

RemmoSpace

RemmoSpace.com is an IT-oriented community of members. The members are served by non-profit organizations, and each organization is associated with one or more classes of members. Examples of classes include mental health, physical health, immigrants, and low income. Members learn math and computer skills from remote tutors. Those skills include web design, coding, and using Microsoft Office. The tutoring sessions are called "remmos": remote demos of how to use computer software. Members can also post in spaces (forums).

Business Model

All tutors are volunteers. Donors receive (almost) free tutoring, and make a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per session. Tutors devote at least half their teaching time to members (who all belong to marginalized groups), and the rest to donors. Many tutors are high school and university students. RemmoSpace is a non-profit organization.

Seecreen

Seecreen ("see screen") is a free download from Seecreen.com, and is written in Java. It works on Windows, Mac, and Linux computers. Along with remote desktop sharing, Seecreen also supports text chat and audio conversations. Seecreen facilitates remote student-tutor sessions (student and tutor not in same physical location) called remmos.

Spaces

Spaces (similar to forums) can be limited to specific topics, classes, categories (diagnoses where class = mental health), or partner organizations. Examples of topics include web design, Python programming, and MS Word. Examples of categories (where class = mental health) include depression, bipolar, and schizophrenia. Friends of members can post in the friend sections of category spaces, and comment/view threads initiated by associated members in the main sections of those spaces. Members can comment/view threads initiated by associated friends in the friend sections of those spaces. Apart from friends/partners, only members can access category spaces. Partners (employees of partner organizations) can comment/view threads (in category spaces) initiated by members of the partner organization. Spaces of partner organizations are only accessible by employees and members of those organizations. All spaces are moderated by volunteers. All RemmoSpace users can chat with each other using Seecreen.

Scheduling

RemmoSpace maintains on its server a database of tutors, members, donors, and partner organizations. Tutors and members/donors book remmos (sessions) on a calendar, which may be one-time remmos or recurring remmos. Tutor bios include topics supported and score values. Members and donors can give thumbs up/down to their tutors and the topics taught by each tutor, and those thumbs up/down generate score values.

Progress Place

Progress Place is a clubhouse for consumer/survivors located in Toronto, Canada. They will be approached after the website is up and running, and with the permission of Progress Place, its members will be recruited to beta test the website (class = mental health). The founder of RemmoSpace was an active member of Progress Place between 2011 and 2014.

Classes

URL: subdomain.remmo.org

Subdomain	Description
psych	mental health
medic	physical health
elder	elderly
newcomer	immigrants
drug	addictions
sexwork	sex workers
rape	sex victims
partner	partner violence
trans	transgendered
queer	gay/lesbian/bisexual
racial	racialized
native	indigenous
lowiq	intellectual disability
excon	ex-convicts
street	homeless
pover	living in poverty

Math Board

All body text rendered to the math board (used for teaching math) is in a mono-spaced, typewriter-style font. The math board is a desktop app written in Java. Every character takes up 2 square cells: an upper cell and a lower cell. Superscripts and subscripts are handled by employing a vertical offset of one square cell. Header text is also mono-spaced, and each character takes up 2 oversized square cells. The math board incorporates a scripting language called RemmoScript. All math lessons are written in RemmoScript by volunteer coders. Volunteer authors (who need not know programming) create math problems embedded in a RemmoScript script using "fill in the blanks".

Additional Formatting

The grid of characters can be subdivided into panels, which can themselves be subdivided into more panels, and so on. Any panel can contain zero or more text boxes, which may overlap each other. Vertical grid lines each take up one square cell per row of square cells. Horizontal grid lines are displayed in the same pixel row as underscore characters. Any row of square cells containing a horizontal grid line which is 2 pixels wide is taller by exactly one pixel. The following bracket characters: () [] { } can be oriented vertically or horizontally, taking up a single column or row of at least 2 square cells, respectively. Widgets such as check boxes, radio buttons, and combo box arrows take up 4 square cells (2 by 2). Images, animations, and diagrams are contained in canvas objects, which can appear anywhere panels can appear.

