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A Resource for Veterans About Mental Health

# Our Team Structure



**Alex**

Designer  
and Front  
End Coder



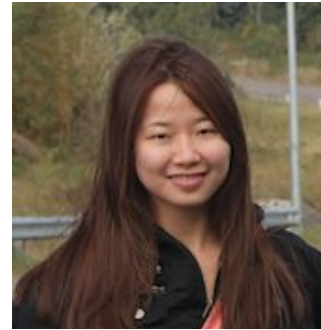
**Dennis**

Front and  
Back end  
Coder



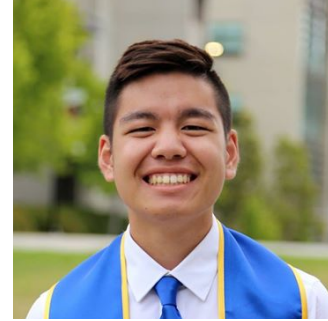
**Vilan**

Front and  
Back End  
Coder



**Kann**

Front and  
Back end  
Coder



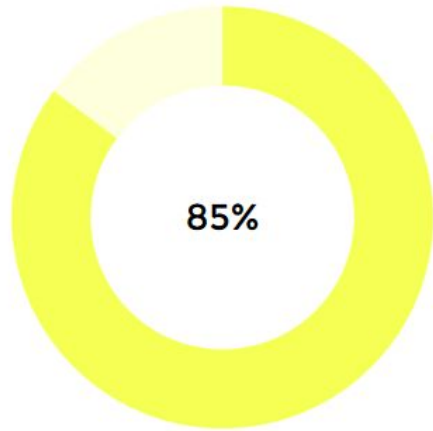
**Simon**

Designer  
and Front  
End Coder

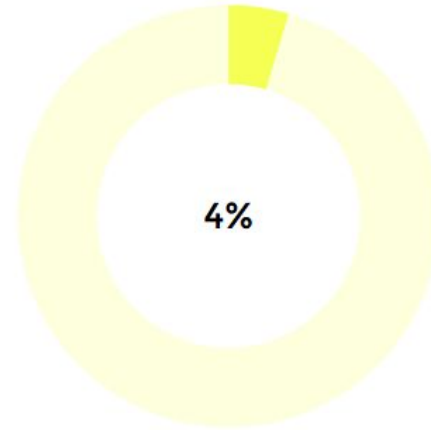
# Mental Health



# Among Veterans

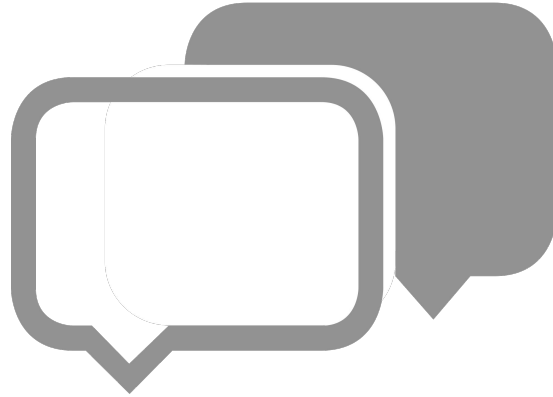


Proportion of  
Veterans with a  
Confirmed Mental  
Illness



Veterans Receiving  
In-Patient Mental  
Health Treatment

# Opening up Discussion and Education



- ★ Veterans with mental illness may feel alone or ashamed of it
- ★ Hope to open up discussion about mental illness among veterans and raise the number of veterans receiving treatment in doing so

# A Resource for Veterans and Those in Service



- ★ Americare is a web application that allows veterans to ask questions, share stories or experiences and learn about others with PTSD or other mental illnesses through
- ★ We will speak about our design decisions, technology, and testing.

