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W.A.I.T.
(…Why Am I Talking?)

Vision

W.A.I.T. (aka "WAIT") is a lightweight app that seeks to address the common faux pas of dominating a conversation. Deriving its name from a mnemonic to help people become more aware of the "space" they occupy, WAIT is designed specifically for those people who sometimes lack the social sense, innate in many people, of how much talking (especially about oneself) is appropriate in a given situation, but have the desire to improve.

While the principle behind WAIT can be helpful in everyday conversations, it's crucial in sensitive social situations where one wants to make the right impression and give space for others to share about themselves (say, a first date, or a group discussion for class).

WAIT can help its users become better conversationalists in two ways: in the short term, users can start a "session", allotting themself a certain percentage of the conversation - say, 50% for a date with one other person, or 10% for a discussion with 9 other people. As the conversation progresses, the user will be subtly notified by their phone when they start to "overreach" their allotted portion, reminding them to consider steering the conversation in a less self-oriented direction. In the long term, users can store the results of all their past sessions and view statistics about how their conversations stack up on average.

Based on our research, WAIT is a very unique solution in the underrepresented problem domain of correcting social shortcomings.

Software Architecture

Our app follows a Model-View-Controller structure. The view handles the display of warnings (both visual and tactile) and statistics. The Controller keeps track of time and performs speech recognition to calculate in real time the portion of the conversation being taken up by the owner. The model interacts with the Android file system to store and retrieve records on previous conversations.

Challenges and Risks:

The success of the project will rest on the ability of the team to successfully learn and apply Android libraries for speech recognition. If no solutions exist for the specific task of identifying who is speaking, it's possible we might have to delve into lower level sound analysis, for which the implementation time is a relatively big unknown. Careful attention will have to be paid to the initial allocation of people, with some flexibility allowed for teammates to switch specialties as needs arise.

Flow Diagram:

"Home"

"Start session"

"View conversations"

"HOME"

Name session, set parameters

"Ok"

Display list of saved conversations

"View stats"

Calculate total time, time speaking

"End session"

"[select] / Back"

Display stats of single conversation

Display Aggregate stats

Store results to file system