

StudentCo

It is an application that allows students from all over Brussels to have contact with each other. In this app students can post questions on a forum and get answers. Also they can put things like summaries etc.

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Context of use: Education
Level of education: Bachelor

Technology Impact Cycle Tool

StudentCo

Impact on society

What impact is expected from your technology?

This category has not been filled yet.

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Hateful and criminal actors

What can bad actors do with your technology?

This category has not been filled yet.

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Privacy

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

This category has not been filled yet.

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Human values

How does the technology affect your human values?

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

This technology can be used for advertising ones own school. If not moderated properly, student's view of their own school or other schools can change.

How does the technology influence the users' autonomy?

The technology surely can make users make more accurate (if not better) choices. But this can only be if the app is uses by multiple students. Although a student's autonomy is not affected, it is possible to begin to depend on for example the summaries posted on it.

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

Since this is not meant to be a really social media, I don't think it will have any meaningful impact on student's heath or well-being.

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.

The most important thing we should add is a way to moderate what is posted. This in order to limit hatespeach and the spread of misinformation.

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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

Students studying in Brussels

How is this stakeholder affected?

Their student life might just become a little more pleasant.

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

Yes

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

Name of the stakeholder

Teachers of schools in Brussels

How is this stakeholder affected?

Their students will have another way to spread information. This might make their job easier or more efficient.

Did you consult the stakeholder?

No

Are you going to take this stakeholder into account?

No

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?

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

I am familiar enough with the shortcomings of data. But since this is not a product meant to publish for public use, we didn't pay much attention to it.

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

Our main concern with data lies on how long we will be keeping it. While making this application, we will need to consider that.

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

As mentioned before, this is one of our greatest concerns with our application. This especially since we will be using Firebase, which is owned by Google. And since Google is an America situated company, they have no obligation of following our laws as for example GDPR.

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

As far as we know right now, we are not planning on selling user information in any way.

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

The most important change we have to make is the period in which we keep user information. We need a set relative time to delete all information, and make it so that the users can also do this when they want to.

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Inclusivity

Is your technology fair for everyone?

This category has not been filled yet.

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Transparency

Are you transparent about how your technology works?

This category has not been filled yet.

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Sustainability

Is your technology environmentally sustainable?

This category has not been filled 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?

Not being used or having been shut down, because of misuse and improper moderation.

On the other hand, it could also flourish to something beautiful and essential.

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.

The app seems to be extremely welcomed by the students. All security and privacy related matters are well accounted for. Teachers and school start recognizing the importance of our product and offer investments. We accept the money after making the most humane possible agreements and contracts. We all become rich.

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.

Privacy has always been an enormous concern with this product. Students get information about other students and they exploit it. The app is scheduled to be shut down permanently after a gruesome assault on a student because they wanted to change to another school that is seen as a rival school to the student's current one.

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

The first one of course. I'd like to be rich.

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

I hope they keep it ethical. I hope I only sold it after I made sure their intent is and will stay ethical.

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.