# Design and Technology

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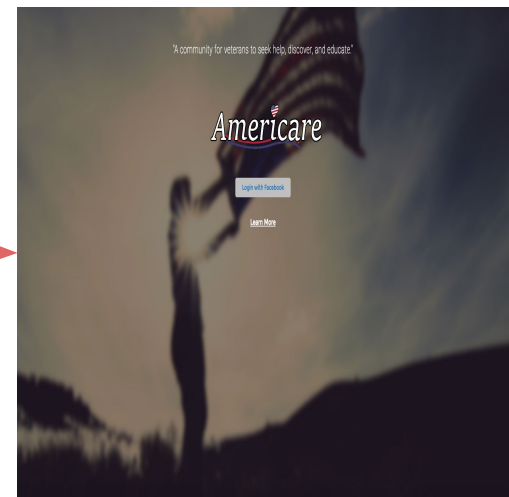
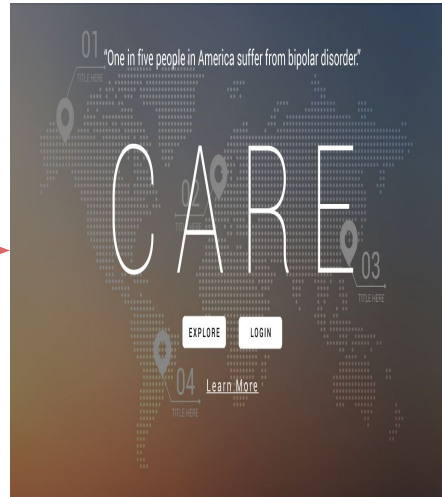
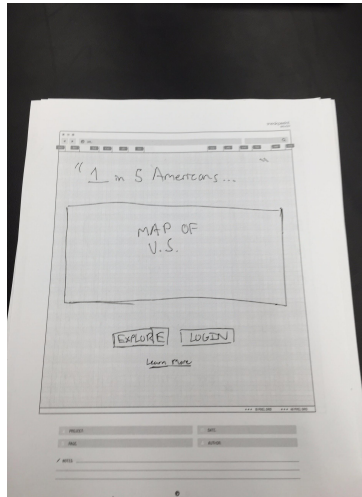
Team structure, design process, software process, architecture, product and key qualities

# Our Product & Key Qualities

- ★ A community for veterans to seek help, discover, and educate.
- ★ Key qualities:
  - Forums
  - Explore
  - Learn More

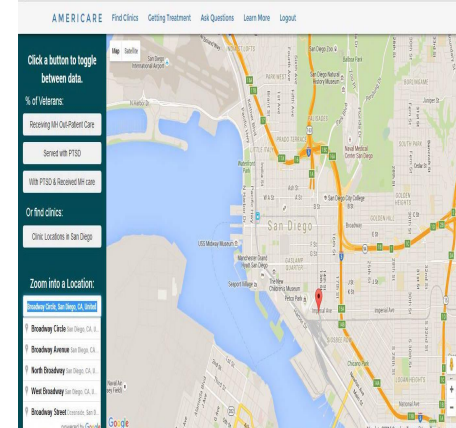
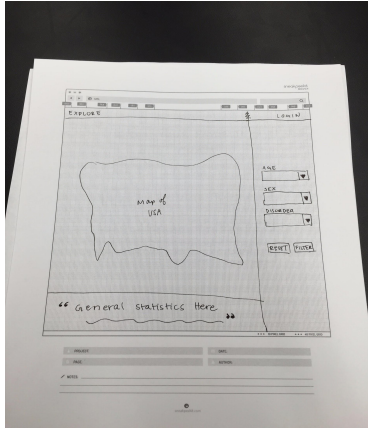


