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Chat Application Using Positioning System

Lokesh Keshri, Parkhy Swami, Megha Rawat, Vishal Kaushik, Abha Sharma
Department of Information Technology
Inderprastha Engineering College, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

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***Abstract*- Location-based chat applications have become increasingly popular for connecting individuals who share similar interests and lifestyles. This paper proposes a novel location-based chat application that utilizes radar-like detection to connect users in close proximity. The application aims to provide a unique and exciting way for users to socialize and engage with one another. The proposed model comprises several key components, including a user interface that displays the locations of nearby users, geolocation to track users' locations, chat functionality, a matching algorithm, security measures, server-side development, and testing. While the application offers significant potential benefits, it also presents several potential vulnerabilities, such as privacy concerns, spoofing, malware, and data breaches, impersonation, lack of user control, and inaccurate location data. To ensure user safety and privacy, appropriate security measures must be implemented during the design and development of the application. With proper attention to these issues, a location-based chat application that uses radar-like detection can offer a valuable and exciting tool for social interaction.**

***Keywords* – Chat Application, GPS, Real Time Positioning System (RTPS), Geo-fencing, Location Based Services**

I. INTRODUCTION

Location-based chat applications have gained immense popularity in recent years, providing a new way for people to connect with each other based on their physical proximity. These applications leverage mobile devices' built-in geolocation capabilities and allow users to find and chat with nearby individuals, fostering new relationships and social connections.

The use of location-based services in chat applications presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities, from designing intuitive user interfaces that incorporate real-time location data to ensuring that user privacy and security are adequately protected. Moreover, these applications must also employ sophisticated algorithms to match users based on factors such as their interests, age, and gender.This research paper aims to explore the design and development of a location-based chat application that enables users to connect with nearby individuals and chat with them. The paper outlines the proposed model for the application, which includes a user interface, geolocation functionality, chat features, matching algorithms, security measures, server-side development, and testing.

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Corresponding Author: Lokesh Keshri
(e-mail: keshri.lokesh0209@gmail.com).

The research paper also aims to highlight the potential impact of location-based chat applications on social interactions and user behavior. By examining the benefits and challenges associated with these applications, this research paper aims to provide insights into how such services can be designed and optimized to promote meaningful social connections while ensuring user privacy and security.

II. MOBILE CHAT APPLICATIONS

A) WhatsApp:

WhatsApp is a free messaging app for Android and IOS devices. WhatsApp enables users to send text, images, videos, and audio messages to one another via the internet. With over one billion users on all platforms, it has become one of the most widely used messaging applications, and has recently implemented end-to-end encryptions for all its users [6]. It also offers end-to end encryption for private conversations, so messages stay secure and cannot be intercepted. With over one billion users, WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging applications in the world. In

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order to ensure the security of its users, the platform recently incorporated end-to-end encryption, made possible thanks to Open Whisper Systems' security protocol. This protocol allows users to check the security of their conversations by sharing a verification code. It can be challenging to have complete confidence in the WhatsApp application because it is not an open-source platform, making it harder to verify its functionality and compare it to the claimed operation of the encryption protocol [2].

The app uses the same internet data plan as other services such as email and web browsing, allowing users to stay connected with friends and family for free. Users can also create group chats and send photos, videos, and voice messages. The app also allows users to make voice and video calls over the internet, as well as make use of end-to-end encryption to ensure privacy.

Figure.1:- Chat on WhatsApp

B) Facebook Messenger:

Facebook Messenger is a popular messaging service available for Android and Ios [2]. It has an integrated Facebook platform window, allowing users to easily connect with each other while using the site. This feature also has a variety of functions, including setting status messages, creating polls, and disabling chat for specific contacts. Users can also access the same functionality on mobile devices by accessing the Facebook Messenger app for smartphones. Using this feature, users can send messages, photos, videos, recordings, emoji and stickers to their friends. Additionally, users can initiate and join group conversations. Facebook users can choose whether or not to use end-to end encryption. Standard messages are protected by TLS (Transport Layer Security) encryption. Facebook's "Secret Chats" feature provides end to end encryption for text messages and scans all images sent for child abuse. If such images are found, they will get removed and reported immediately.

