Pocket Buddy

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The Problem

Self-diagnosis is becoming an increasingly popular trend among internet users who do not have the time or the insurance policy to consult a psychologist.

This has led to a multitude of millennials diagnosing themselves with extreme mental disorders such as Bipolar Disorder or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder without ever having consulted a professional, and living their lives accordingly.

Parties Involved

- Persons interested in getting basic, pre-diagnostic information and feedback from a more knowledgeable party for free and with as little hassle as possible

- Psychology graduate students interested in gaining experience in giving consultations and building their resume.

Enter Pocket Buddy

Pocket Buddy is a way for both of the aforementioned parties to communicate with each other through a text-based chat system.

For the client, consultation is completely free and anonymous.

Consultants have persistent accounts which statistics based on client feedback, which they can cite on their resume and use to improve upon their skills.

Pocket Buddy's Humanitarian Principles

Self-reflection

- Consulting with a qualified party on the status of one's mental health engages the client to reflect on his/herself
- Consultants are able to reflect on the feedback of their clients through the reputation system to improve their abilities.

Humanitarian Principles (cont.)

Integrity

- Pocket Buddy facilitates the ability of participating consultants to gather a reputation through providing a service to the best of their ability
- It also enables clients to seek out help rather than bypass it through self-diagnosis.

Humanitarian Principles (cont.)

Empathy

- Empathy is a crucial skill to be honed as a psychologist, and Pocket Buddy enables consultants to get hands on experience empathizing with a person rather than reading case studies.

Reaching Out to Users

Ideally, to build up a userbase (after resolving the licensing, liability, and privacy legalese), we would pitch the idea to professors around ASU (and later other universities) to recruit grad students interested in participating as consultants. After finding a group of consultants, we would send out newsletters, post fliers, and get in contact with ASU's Health and Wellness administrators to spread the word about the availability of the app.

Associated Costs

The chat server utilized by the app is built to be lightweight and highly scalable. It can potentially support a 1000 users on a machine which costs $5 per month to rent. It is also feasible to implement the system on the Heroku app engine for free hosting while the system supports a few hundred users. Overall, the costs associated with maintaining Pocket Buddy are incredibly cheap.

Revenue?

Since Pocket Buddy is intended to be provided free of charge, the only foreseeable sources of revenue it could accrue are through donations or in-app advertisements.

Luckily, the costs of hosting are almost negligible, and the architecture of the server could be further scaled down in the future to further reduce the associated costs.

Pocket *Buddy*

Enter Chat

User License Agreement

☐ I agree to the End User License Agreement

Enter Chat

User License Agreement

☐ I agree to the End User License Agreement

You must agree to the EULA.

License Agreement

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aliquam faucibus volutpat tellus in lobortis. Pellentesque rutrum lorem ex, aliquet porttitor tellus ultricies ut. Curabitur iaculis metus sit amet magna mattis, id faucibus ex ornare. Etiam ac sodales metus. Vivamus venenatis convallis maximus. Cras ullamcorper risus ac condimentum lobortis. Donec imperdiet malesuada malesuada. Integer eu sagittis purus. Ut porttitor dui ac gravida pellentesque. Aliquam quis hendrerit nibh.

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Okay

Enter Chat

User License Agreement

☑ I agree to the End User License Agreement
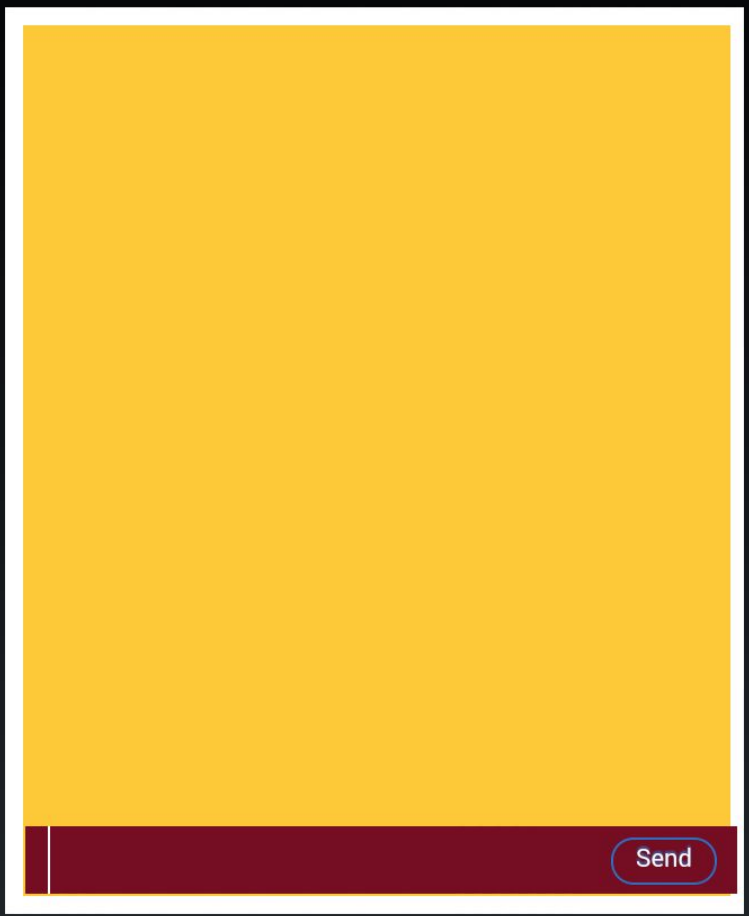
Please type in your nickname.

Submit

I'm done!

Please type in your nickname.

User

Submit

I'm done!

Send

I'm done!

Consultant connected

Send

I'm done!

Pb Chat

Consultant connected

me Hello.

Send

I'm done!

Consultant connected

me Hello.

Consultant Hi! How may I help you?

me I think I have a mental problem but I am not able to pay for professional consultation.

Send

I'm done!

Helpfulness

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Knowledgeability about subject

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Sensitivity

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Expediency

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Empathy

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Relatability

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Knowledgeability about subject

★ ★ ★ ★ ⯪

Sensitivity

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Expediency

★ ★ ★ ⯪ ☆

Empathy

★ ★ ★ ⯪ ☆

Relatability

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Submit Rating

Expediency

Empathy

Relatability

Pb Pocket Buddy

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Thank you for the honest review.

What lies in store

This is obviously an early prototype. We plan to implement:

- Consultant accounts and authentication
- Consultant rankings and review records
- Summary of accounts served and average ratings
- Simple statistics tracking
- Web client, iOS client

Thank You!

To Scott Grey for logo design and Ravi for the chat server backbone.

To all the mentors and facilitators who helped us come so far!

To all the volunteers that made this Hackathon possible!