

Famlinet

A Remarkable New App To Prevent Social Isolation of Older Adults

<https://www.famlinet.com/>

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What is it?

A seniors focused communication and activities platform operating on Mac, Windows, Android, iOS, that addresses some aging challenges, such as alterations in eyesight, hearing, memory, loss of second language/different languages of family members and caregivers.

It is targeted for both family and organisational (e.g., long term care institutions) use. Organisational use is activities focussed so that staff and volunteers have more bases of interaction.

In summary, this app is a senior focussed platform which avoid distractions of generic social media platforms, with the richness of multimedia and equal weightage to typing, speaking and hearing. Institutions either use generic platforms or have highly secure systems for staff use.

Why did we create it?

Low participation and isolation is detrimental for health. Many seniors may not have friends and family, so even accessing YouTube may be a challenge. See the key point for institutions below.

Main Features

- Audio messages with original voice, transcription and translation (as needed)
- Video calls: to a contact are just a click away. This is unlike "dial in" video calls, which business people will understand but not all seniors. Furthermore, people who are not contacts cannot call you; hence, this aspect likely evokes a greater peace of mind unlike skype, etc.
- Scrapbook for single store of photos and other media meaningful to seniors, which can be populated by family members. This aspect prevents seniors having to experience difficulty adding media by giving another person full access to the older person's account and thereby populate the scrapbooks as a shared resource.
- Built in access to curated external games.
- Step by step tutorials for family members and volunteers to teach both the families and the seniors.

Institutional version divides users into clear networks (such as by activities) avoiding confusion for seniors and staff.

Ongoing teaching/learning support available-see website for contact information. For further info, feel free to contact Mr. Chieh Teng, Social Worker at: cs@famli.net or telephone him at: +1-416-414-9141. Email requests are usually responded to within 24 hours.

We would like to invite staff and students doing their clinical work in long-term care institutions to feel free to call us so that we can set up instruction sessions at the long term care home, with the family members present. We would also be pleased to provide information sessions at university or college settings for students interested in gerontology nursing care.

Finally, we would like to invite directors to consider adopting Famlinet in the near future....so that this app will become widely used to reduce social isolation of older people.