

Husky Crime Guide

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Initial proposal

An interactive map with color-coded pins pinpointing crime location and “severeness” of the crime. Crime details can be obtained by clicking on a pin. Also, crimes can be filtered by type, date, time, and location.

Extension to the initial proposal

A mobile app has been proposed as an extension to the original application. The app can be installed on users’ iPhones giving thus invaluable info to students when they are away from computers.

1. *Who are the key direct stakeholders for your application? Why?*

- **Application Users** - people who are using the app (students or anyone who installed the mobile app on his/her cell phone)
- **Monitoring Crew** – people who actively monitor application users’ location on the remote map (parents, relatives, friend, NightWalk personnel)

2. *Who are the key indirect stakeholders for your application? Why?*

- **911 dispatchers** – when the app dials 911 in response to preset non-standard situation
- **Police** – police officers dispatched by 911 dispatcher to the location
- **First Response crews** – an ambulance and/or a fire engine dispatched to the location in response to a 911 call
- **Other Crime Victims** – people who need immediate police help when police is busy with false alarms
- **Bystanders** – other people who happened to be in close proximity to an app user when a distress call is activated
- **Criminals** – people who are engaged in criminal activity involving/affecting the application users (note: criminals do not benefit from this application, but they are affected by it in terms of being more likely caught and arrested by police in response to application’s 911 distress call)
- **Cell Phone Service Providers** – the application will decrease service providers’ bandwidth availability due to increased bandwidth consumption by application’s constant broadcast of its physical location
- **Taxpayers** – residents paying taxes to have police service available to them. Increase in 911 calls and subsequent police dispatch will call for increase in headcount in police department.
- **Prosecutors** – attorneys involved in prosecutions before a court subpoenaing logs of the application
- **Application Developers** – people who developed and wrote the program can be sued when the application fails to work as was advertised or designed
- **Parents** – parents of UW students may perceive the UW campus as the most criminal area due to crime visibility provided by the application

- **Accompanying Friend** – a person walking together with the app user; his or her location has been tracked as well

3. *What are the principal harms and benefits that you anticipate? Who might be harmed and who might benefit, from the different stakeholder groups?*

The potential benefits of the Husky Crime Guide are as follows:

- Increase in security for the **application users**, because users will be more comfortable knowing that they can easily call for help.
- Increase in safety of the **application users**, because crimes will be easily reported to the police.
- Increase in police response time, because they will have the user's exact location. This benefits both the **application users** and the **police**.
- Decrease in work for the **UW Nightwalk**, because more students will be able to walk alone at night using this application.
- Lastly, this application might act as a deterrence to criminals. This would benefit the **application users** and the **police**.

The potential harms of the Husky Crime Guide are as follows:

- A loss of privacy by the **application user** and any **friends** who are walking with the user.
- False alarms will waste resources and keep police away from real crimes. This will harm the **police**.
- The problem of people (particularly stalkers) hacking into this application is a potential risk. This is harmful to the **application users**.
- The cost of hiring monitors or additional police could harm the **taxpayers**.
- An increase in visibility of the phone might encourage phone theft. This is harmful to the **application users**.
- Awareness of this application by criminals could encourage more violent crimes. This is harmful to the **application users**.

4. *What are the important values that are implicated by your application (from your initial conceptual investigation)? Why?*

The key values of our application are **independence, safety, privacy, integrity** and **socio-economic inequality**. Safety and independence are the most prominent values at stake with this kind of an application. Users want a device that will make them feel safe walking around at night, while also reducing their reliance on others in such situations. For instance, they don't want to depend on their friends in order to walk home from the library every night. In addition, if put on a mobile platform, this application could potentially provide opportunities for more crime by making him more vulnerable to attacks, considering that smart phones are a prime target for criminals. If we created an application that supported user profiles and allowed tracking functionality, privacy would be a big concern for the system. In order for the user to actually feel safe using the application, he has to believe that his privacy is being protected and that he is not jeopardizing the privacy of his friends, who may be walking home with him. Along with violating someone's privacy, the application may also provide opportunity for criminals to violate the integrity of the system by needlessly triggering an alarm and wasting UWPD resources. Finally, one other consideration we want to acknowledge is the fact that this system would require its user to own a smart phone, giving an advantage to students who can afford a phone that supports data.

5. *What are key value tensions among the values you identified? Why?*

The key value tension among the values listed above is the tension between **safety** and **privacy**. This is a very common tension that occurs when an application needs information about the user to be more effective. In order for the application to best protect its user it would access the user's identity and current location and in some cases make that information available to other users. This information could be used to protect the user by having an off location person monitor the user as they walk through dangerous neighborhoods or give police the direct location of the user if they were in need. However, this information could also expose private information about the user that they would not want. It could expose a undesirable location they visited or reveal information of the location of people with the user that do not know their location is being tracked. In addition hackers may want to access this information. There is the tension that gathering information to keep a user safe could lead to the user's private life being exploited by hackers. In addition to hackers, abusive partners may force someone to allow them to be tracked and use a tool meant for safety as a means of control. There may be other unforeseeable potential for a user's information to be accessed, for purposes other than the intention of the application, that could lead to the exploitation of the user's privacy.