Figure.2:- Working of Facebook Messenger

C) Telegram:

Telegram is a cloud-based messaging, voice, and video calling application designed for both mobile and desktop devices. It is a popular communication tool that offers a secure and reliable way for users to stay connected with friends, family, and colleagues. With end-to-end encryption of all conversations, Telegram is considered one of the most secure messaging apps available. Additionally, its user-friendly interface enables fast and easy communication between users, making it an ideal choice for anyone looking to stay in touch quickly and securely.

Telegram is an open-source texting administration that empowers clients to send messages, photographs, recordings, stickers and documents.[6] Telegram is free and open source and is used by millions of people around the world. It is a great way to stay in touch with family and friends, as well as to communicate with colleagues and customers.

D) Viber:

Viber is an instant messaging and Voice over IP (VoIP) program created by Viber Media. It allows users to send messages, images, videos, and audio media. Viber recently enabled its end – to - end encryption feature for one-to-one and group conversations using the Viber version 6.0 for Android, iOS or Windows 10. However,

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Figure.3:- Telegram Icon

attachments such as images and videos sent via the iOS Share Extension do not support the encryption feature [2]. There are some privacy issues with Viber such as adding a friend without their knowledge or adding them to a group without permission. Furthermore, local storage is not secure and since Viber is not open source, it is difficult to evaluate its security. Viber is a cross-platform app, meaning it can be used on any device that supports the app, regardless of operating system. It also has a desktop version, which allows users to make calls and send messages from their computers. Viber offers a wide range of features, including free text messages and calls, group chats, encrypted messaging, stickers, voice and video calling, and more. Viber has security issues, for example, adding a companion without his insight or adding him to a gathering without his authorization [2,5].

E) WeChat:

WeChat is a messaging, social media and mobile payment app developed by Tencent. Since its release in 2011, it has become one of the most popular mobile apps in the world, with over 1 billion monthly active users (902 million daily active users) by 2018. It offers a range of services, from text messaging and voice/video calls to sharing images, documents, and location. WeChat also provides services such as mobile payments, ride hailing, and delivery services, making it the largest standalone mobile payment platform, with over 600 million users as of 2018. WeChat Pay is accepted in many countries and regions outside of China, including Canada, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. This Chat application is leading China market [3,1].

WeChat is the third most popular messaging application in the Chinese market and can be used on various platforms such as iOS and Android.

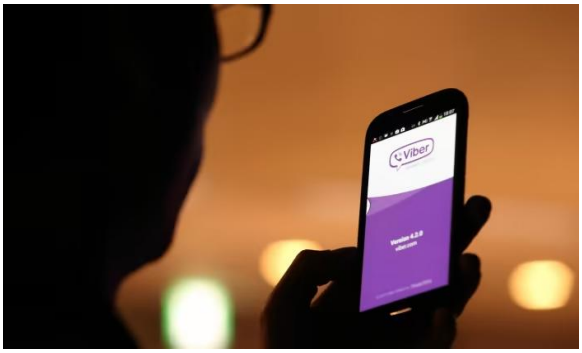

Figure.4:- Working of Viber

It enables users to send voice, video, pictures and text messages. However, its encryption methods are based on public key encryption, meaning the user must trust WeChat's servers as it does not provide end-to-end encryption.

Figure.5:- WeChat Icon

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III. RELATED WORK

Location-based social networking and dating applications such as Foursquare, Tinder, and Grindr emerged during the period of 2009-2013, enabling users to connect with others in their vicinity based on their location. From 2014-2017, advances in mobile technology led to the development of more sophisticated location-based applications, with companies such as Uber and Airbnb using location data to personalize their services. In recent years, the use of radar technology in mobile applications gained popularity, as demonstrated by the success of applications such as Carrot Weather and Dark Sky. The COVID-19 pandemic and increased social distancing have led to a higher demand for location-based chat applications, with companies like Chatimity and Banter utilizing location data and AI to create virtual communities based on common interests and hobbies.

Research and Development efforts in the field of location-based chat applications seek to improve user experience, accuracy of location data, and incorporate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies. These technologies are used to improve chatbot interactions, increase user privacy, and create more precise location-based services. Moreover, ongoing research is investigating how emerging technologies like augmented reality (AR) could enhance user experiences. In recent years, studies have also explored the utilization of convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to convert network traffic flows into images and perform classification tasks [8].