# Landing Page

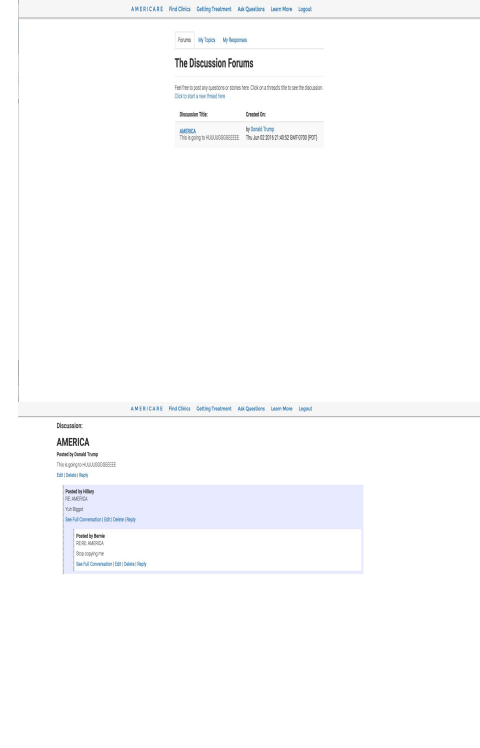
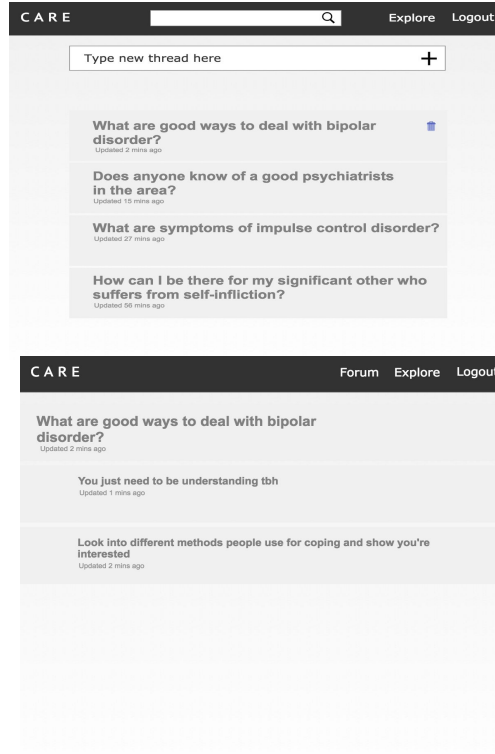
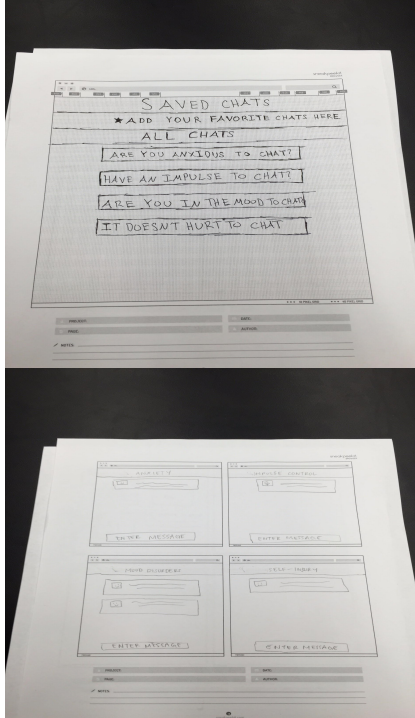




