on cultural exchange and free accommodations but lacks dedicated safety features.
  + Meetup: A platform for organizing and attending local events that fosters community connections, though it is not tailored specifically for solo travel or integrated safety features.
  + Tinder: A dating app that connects people based on mutual interests and location, but its focus on dating means it lacks features for travel planning and dedicated safety measures for solo travelers.
* **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 Platforms: iOS and Android compatibility
  + Backend Infrastructure: Cloud-based servers for data storage and processing
  + Security Tools: GPS tracking, secure authentication (e.g., OAuth), and data encryption

**Value Proposition**

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

“ SoloSphere empowers independent travelers to safely connect, share experiences, and collaborate on travel adventures—all within an intuitive, community-driven app designed specifically for solo journeys. By combining robust safety features with community support and seamless trip planning tools, SoloSphere transforms solo travel into a secure, engaging, and enriching experience.”

**Project Contract**

* **Team Contract Agreement**
  + Meetings**:** The team will hold one meeting per week, either via Zoom or in-person, for progress updates and planning. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.
  + Communication: For brief exchanges and quick opinions, we will use WhatsApp. For discussions requiring detailed consideration, we will communicate via email. All deliverables and project materials will be managed through GitHub.
  + Work Distribution: Each team member has clear duties aligned with the project timeline, consistently sharing updates, progress reports, and offering feedback
  + *All team members hereby agree to abide by the above terms to ensure a collaborative and successful project outcome.*

**Preliminary List of Features**

* User Registration and Profile Creation: Secure signup, profile customization, and traveler verification.
* Trip Planning Module: Collaborative itinerary creation, destination suggestions, and activity scheduling.
* Social Feed: Real-time updates, travel story sharing, photo uploads, and reviews.
* Safety Features: In-app emergency button, real-time location sharing with trusted contacts, and safety tips.
* Community Meet-Up Events: Local event scheduling and group meet-up planning.
* In-App Messaging: Secure, instant messaging and group chat functionality.

**Work Date/Hours Logs**

* **Avneet Kaur**

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| **Date** | **Number of Hours** | **Description of work done** |
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* **Dan Do**

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| **Date** | **Number of Hours** | **Description of work done** |
| Jan 24, 2025 | 3 | Project Idea Initiative |
| Jan 30, 2025 | 2 | Create GitHub repo |
| Jan 30, 2025 | 0.5 | Update README file |
| Fab 1, 2025 | 6 | Write Project Proposal draft version |

* **Shubham Shubham**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Number of Hours** | **Description of work done** |
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**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.airbnb.ca/