# WeChat Reader App

## Introduction

Wechat is one of the most popular social network apps allowing people to discuss in group. But it has very weak function to archive the discussions and retrieve the history. This is a common problem facing by all wechat groups members. This proposal is to store the chat history outside wechat system and develop a separate mobile app for user to read the group discussion. The mobile app is called **WeChat Reader** for now.

## Requirement and Deliverables

The app targets iPhone 6 plus size or newer iPhone models with iOS v10 or newer.
And, if possible, also make the same function available on Samsung notes 6 or newer phones.

## Function and User Experience

Just like most of other news apps, WeChat Reader is mainly to show the content provided and organized by the backend server. The content belongs to a group and can only be accessed by the members of the group. Therefore, the app requires user to provide his/her member ID and group name when the app is launched very first time.

The history is stored in Google sheet first. But it could be stored in another system later. The access to the data is via a set of APIs, which can make the mobile app code working independent from the implementation of the backend content system.

The app divides the phone screen into 2 panels: the Main panel and footer with menu items. There is no “previous”, “next” page concept for user to go back and forward. The menus will directly refresh the **Main panel** with the corresponding content. The content could be:

- Topic List
- The discussion posts of a topic

The Footer panel shows the following functions:

- Topic List
- Discissions
- Select by
    - Category (30+ of them)
    - Date (latest, last week, specific date)
    - Group (member’s groups)

The total solution and user experience is [backend] data driven. Whenever app is opens, the user will get the latest topic list set by the backend content contributors of the group. Therefore, the app has to request the topic lists and the posts of the topic from the backend with those criteria and cache the data in app for a while (15 minutes).

When an entry in Topic List is selected, the main screen will be shown the posts of the topic in the original post format, which includes

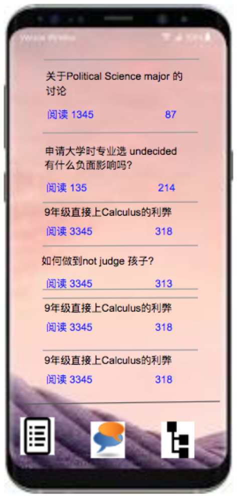
- Text
- URL
    - Image
    - File
    - External website
- A comment field for user to add new one
- A like to rate the topic

The comments and likes must be submitted to the backend server per topic with the user ID.

## Licenses and ownership of the source code

- The source code must be on github.com/ and accessible by the project sponsor.
- The project sponsor has the permission to update and release the changes in the future.
- The apps must be localizable (into Chinese UI later).

## Appendix: Possible UI (content is in non-English)



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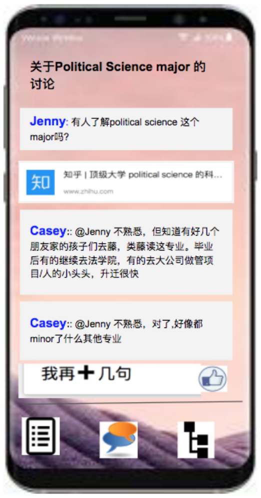

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