

BREAKUP SIMULATOR

Rehearse Your Breakup With the Help of *Artificial Intelligence*

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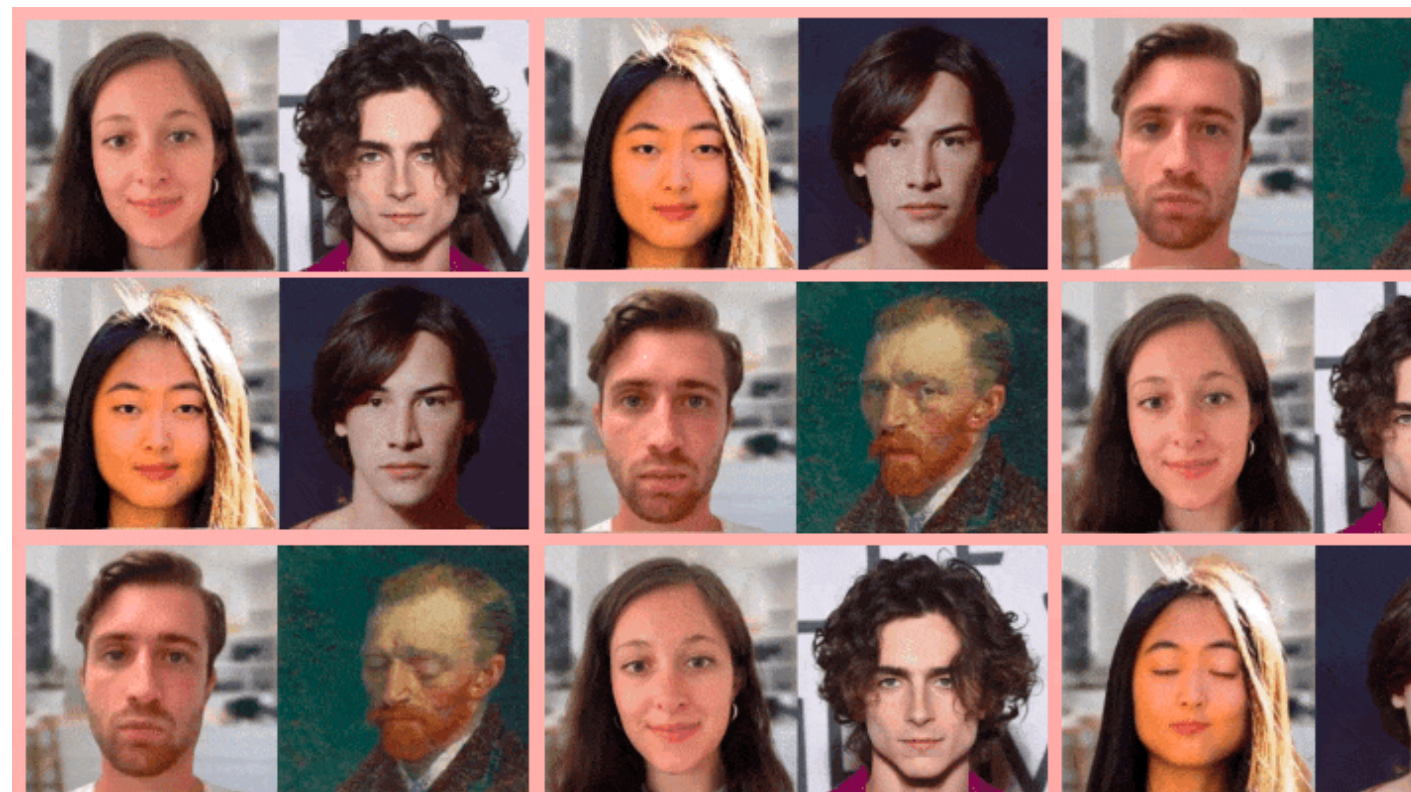
The rise of digital communication platforms has made it easier than ever for people to connect with others and meet new people in novel ways. However, as a result of this increased access, often digital interactions lack the intimacy and authenticity of in-person interactions. This is especially true in the case of digital dating, where gamified dating platforms have created a new normal for dating that strongly favors quantity over quality interactions and the intimate, honest experience of having face-to-face conversations has gotten lost over the broadband connection.

Recently, we have seen an epidemic of ghosting: the phenomena where a person cuts off all communication with someone with zero warning or notice beforehand. People ghost because they are overwhelmed by all the possible ways to approach difficult conversations about ending relationships and want to avoid the associated negative emotions. The number of possible ways to approach the conversation and potential outcomes may be overwhelming to the individual, resulting in avoidance of making any decision about how to direct the conversation. Anxiety surrounding the uncertainties and potential negative outcomes may cause the individual to postpone the conversation until, ultimately, it never happens.