Database Tables

- Classes
 - id: cls
 - name: e.g. mental health
- Categories
 - id: ctg
 - name: e.g. schizophrenia
- ClassCatg
 - clsid
 - ctgid
- ClassMember
 - clsid
 - usrid
- ClassOrg
 - clsid
 - orgid
- Users
 - id: usr
 - username
 - firstname
 - lastname
 - email
 - phone
 - typ: set (member, donor, tutor, partner, friend, moderator, coder, author)
 - password
 - stnid
 - ctyid
 - addr1
 - addr2
 - canbits: privileges
 - startdate
 - isactive
- Tutors
 - id: tut
 - usrid
 - orgid
 - text: bio
 - imgfile
 - startdate
 - isactive
- TutorTopic
 - tutid
 - topid
 - score: percent
- Orgs
 - id: org
 - name
 - legalname
 - parid: parent org.
 - web
 - email
 - phone
 - fax
 - addr1
 - addr2
 - usrid: contact
 - ctyid
 - startdate
 - isactive
- UserOrg
 - usrid
 - orgid
 - typ: see Users
 - startdate
 - isactive
- Topics
 - id: top
 - name
 - descr
 - parid
 - childid
 - nextid
 - usrid: author
 - level: beg, int, adv, none
 - isqual: tutor quality, not subject
 - iscopy: childid = topid (copy)
 - isdep: deprecated
 - chgid: user modif.
 - chgdate
 - chgtime
- TopicDigraph
 - topid
 - prereqid: topic

- Remmos
 - id: rem
 - tutid
 - usrid
 - locid
 - islocal: tutor on site
 - ischat: just chatting (tutid = user 2)
 - date
 - starttime
 - endtime
 - unitcount: no. of quarter hours
 - isvote: no remmo, just up/down
 - isweekly
 - ismonthly
 - dayofweek
 - weekno: e.g. 3rd Monday in month
 - isrecurring
 - remid: id of recurring remmo
 - stnid
 - topid: default
- RemmoTopic
 - remid
 - topid
 - updown: 1, 0, -1
- Locations
 - id: loc
 - usrid
 - orgid
 - stncount
 - issound: speaker and mic
 - addr1
 - addr2
 - ctyid
 - ispublic: e.g. coffee shop
 - name: e.g. Tim Horton's
- Stations
 - id: stn
 - usrid
 - locid
 - address: numeric
 - password: text
 - issound: speaker and mic
- [Lesson Path]
 - topid/lsfile1/lsfile2/lsfile3.pdf
 - topid: 8 hex digits
- Lessons
 - id: lsn
 - parid
 - childid
 - nextid
 - previd
 - usrid: author
 - orgid
 - topid
 - title
 - descr
 - filename: mylesson
 - isleaf: mylesson.pdf
 - iscopy: childid = lsnid (copy)
 - startdate
 - isactive
 - chgid: user modif.
 - chgdate
 - chgtime
- TopicLesson
 - topid
 - lsnid: first lesson
 - usrid: lesson tree author
 - orgid
 - lngid
- TutorLesson
 - tutid
 - lsnid
- TutorLang
 - tutid
 - lngid
- Blocks
 - usrid: blocked user
 - blkid: blocking user
 - tutid
 - spcid
 - orgid: org spaces
 - ischat
 - isrecur: blocked from subtopic spaces
 - canmask: and-ed with canbits
 - startdate
 - enddate