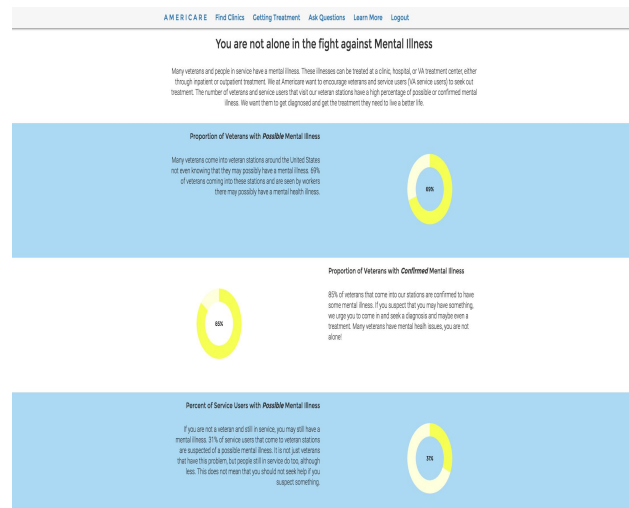
# Explore Page



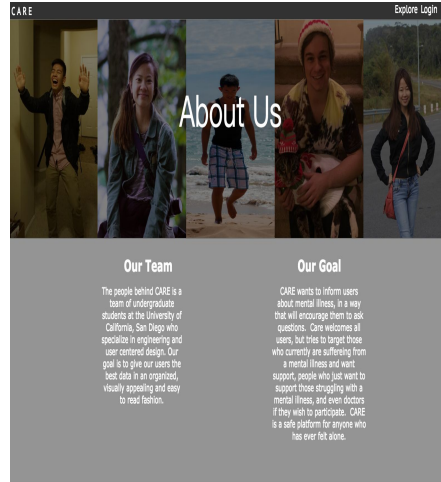
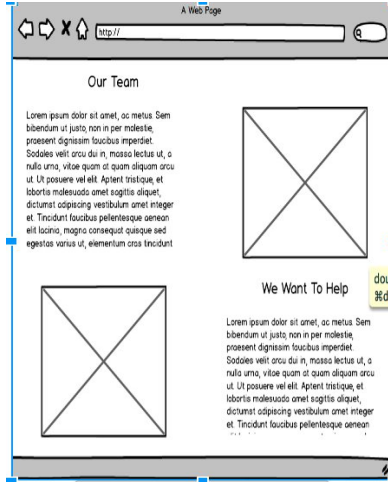
# Forums



# Learn More



# About Us



# Describe and justify resulting software process

Agile Process:

- 1 week sprints w/ weekly scrums
  - Retrospectives at the end of each sprint
  - Mini/informal daily scrums/standups through group chat
  - Prioritized tasks for the week during the scrums
- Building Up From a Minimum Viable Product
  - Started with a minimum viable product
  - Each iteration to improve and fix each feature

# Describe and justify software architecture

## Technology:

- JQuery/Javascript
- D3/Google Maps
- Data sources
  - DELPHI for clinic locations
  - Data.gov for veteran/PTSD statistics
- MongoDB/NodeJS/PassportJS



mongoDB



# Key User Scenarios and Testing

- ★ Initial target audience: people with mental disorders (anxiety)
- ★ Pivot to target veterans; users seeking resources, information, help, community
- ★ User flow testing and demos

# System Demo

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Addressing the problem, technical challenges, technology use, quality, completeness, and user scenarios



## Link to Demo

★ <http://cogs121careapp.herokuapp.com/>

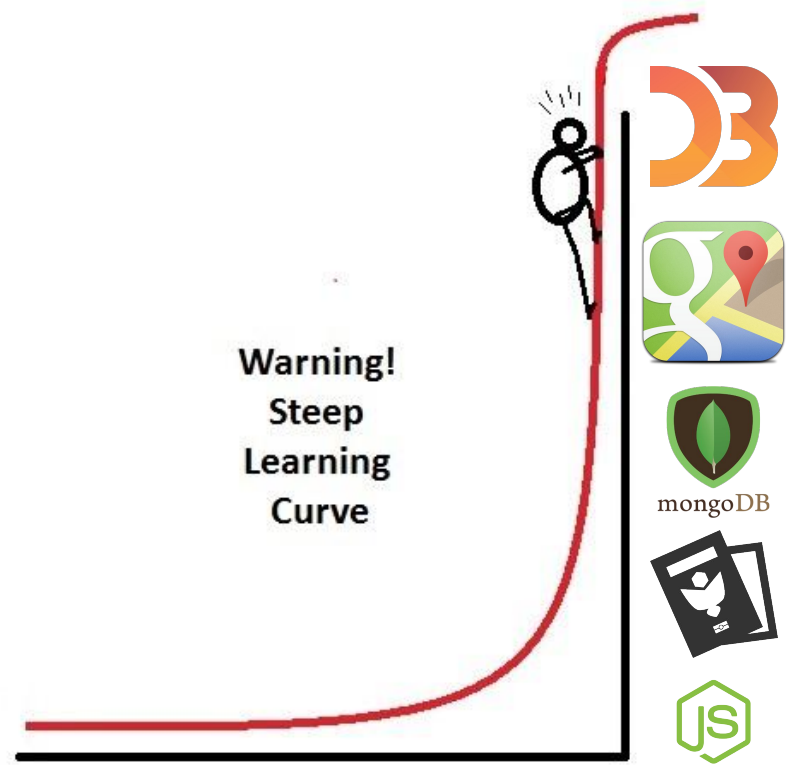
# Conclusion

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Project risks, what went right and wrong, reflection for next time, and lessons learned

# Project Risks: Technical and Product

- ★ High learning curve while learning our tech stack for map and statistics visualizations



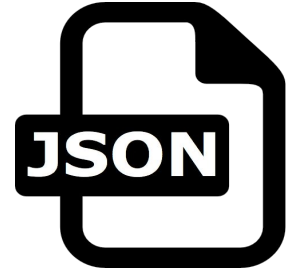
# Project Risks: Technical and Product cont.