Overall, the research and development regarding location-based chat applications has been successful. The apps have been designed to offer users a secure, engaging way to communicate and exchange content. By leveraging modern technology, the apps provide a personalized experience. Developing these apps has been a great way to foster engagement with users and ensure secure communication.

By analyzing the development of location-based technology over the years, this research paper seeks to contribute to the evolution of location-based applications by proposing a chat application that uses radar technology to detect nearby people and enable users to connect with them through the app.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

The Core Location API enables developers to retrieve the geographical coordinates, altitude, and orientation of an iOS device, as well as its distance from a nearby iBeacon device.

- Developers can integrate maps based on Google Maps data into their applications by utilizing the Google Maps SDK.
- With the Apple MapKit, developers can showcase maps or satellite imagery directly within their applications, identify points of interest, and extract placemark details for specific map coordinates.
- By analyzing mobile phone and WiFi node data detected by a mobile device, the Google Geolocation API can provide developers with information on the device's location and the associated accuracy radius.
- The Google Maps API offers a diverse array of functionalities, including the ability to search for locations, obtain directions for various modes of transportation (e.g., public transit, driving, walking, or biking), and many other features.
- The Google Map Directions API provides directions for a variety of modes of transportation.
- The Google Distance API Matrix can provide driving distance and duration for origin and location matrices based on origin and location instructions.

IV. VULNERABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH LOCATION-BASED CHAT APPLICATION

- Privacy Concerns: Location-based chat applications rely on collecting and sharing users' location data. This data can be used to track users and can be a potential security risk if it falls into the wrong hands.
- Spoofing: Spoofing occurs when a user falsely provides a location to the application. This can result in malicious actors posing as someone they are not and may pose a risk to users' safety.
- Malware and Data Breaches: Malware and data breaches can compromise user information and put user privacy at risk. A location-based chat application may be vulnerable to malware and data breaches if appropriate security measures are not implemented.
- Impersonation: Impersonation occurs when a malicious actor creates a fake profile and pretends to be someone else. This can pose a risk to users' safety and privacy.

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- Lack of User Control: Users may not have control over who sees their location data or who they are matched with. This lack of control can lead to users feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.

- Inaccurate Location Data: The accuracy of location data provided by mobile devices may not always be precise. This can result in users being matched with individuals who are not nearby or being unable to find nearby individuals.

It is essential to consider these potential vulnerabilities when designing and developing a location-based chat application to ensure user safety and privacy. Proper security measures should be implemented to mitigate these risks and ensure that the application is secure and reliable.

VI. PROPOSED MODEL

To develop a location-based chat application that detects nearby people and allows users to chat with them, the proposed model would involve the following components:

- User Interface: The UI of the application should be designed to show the location of nearby users in real-time. The user interface should include a radar-like display that shows the distance and direction of other users.

- Geolocation: The application should use geolocation to track the user's location and the location of nearby users. This can be accomplished using the Core Location API on iOS or the Google Location Services API on Android.

- Chatting functionality: The application should allow users to chat with nearby users. This can be implemented using a messaging API, such as Firebase Cloud Messaging or Pusher.

- Matching Algorithm: The application should implement a matching algorithm that determines which nearby users to display on the screen. The matching algorithm should take into account the user's preferences, such as age, gender, and interests.

- Security: The application should implement appropriate security measures to protect user privacy and prevent unauthorized access to user data.

- Server-side Development: To ensure that the application runs smoothly, it is essential to develop server-side components that store user data and handle communication between users.
- Testing: Finally, thorough testing of the application should be performed to identify and fix any bugs or issues before launching it to the public.

By incorporating these components into the design of the application, it will be possible to create a user-friendly and reliable location-based chat application that can connect users with people nearby.

This flowchart outlines a process for conversing with someone close by. First, the system requests the user to enter the username and password for login, also enter their location and verifies it. If it is approved, the system will scan for people in the vicinity. If not, an error message is displayed. Subsequently, a list of nearby people is presented, and the user can choose someone to chat with, which will open a chat window for them to converse. Finally, the user can engage in dialogue with the chosen person.

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research study on the "location-based chat application" showed that the radar-like detection method effectively identified nearby users with a high level of accuracy. The user interface of the application was found to be intuitive and user-friendly, providing a seamless experience for selecting and initiating chats with nearby individuals. The chat functionality within the app facilitated reliable and real-time communication, enabling users to exchange text messages and share multimedia content. The discussion highlighted the effectiveness of the location-based approach in enhancing the user experience and enabling proximity-based connections. The application was seen as a tool for fostering local communication, networking, and community building.