- Spaces
 - id: spc
 - topid
 - ctgid
 - orgid
 - isfriend
 - usrid: main moderator
 - isclass: ctgid = clsid
 - startdate
 - isactive
- Moderators
 - spcid
 - usrid
 - orgid
 - startdate
 - isactive
- Threads
 - id: thr
 - spcid
 - pstid
 - subject
- Posts
 - id: pst
 - thrid
 - spcid
 - pstid
 - usrid
 - isreply
 - text
 - date
 - time
- Friends
 - usrid
 - memberid
 - startdate
 - isactive
- Language
 - id: lng
 - language
- Cities
 - id: cty
 - name
 - stateprov
 - cryid
- States
 - code
 - name
 - cryid
 - regid (optional)
- Countries
 - id: cry
 - code
 - name
- Regions
 - id: reg
 - cryid
 - name

Mockup Website

The mockup of the RemmoSpace website is written in Python using the Flask web development framework. A waiting list of students is maintained, as well as a database of tutors registered with 2 partner organizations, West Neighbourhood House and Progress Place. Each student is registered with one of those 2 organizations, or both of them. When a student gets to the top of one of the waiting lists (each organization has its own waiting list), James or a staff member in the clerical unit of Progress Place tries to match that student with an available tutor, depending on the schedules and areas of expertise/desired topics of study of both parties. Once the student is matched with a tutor, weekly sessions 1 to 2 hours in length are booked. Depending on the preferences of both parties, the sessions can be face to face on the premises of the partner organizations, or both parties use the free remote desktop sharing application with audio support called Seecreen. For remote sessions, either or both of the parties can work from home and at most one party (usually the student) can use a computer on the premises of the partner organizations. The software application which the student is learning must be installed on the computer being used by the student.

The forums (which are called "spaces") are only supported in the actual finished RemmoSpace website, not the mockup website. Also math tutoring will not be supported until Version 2.0 of the actual website is in operation, many months after Version 1.0 is launched. The back end of Version 2.0 will be implemented in Java, unlike the back ends of Version 1.0 and the mockup website (Version 0.1) which are implemented in Python. The mockup website is hosted on James's computer as well as a computer in the clerical unit of Progress Place. To launch that website, James runs its Python script using the Windows command prompt and then runs a web browser on the same computer. The web address is <http://localhost:5000/>. Mike has not yet approached Progress Place but was a member there between 2011 and 2014.

Monetization and classes (different populations of students) are also ignored in the mockup website. Monetization involves members of the general public (called donors) who are not registered with the partner organizations being made eligible to receive tutoring (using Seecreen). They are encouraged to make a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per session. All tutors are volunteers and are required to spend half their time with donors, or less than half their time if sufficient donations can be raised to keep RemmoSpace operations in the black.

Powerpoint Presentation

Mike will make a Powerpoint presentation to Judi, James, and the other tutors at Bang The Drum once the mockup website is working on his home computer sometime in the spring. Prior to that presentation the mockup website which consists of one or more Python scripts and some support files will be installed on James's computer. A projector will display the screen contents of James's computer on a big white screen. After that presentation Mike will answer questions/comments from staff members and tutors and then later a decision can be made by WNH staff members whether or not development of Version 1.0 of the actual website is to proceed. That version will be hosted by a web hosting service rather than on the local hard drive of James's computer.

About Me

I am Mike Hahn, the founder of RemmoSpace.com. I was previously employed at [Brooklyn Computer Systems](#) as a Delphi Programmer and a Technical Writer (I worked there between 1996 and 2013). At the end of 2014 I quit my job as a volunteer tutor at [Fred Victor](#) on Tuesday afternoons, where for 5 years I taught math, computers, and literacy. I'm now a volunteer math/computer tutor at [West Neighbourhood House](#). My hobbies are reading quora.com questions/answers and the news at cbc.ca. About twice a year I get together with my sister Cathy who lives in Victoria. She comes here or I go out there usually in the summer. A few months prior to starting my RemmoSpace project I used to lie on the couch a lot, not being very active. Now I'm busy most of the time. I visit my brother Dave once a month or so and I also visit my friends Main and Steph once or twice a month. For 26 years I was depressed on and off (I'm a rapid cyclor), but it largely vanished after I started my RemmoSpace project.

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