- ★ Data availability: hard to come by dynamic data over time on veterans

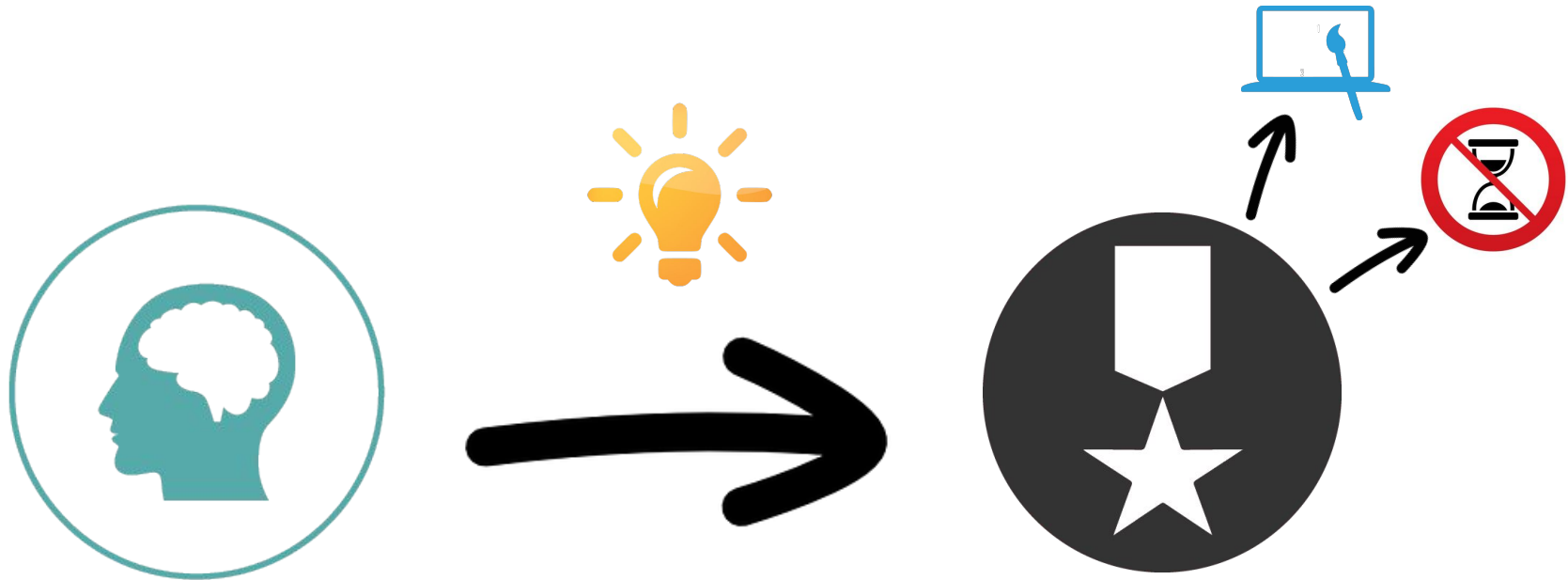
~~2013~~

~~2014~~

2015



# Project Risks: Technical and Product cont.



- ★ Pivoting Target Audience in Week 9: Concerned about finishing and designing in time

# What Went Right

- ★ Had clear idea and designed prototype fast and efficiently
- ★ Able to finish application on time
- ★ Able to learn new technologies in time



# What Went Wrong

- ★ As quarter went on, we had less and less time to meet as a group
- ★ Pivoted idea late in the quarter



# What We Would Do Differently

- ★ More user testing on veterans
- ★ Have a group document with application updates
- ★ Keep better organized





# Lessons Learned

- ★ Designing for visualization, new technologies, and working on a large project with new people
- ★ In the future, we will add more dynamic data and add more resources to improve the lives of veterans and their families



Questions?