



fcc alumni connector

A place for FCC certificate-holders to
connect.

Next meeting date: (date here)

Project trello: <https://trello.com/b/aBCCLPII/waddle-collabo-network>

What is the idea?

An alumni app/social network where FCC certificate holders can come to get connected and stay connected throughout their coding journeys.

What is the mission?

To provide a valuable extension of the FCC-community, that connects its members in meaningful ways, and allows former campers and current campers alike (all of whom should have completed at least one full certificate course) to continue leveling-up and motivating each other by tracking each other's progress, sharing interests, comparing accomplishments and contributions to the dev world, and by providing an open forum for peer to peer discussion.

This application will provide X value for Y because Z.

var y = "members";

var x = {

 "motivation" : {

 "z" : "we often hear success stories about folks getting dev jobs due largely in part to their FCC curriculum efforts. This app will put the 'proof in the pudding', so to speak. Campers will be able to track each other professional accomplishments - seeing others succeed provides major motivation for campers that might not be quite there yet."

 },

 "connectification" : {

 "z" : "campers who are connected with one another can be more productive campers. This network can almost be like an extension of the cohorts, and shares many of the same principles, without the same structure - members will be able to form their own affiliations with

one another, share ideas, find help for projects they are working on, find other members who have similar and specific interests, etc."

```
},  
"collaboration" : {  
  "z" : "with all this connecting going on, collaboration is bound to be a side effect! Ideally,  
members will make natural connections based on interests, and collaborative projects shall  
ensue! Of course we will help this process along by making sure members have enough  
information about one another to make collaborative connections based on interest and skill  
level."  
}  
};
```

What are the key activities?

MAIN:

I envision this as being a cross between LinkedIn and FaceBook, FCC style. Each member will have a "profile page", on which several things will be displayed:

- Personal stats:
 - Avatar
 - Location
 - Certificates earned
 - Place of employment (if any) & title
 - Short about me (which we can provide some placeholder text for that will encourage campers to give a brief history of how they came to FCC, how FCC helped them, and whether or not their employment was a direct result of their FCC efforts - perhaps we can think of another way to denote this particular stat, since it is an important one that people are often interested in)
 - Skills / Interests
- Links:
 - FCC profile
 - Github/BitBucket/etc.
 - CodePen
 - (I think we should perhaps keep "other" social-networks out of it)
- Share-Board:
 - A place to post links to current or past projects
 - Pictures (if so, would have to find some way to moderate this - may be a challenge)
 - 2-way messaging.
- Connections:
 - An area to show who they are connected to

What all of the above implies, is, if members are going to have personal profiles, they should be able to connect with one another, and add “friends”, “buddies”, or better yet... “bunk mates”, “cabin mates”, or something along those lines that involves a camping reference.

SECONDARY:

Aside from this main function (which I admit is pretty ambitious), I also envision a couple of other key areas in which members can interact/learn about each other in other ways:

1. **Wall of Fame/Company Affiliations:** In addition to a member-centric area, I can see a company-centric area - where it's just a pinterest style grid of images/logos that represent companies where members currently work as devs. On hover, you would be given more information:
 - a. Which member works there
 - b. Where company is located
 - c. How long member has worked thereThat way, if someone is interested in that company, they know who to reach out to in order to learn more. This is also a great way to get members motivated.
2. **Country Wall:** Same as above idea but with flags from country of origin, that way members can see what location distribution is like. On hover:
 - a. How many members live there
 - b. Time zone info
3. **Certificate Area:** Of course, each individual profile will reflect the level of FCC cert that that user has earned, however, members may want to see data on how many members total have earned which certificates. (NOTE: This will have to be separated into 2 perhaps for the new school and the old school once Beta becomes Production). Each cert will be displayed, and perhaps in the style a bar graph or other similar visualization, the distribution of members who have earned each cert will be shown. It will be possible to then find out which members belong to each group so that campers know who to contact if they want to reach out to someone about a specific area of interest.
4. **Interests / Activities:** This could be an area that could also have a simple grid, pinterest like layout that will have “blocks” that each reference different popular topics, e.g. Machine Learning/NLP, VR, Blockchain, Big Data, etc. etc. Members could affiliate themselves with certain areas of interest, and a hover or a click could show a quick view of who is in this “group”. Clicking on a block could bring you to a page that would show you a full list of affiliated members, and could contain user generated content relevant to the topic at hand. This might be articles, or even coding activities/projects that people know of / are working on.

What does success look like for this project?

Success for this project starts with a fully developed app with functionalities similar to those described above. But for this project to truly achieve success, we will need to attract members, and provide enough value to them to keep them around. A minimum goal should be to attract, at

a bare minimum, 100 members at a relatively early stage in order to adequately test out how functionalities are working, and to identify bugs. Ideally, this project will grow its member base organically over time, but we can use tools already available to us in early stages to attract our initial members: the forum, the cohorts, gitter chat rooms, etc.

Stack:

- Full Stack React a la FCC: React, SASS, Node, Express, MongoDB
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Meeting Notes:

- Collaboration network - NOT social network
- Being a mentor - a place to select that on your profile
 - “Expert Skills”: things that you’d be most comfortable mentoring on
 - “Availability”?
 - **Mentorship network**: connected members can show skills and achievements on their profiles they are comfortable to mentor others on and other users can filter the network based on specific skills to find potential mentors.
- Someone that’s completed 2 or more certificates can mentor other campers?
- User signup: How to import FCC user data into app as a way to validate camper progress and certificates completed.
- MVP: Users need to be able to sign in, create a profile (into which FCC data is automatically populated?), connect with other other users (friend/connection), create interests/expert skills, denote willingness to mentor, etc... loose idea here...
- **Bonham000**:
 - users can join and select if they want to potentially mentor or not, and if they do they select some core competencies they feel capable of mentoring on.
 - if they successfully mentor the mentee can award them mentorship skill which they will accumulate ← great idea!