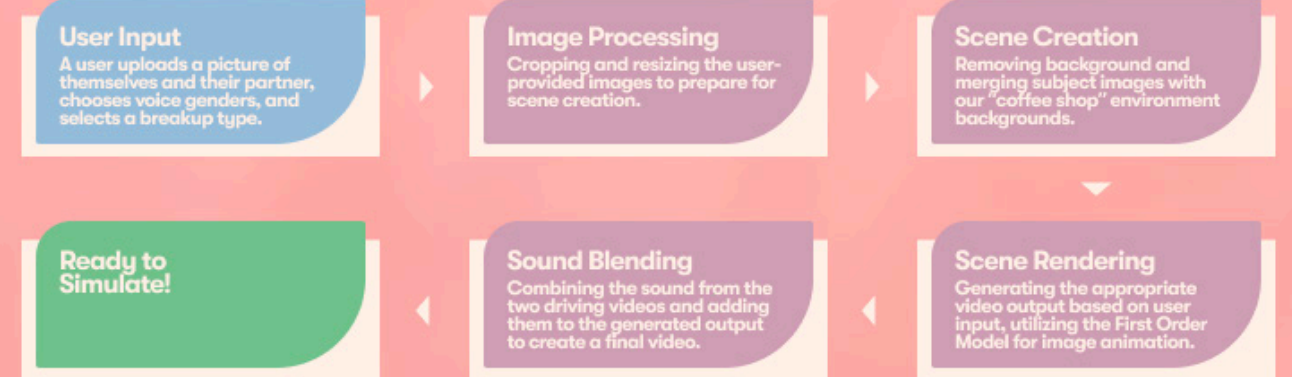
Our solution is the Breakup Simulator, a web-based platform that uses deepfakes to create an interactive breakup conversation between the user and their partner, created based on breakup stories found on Reddit, Tumblr, magazine articles, and random internet blogs. It helps eliminate the fear of the unknown and eases anxieties about the conversation with (1) increasing exposure to the situation, therefore lessening uncertainty (2) allowing the user to visualize themselves in the conversation, making it seem more feasible and (3) using playful aesthetics to make the conversation more approachable.

Harnessing machine learning models including the First Order Model for Image Animation, we hope that this will help mitigate ghosting or other forms of miscommunication by alleviating anxiety surrounding difficult conversations, providing a platform to rehearse them, and ultimately encouraging their realization.

Other potential simulated difficult conversations include: delivering bad news, practicing for a job interview, or yelling at your boss.



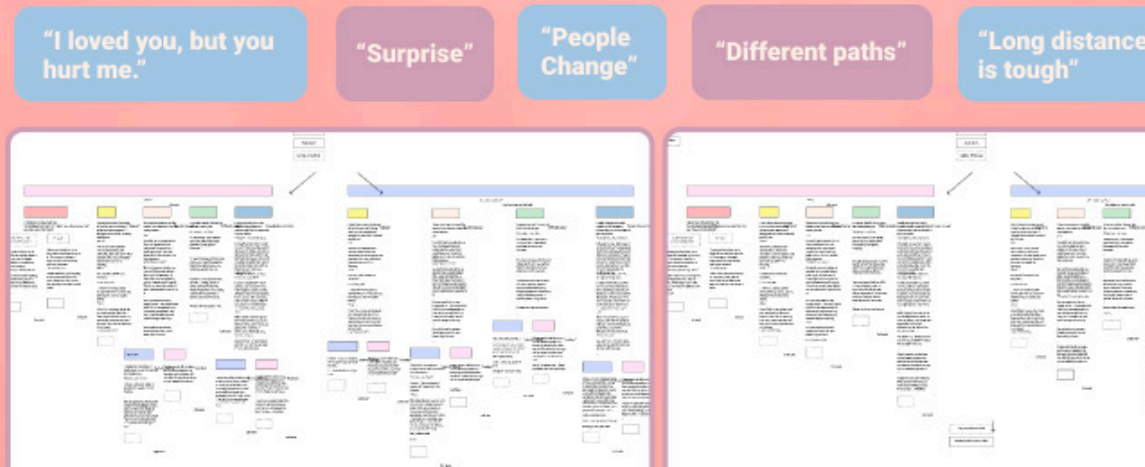
Technical Architecture



- Key Libraries
- PIL
 - OpenCV
 - MoviePy
 - Remove BG API
 - First Order Model
 - Pydub

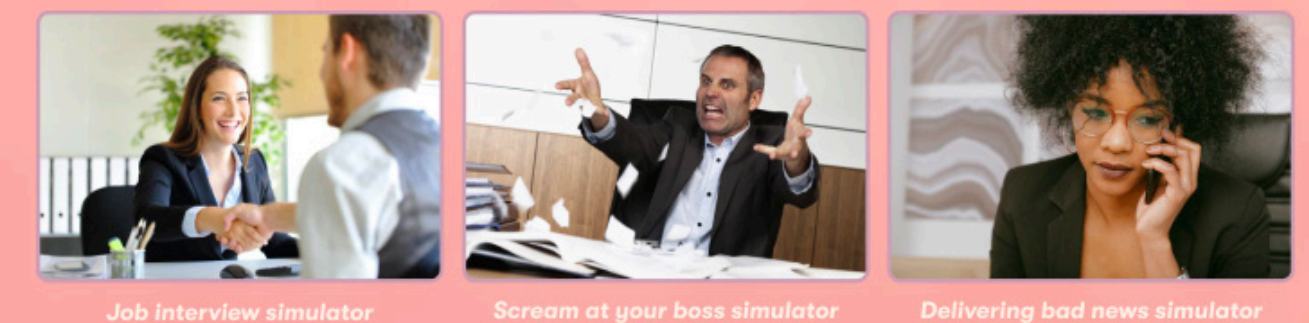
Content Development

- What we did
- Researched break-up stories online
 - Scripted conversations according to various break-up scenarios
 - Created user flow for different reactions and endings



Future Work

We believe there are opportunities to expand our platform to allow people to rehearse other types of high-stress conversations.



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