

New School

Software to lower recidivism rates by providing a custom platform for prisoners to access the internet in a secure manner to educate themselves, research job opportunities, and access mental health resources

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Problem:

One of the biggest problems that leads to recidivism is lack of education and vocational training

Additionally, According to Deloitte Insights, “A recent RAND report found that the odds of recidivating are 43 percent lower for people who participate in educational programming than for those who do not.”

Many prisons are underfunded and lack the teachers, classrooms, etc. to provide education for the growing number of inmates and their desire to educate themselves while incarcerated

Solution:

- Create a software that provides online education while also monitoring and regulating the prisoners use of the internet to ensure they don't access things they shouldn't on the open internet

Blueprint: What is New School?

New School is software designed for computers and tablets to provide monitored and limited access to internet education, job search, mental health resources for people in the prison system.

- When prisoners log on to a computer it will only allow them to search in the new school search bar which filters google search engine results to make sure all results are appropriate
- In addition to this general search bar we will create three apps they can access one for education, one for job resources, and another for mental health resources

Blueprint: What is New School?

- The education app will be integrated with any previous online education software prisons were already using
- The job application will be a prisoners version of Handshake, providing online job postings and blog posts from fellow prisoners on advice and reviews of job and most importantly connect employers with inmates and help inmates plan their education and picture and plan for a future outside of prison
- Many prisoners suffer from mental health issues. The mental health app will allow them to have video chats with their therapist or health service provider. It will also allow them to ask their provider questions, and request refills of prescriptions which they can access while in prison

User Manual:

- First download the software to your computer
- When you open the app it will ask if the software can make changes to your computer settings, click yes
- It will then ask you to configure New School for this specific computer you can choose if they should have access to the search bar, education app, job resources app, and/or mental health app
- Once you have chosen which types of resources this computer can access you must restart the device to begin using the software

User Manual cont.

- When the computer restart you can log back into your account and when your account opens New School will be the first and only app that opens and it takes up the entire screen
- If one tries to exits out of it to access other apps and resources on the computer, the computer automatically shuts down
- Within the New School app users can search on the filtered and monitored search bar and/or access the three apps mentioned above