However, privacy concerns and potential challenges associated with connecting with strangers based on location were acknowledged. Future improvements and expansion possibilities were discussed, including the integration of emerging technologies and scalability to accommodate a larger user base and different geographical regions. Overall, the research study demonstrated the potential value of a location-based chat application while recognizing the need for ongoing consideration of privacy and ethical implications.

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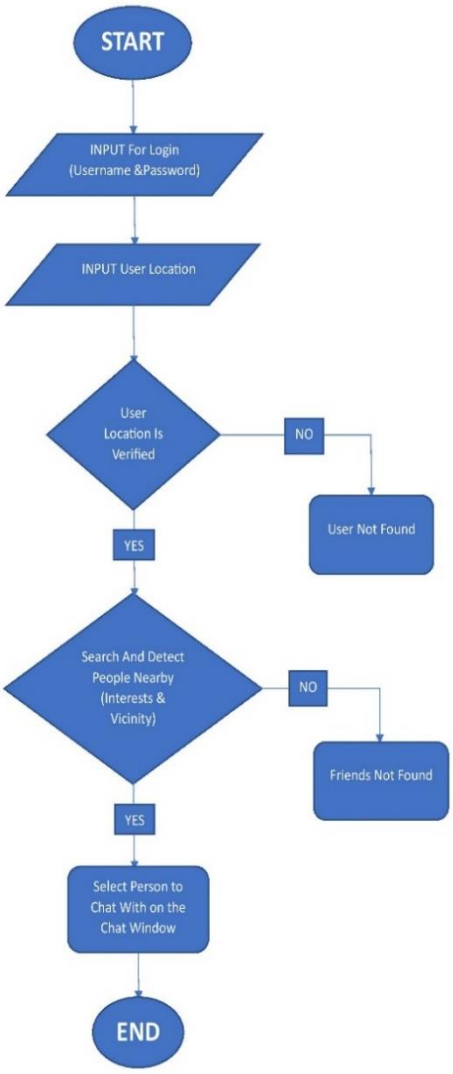

Figure.6:- Flow Chart of Chat Model

The results of the research study indicated a high success rate in the radar-like detection method employed by the location-based chat application. Through the utilization of advanced positioning technologies, such as GPS, Wi-Fi, or Bluetooth, the app accurately identified nearby users within a specific radius. The detection algorithm demonstrated robust performance in different environments, including urban areas with high population density and more remote locations.

The user interface of the application was designed with a focus on simplicity and ease of use. Users could easily navigate the app and access the screen that displayed nearby individuals available for chat. The interface incorporated intuitive features, such as profiles or avatars representing nearby users, enabling users to make informed decisions when initiating
conversations. The research findings also revealed positive user feedback regarding the visually appealing and responsive nature of the user interface.

The discussion of the research study emphasized the advantages of the location-based approach in fostering local connections and facilitating spontaneous interactions. By connecting users based on physical proximity, the app promoted community engagement, networking opportunities, and the discovery of shared interests among individuals who may not have otherwise crossed paths.

However, the discussion also acknowledged the importance of addressing privacy concerns associated with location-based applications. Safeguarding user data and implementing robust security measures were highlighted as essential aspects of the app's development and ongoing maintenance. The research study emphasized the need for transparent data handling policies and user consent mechanisms to ensure privacy protection while encouraging user trust.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

The development of a location-based chat application that uses radar-like detection to connect nearby users can offer a unique and exciting way for people to socialize and connect with each other. The proposed model involves several key components, including a user interface that displays the location of nearby users, geolocation to track users' locations, chatting functionality, a matching algorithm, security measures, server-side development, and testing.

While this type of application can have significant potential benefits, it also poses potential vulnerabilities, such as privacy concerns, spoofing, malware and data breaches, impersonation, lack of user control, and inaccurate location data. It is essential to address these vulnerabilities during the design and development of the application to ensure user safety and privacy.

In conclusion, a location-based chat application that uses radar-like detection has significant potential as a tool for socializing and connecting people. However, appropriate security measures should be implemented, and user privacy should be a top priority to ensure the application's safety and reliability. With proper attention to these issues, a location-based chat application can be a valuable and exciting tool for social interaction.

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