

Group 201: YouTube Watch Party

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Our Feature

We were wandering around Covey.Town and as we approached the top right corner, we noticed that there was a TV and a small lounge/couch area, which we could use to incorporate a small lounge area. We immediately noticed that Covey.Town has no functionality that allows us to interact with the TV. So, while Covey.Town does have a couple of games for users to interact with, there are limited visual forms of entertainment for the user to engage with.

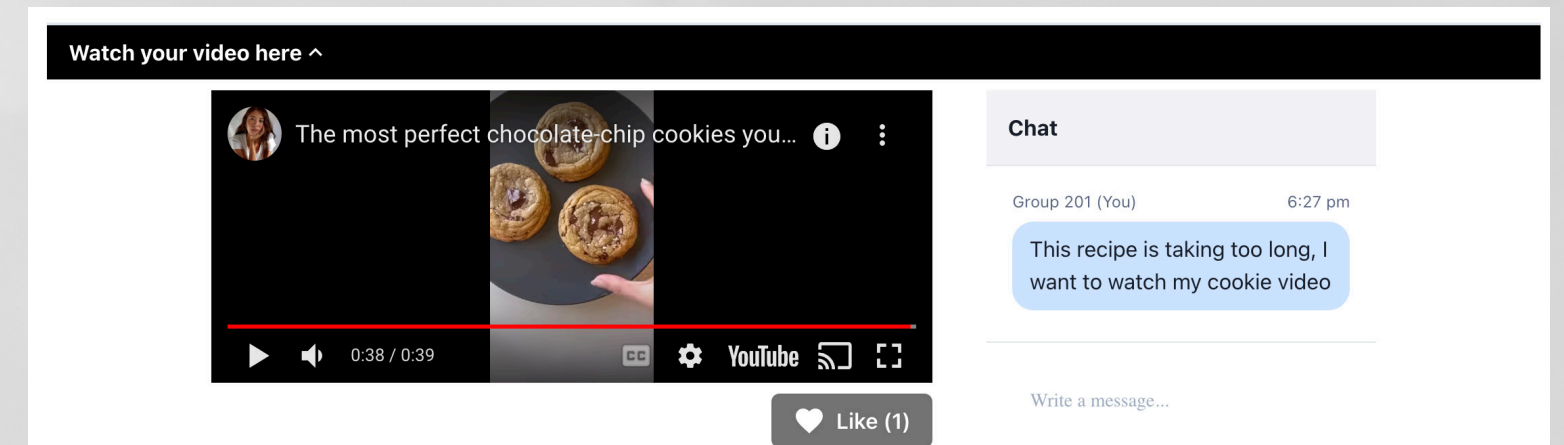
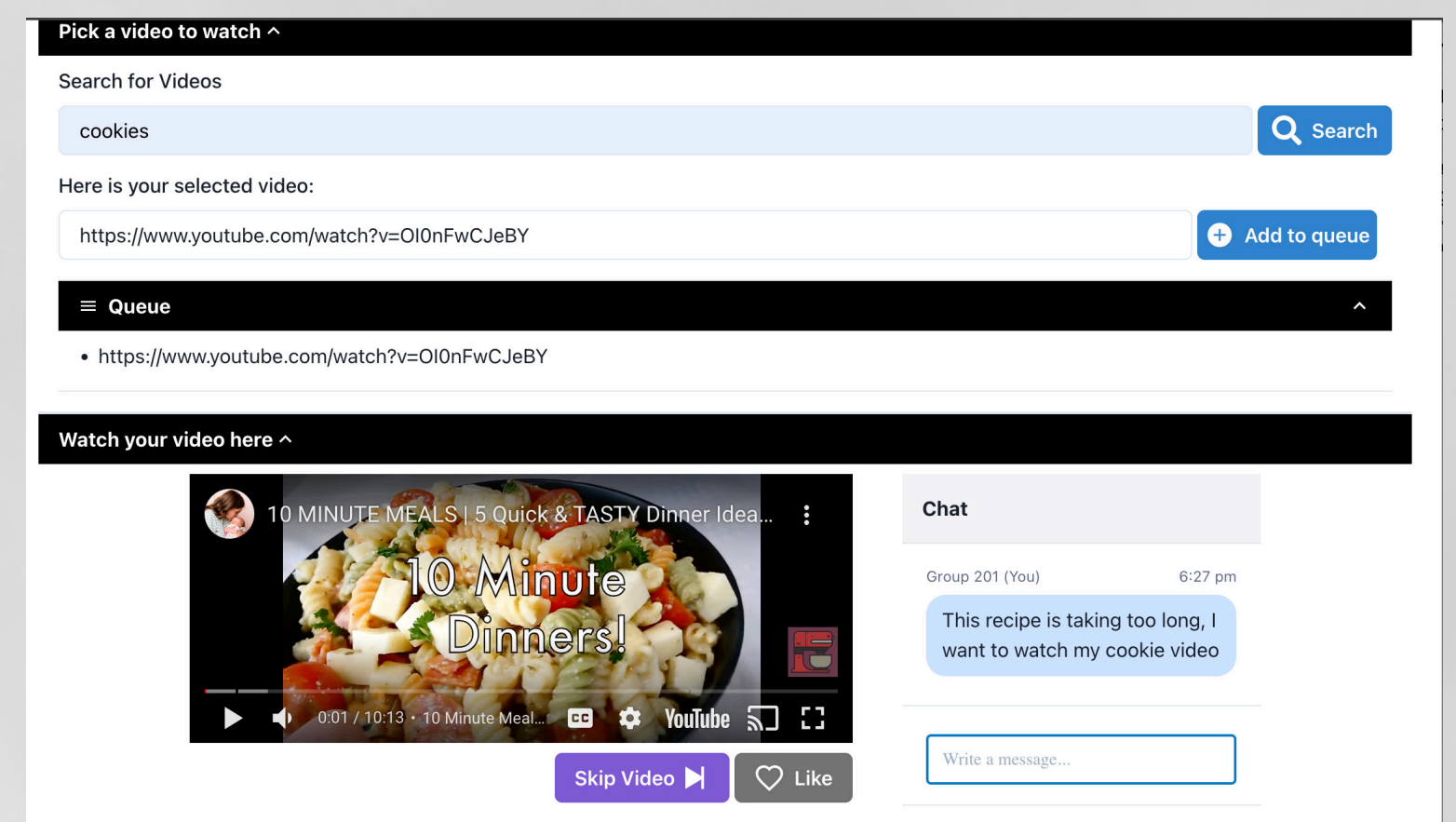
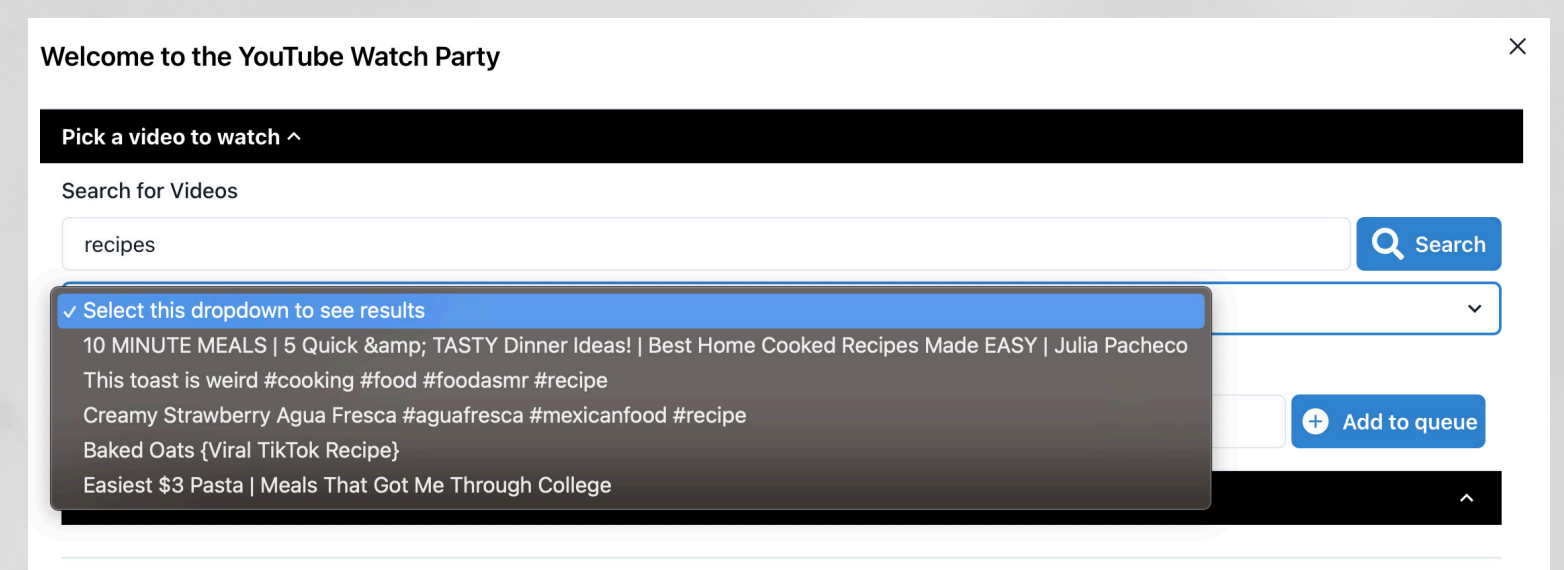
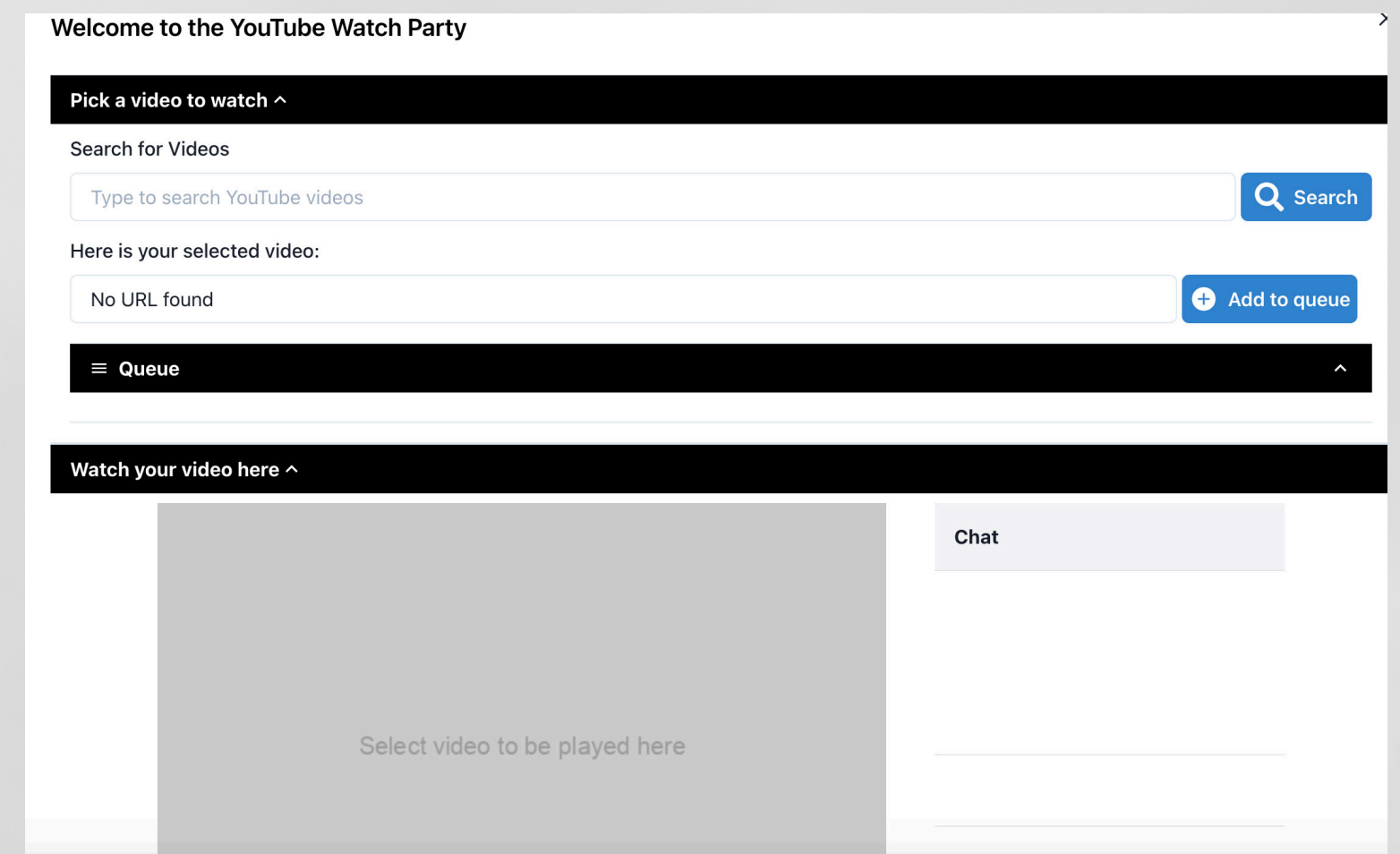
This idea expanded to bringing the ability to simultaneously watch a video together. We chose this idea because we all have our own unique interests for entertainment so we thought watching videos together as a collective experience can incorporate them together. We are interested in this feature because it brings a different aspect of entertainment to Covey.Town that allows for a watch-party experience. For our watch party experience we made sure to incorporate additional features such as adding to a queue, skipping the queue, adding video functionality, and liking a specific video and having that total persist.

Tech Stack and Design

We utilized the existing codebase structure in Covey.Town to create a new YouTube Watch Party interactable area. In order to accomplish this we made a host of changes. Primarily, we enhanced ViewingAreaVideo then incorporated SelectVideoModal in our design. We also used YouTube API to implement our search query and to obtain specific details about the videos selected to be played. In addition, we used Firebase as our database solution to store data pertaining to liked videos and the relationships between users, facilitating friend connections.

Future Work

While we're content with our current design, there are opportunities for further enhancement. We could introduce a statistics category to track the number of views each video receives within Covey.Town, along with implementing a dislike button. Another improvement could involve introducing a playlist option to save queues, streamlining the process of queuing videos. Considering our friend system restricts party access to the host's friends initially, an advantageous addition would be to make the friend system accessible during watch parties. This would allow users to add or remove friends in real-time, optimizing the party experience.



Source and Demo

Our demo is available on [Render](#) and our codebase is available at [GitHub](#)