



Realtime Information Exchange during a disaster with DisasterChat

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Introduction/Background



- ▶ The emergencies that occur due to a natural disaster are all rooted in a lack of information of the current situation.
- ▶ Had the citizens been warned ahead of time of the severity and type of disaster that would affect them later, precautions could have been taken to survive this disaster in the best conditions.
- ▶ While news channels can provide info at the moment, they are not localized to neighborhoods, so many things may be missed by them

Our Solution

- ▶ DisasterChat is an app inspired by WhatsApp's real-time communication and Waze's live traffic map
- ▶ DisasterChat will have a feature similar to Waze's live traffic map that will use the feedback of locals in the area to keep users informed
- ▶ DisasterChat will also maintain communication between locals and safety teams

Objective

- ▶ The objective of DisasterChat is to provide local information to citizens affected by a natural disaster.
- ▶ While news channels and services such as Amber Alerts help alert citizens, it is not specialized for them
- ▶ DisasterChat uses the citizen's personal info to give them the information they need during a natural disaster
- ▶ Because we are not installing any structures for our app, we have decided to beta test DisasterChat across the country so that we can have a bigger sample size that can test the versatility of the app

Design

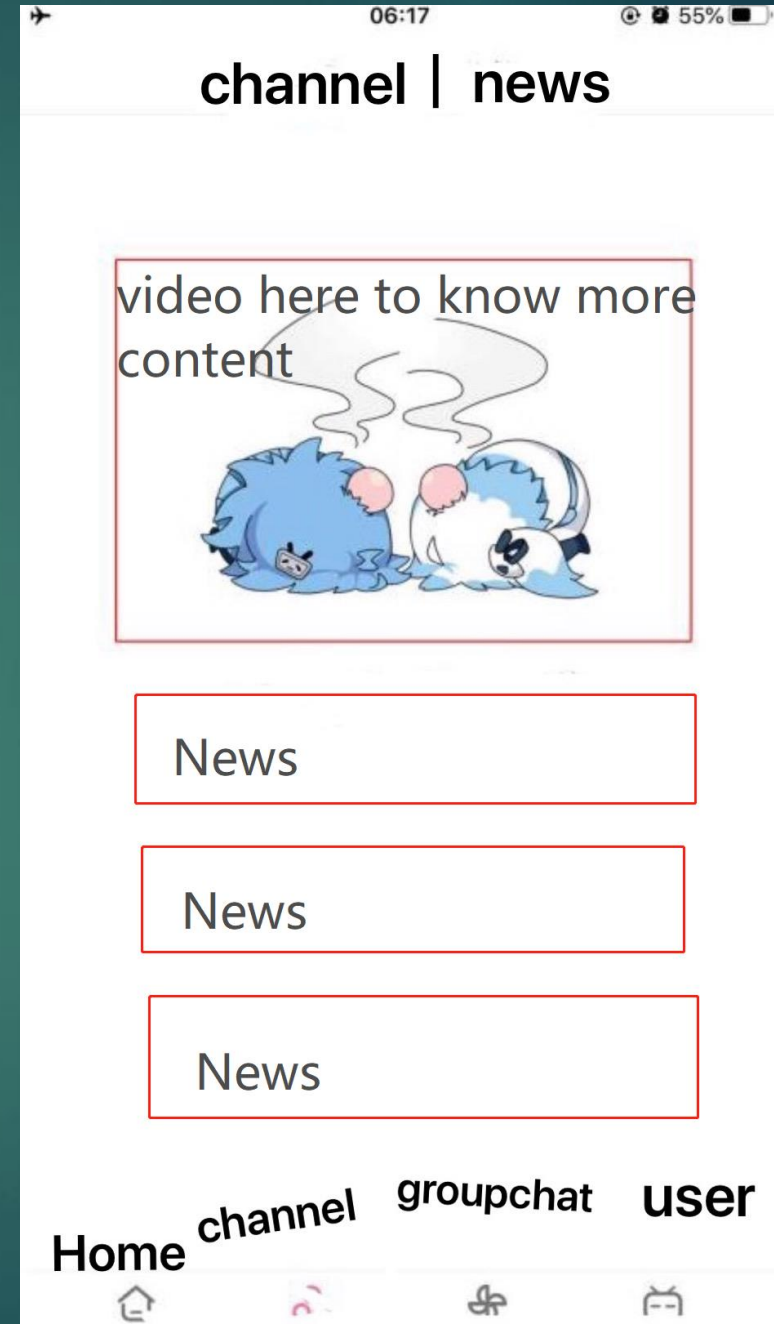
For the applications we will design, we will work with local information departments and news departments to ensure that we can get relevant local information out to local users in the first place.

-The Home button returns you to the home page, which will contain a guide to what people can do in the event of a natural disaster, and some evacuation sites and navigation maps

-The channel button is a selection of local news, updated as quickly as possible.

-The GroupChat button allows you to connect with other users of the app, with more groups divided by interests.

-The user button sets your personal information and region to better deliver important information to the user's phone at the first time.



Schedule

Date	Objective
5/20/2021	Finish version Alpha with the major components
7/10/2021	Meet with local news representatives to discuss implementing them as a service.
7/20/2021	Implement all services
7/30/2021	Work on simplifying and fixing any bugs that the app may have
8/10/2021	Work on fitting the app to different screen sizes
8/25/2021	Find 50 beta testers to test the app
9/16/2021	Work on fixing any bugs that were found in the first weeks of the beta
9/30/2021	Update the UI to look much more refined and work smoother
10/9/2021	Submit the app to the app store and google play store so that the first app version is available to the public

Budget

Description and number	Projected Cost
UI Designer (2 people)	\$70,000 - \$100,000
Mobile Application Developers (3 people)	\$60,000 - \$80,000
iOS Developer (1 person)	\$70,000 - \$80,000
Tech Project Manager (1 person)	\$100,000 - \$110,000
Total	Projected Total Cost
7 people	\$330,000

Conclusion

- ▶ Communication and the distribution of information is key towards recovery from a situation such as a natural disaster
- ▶ Our app seeks to fix that using technology that most people are familiar with, and utilizing it in a natural disaster situation
- ▶ DisasterChat seeks to keep citizens safe, connected, and informed
- ▶ For more info: contact us at **disasterchat@gmail.com**

References

- ▶ *Basics: Mobile App Architecture & How To Start Building One*. (2019, October 2). Intellectsoft Blog.
<https://www.intellectsoft.net/blog/mobile-app-architecture/>
- ▶ Yang, S. (2020, March 20). *How To: Build A Communication App With Chat And Video Calling In Android*. Agora.
<https://www.agora.io/en/blog/build-app-with-chat-and-video-calling-android>