

SafeCircle

SafeCircle is a personal safety app designed for youth and young adults, offering emergency alerts to both your safety circle and everyone within a 2 km radius. It features customizable alerts, location sharing, and Event Circles for staying connected during events, all for free. SafeCircle addresses the need for accessible safety solutions, making it unique and user-friendly.

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Context of use: Education
Level of education: Bachelor

Technology Impact Cycle Tool

SafeCircle

Impact on society

What impact is expected from your technology?

This category is only partial filled.

What is exactly the problem? Is it really a problem? Are you sure?

The problem that SafeCircle addresses is the increasing sense of insecurity among youth and young adults, particularly in public spaces or while going out. According to a 2023 study mentioned, 4 out of 5 Belgians between 18 and 40 feel unsafe in such situations, highlighting a significant need for solutions that can enhance personal safety.

Are you sure that this technology is solving the RIGHT problem?

This question has not been answered yet.

How is this technology going to solve the problem?

This question has not been answered yet.

What negative effects do you expect from this technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

In what way is this technology contributing to a world you want to live in?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this technology on society (by filling out the questions above), what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Hateful and criminal actors

What can bad actors do with your technology?

This category is only partial filled.

In which way can the technology be used to break the law or avoid the consequences of breaking the law?

Access to personal data (E.g location data...).

Can fakers, thieves or scammers abuse the technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

Can the technology be used against certain (ethnic) groups or (social) classes?

This question has not been answered yet.

In which way can bad actors use this technology to pit certain groups against each other? These groups can be, but are not constrained to, ethnic, social, political or religious groups.

This question has not been answered yet.

How could bad actors use this technology to subvert or attack the truth?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about how bad actors can impact this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Privacy

Are you considering the privacy & personal data of the users of your technology?

This category is only partial filled.

Does the technology register personal data? If yes, what personal data?

Yes, date of birth, name, email, phonenumber and children.

Do you think the technology invades the privacy of the stakeholders? If yes, in what way?

This question has not been answered yet.

Is the technology is compliant with prevailing privacy and data protection law? Can you indicate why?

This question has not been answered yet.

Does the technology mitigate privacy and data protection risks/ concerns (privacy by design)? Please indicate how.

This question has not been answered yet.

In which way can you imagine a future impact of the collection of personal data?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about privacy and data protection, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Human values

How does the technology affect your human values?

This category is only partial filled.

How is the identity of the (intended) users affected by the technology?

SafeCircle empowers users to feel more secure and proactive about safety, fostering a sense of community and responsibility. It enhances their identity as vigilant and connected individuals but could also highlight vulnerabilities, potentially leading to some stigma. Overall, it promotes self-reliance and mutual support.

How does the technology influence the users' autonomy?

This question has not been answered yet.

What is the effect of the technology on the health and/or well-being of users?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of your technology on human values, what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Stakeholders

Have you considered all stakeholders?

This category is only partial filled.

Who are the main users/targetgroups/stakeholders for this technology? Think about the intended context by answering these questions.

Name of the stakeholder

Youth/young adults

How is this stakeholder affected?

-

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

No

Name of the stakeholder

Trustes contacts (family, friends)

How is this stakeholder affected?

-

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

No

Name of the stakeholder

Event organizers

How is this stakeholder affected?

-

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

No

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Name of the stakeholder

Administrator

How is this stakeholder affected?

-

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

No

Did you consider all stakeholders, even the ones that might not be a user or target group, but still might be of interest?

-

Now that you have thought hard about all stakeholders, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Data

Is data in your technology properly used?

This category is only partial filled.

Are you familiar with the fundamental shortcomings and pitfalls of data and do you take this sufficiently into account in the technology?

Unauthorized access to personal data, Multiple account creation ,False alarms, Responsibility for incorrect or delayed assistance, Abuse of power within Cirlces, Scalability of notifications

How does the technology organize continuous improvement when it comes to the use of data?

This question has not been answered yet.

How will the technology keep the insights that it identifies with data sustainable over time?

This question has not been answered yet.

In what way do you consider the fact that data is collected from the users?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of data on this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Inclusivity

Is your technology fair for everyone?

This category is only partial filled.

Will everyone have access to the technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

Does this technology have a built-in bias?

SafeCircle may have built-in biases, such as excluding users without smartphones or internet, favoring cultures comfortable with location sharing, and relying on active community participation, which may vary by region. It could also lead to over-reliance on technology or inequities if future algorithms prioritize certain alerts. Inclusive design and testing can help mitigate these biases.

Does this technology make automatic decisions and how do you account for them?

This question has not been answered yet.

Is everyone benefitting from the technology or only a a small group? Do you see this as a problem? Why/why not?

This question has not been answered yet.

Does the team that creates the technology represent the diversity of our society?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the inclusivity of the technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Transparency

Are you transparent about how your technology works?

This category is only partial filled.

Is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the technology works and how the business model works?

Users and stakeholders are informed about how SafeCircle works. The app provides clear explanations of its features, privacy measures, and business model, ensuring transparency about funding sources and data usage. This fosters trust and confidence in the technology.

If the technology makes an (algorithmic) decision, is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the decision was reached?

This question has not been answered yet.

Is it possible to file a complaint or ask questions/get answers about this technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

Is the technology (company) clear about possible negative consequences or shortcomings of the technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the transparency of this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Sustainability

Is your technology environmentally sustainable?

This category is only partial filled.

In what way is the direct and indirect energy use of this technology taken into account?

The direct energy use of SafeCircle includes cloud services for data storage and notifications, as well as power consumption from users' devices. Indirect energy use comes from app development, maintenance, and the devices of users receiving alerts. Optimizing features like location tracking and notifications can help reduce energy consumption.

Do you think alternative materials could have been considered in the technology?

This question has not been answered yet.

Do you think the lifespan of the technology is realistic?

This question has not been answered yet.

What is the hidden impact of the technology in the whole chain?

This question has not been answered yet.

Now that you have thought hard about the sustainability of this technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.

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Future

Did you consider future impact?

This category is only partial filled.

What could possibly happen with this technology in the future?

In the future, SafeCircle could integrate with emergency services, use AI for faster responses, expand its user base, add features like automatic hazard detection, and potentially expand globally. Monetization options, like premium features, could also emerge to support growth.

Sketch a or some future scenario (s) (20-50 years up front) regarding the technology with the help of storytelling. Start with at least one utopian scenario.

This question has not been answered yet.

Sketch a or some future scenario (s) (20-50 years up front) regarding the technology with the help of storytelling. Start with at least one dystopian scenario.

This question has not been answered yet.

Would you like to live in one of this scenario's? Why? Why not?

This question has not been answered yet.

What happens if the technology (which you have thought of as ethically well-considered) is bought or taken over by another party?

This question has not been answered yet.

Impact Improvement: Now that you have thought hard about the future impact of the technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

This question has not been answered yet.