Project Title: working title

Team Name: MatchFolio

- Chantel Chan (ctc@umail.ucsb.edu)
- Keith Long (kjlong14@gmail.com)
- Peter Master (peter.master225@gmail.com)
- Michael Rousso (mrousso@cs.ucsb.edu)
- Simon Wong (thatonesimon@gmail.com)

Team Lead: Peter Master

Project Solution

Currently, the process of matching prospective tenants to properties they're interested in renting is not greatly efficient. The only current way involves a property manager manually filtering and running a background check on each applicant. This can be tedious and as we see it, unnecessary. We are filling this void by innovating a way in which a general applicant will preemptively fill out a single application and stand as their "on paper representation". This data is then applied to our matching algorithms to efficiently show them only properties in which they are eligible. This will save drastic time for not only the property management companies, but also the renters. In an industry as big as housing, any saved time will directly correlate to more money using less energy.

The ideal **outcome for our project** is a mobile web application that allows users to effortlessly find housing opportunities based on criteria specified by the user (such as location, pricing range, and amenities). We will provide listing information in an interface similar to Tinder and other "swiping apps," where general property information will be presented in profiles that users can swipe to indicate their interest or disinterest. Our product will simplify the application process by providing a universal rental application and background check for all property listings, which will be filled out upon account creation. Properties that have unique application requirements will redirect users to an additional application step if a user shows interest in it. Users will not be shown properties that they do not qualify for (based on applications and background checks), to ensure that we do not offer them properties that they are not able to lease. Our product will also include housemate/roommate matching, to connect users who are interested in the same properties. Leasee-to-listing matches will then be forwarded to property managers for further screening.

Project Milestones

- Minimum viable product: a web app accessible to mobile devices that allows users to sign up, view cards (read on for a definition of cards) of listings, and swipe to indicate interest/disinterest. The format will be similar to a swiping app like Tinder, where users are presented with a stack of cards, each of which they can swipe on. Cards are displayed containing an image of the listing, the estimated price of rent per month, distance from preferred location, and the listing's number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and can be clicked to display more information and pictures for the listing.

Our Plan for Designing Solution

- Use React, React Native, and possibly other tools to build out web applications for mobile devices
- Use AppFolio’s data from property management companies to show listings for places available for rent that users can get information about and swipe on if desired
- Use AppFolio's process for background checks and rental application requirements to screen users and cross match data
- Use the Agile software process to maintain priorities, manage requirements, and assign tasks to each of the team members. We will also use this to keep track of our progress, and plan for future design. We will meet with our mentors once a week to go over our current progress and get feedback. We will also discuss implementation and features, and decide which direction to take the project at each step.