This text is a transcript of the meetings with the client, without the formalities and small talk, focusing only on the parts of the conversation pertinent to the project.

Initial meeting

1-Client: I would like an app that can be used to share stories about the past and our family with my family. So the app would be able to share these stories to multiple people who could look for stories and add their own, meaning it needs to be online.

1-Developer: So you would like a program that can collect stories from users, store those stories and display certain stories which can be found with a search engine?

2-Client: What do you mean by search engine?

2-Developer: Sorry, I mean something that behaves like google, you type in what you are looking for and it finds the most relevant stories.

3-Client: Yes, that would be good.

3-Developer: And how would you want these stories to be sorted? Would the user look for dates or maybe a keyword?

4-Client: Both of those sound interesting. Is it okay to have both? Can that be created?

4-Developer: Yes, that should be alright. Is there something else you would want to add… be able to search for?

5-Client: I was wondering whether there could perhaps be some sort of categories?

5-Developer: Would the stories be sorted into distinct categories? Or would they have a sort of attachment, categories that can be assigned to them?

6-Client: Yeah, maybe some sort of tag?

6-Developer: So, you would have tags that can be assigned to each story when they are created I presume? And do you have any idea what these tags would be?

7-Client: I'm not fully sure yet but they might be tags for specific people and events. The user should be able to search for these tags.

7-Developer: So we could have tags for people, tags for places and tags for the type of story? Such as wholesome, sad, funny, [REDACTED CITY NAME] and people's names?

8-Client: Yes, that sounds good.

8-Developer: And getting back to the search, it could also search for dates, alongside keywords such as christmas or pool party and tags?

9-Client: If that is possible, it would be nice.

9-Developer: Ok, so I think that the easiest and most effective way for the users to access this app would be to make it a website instead. This means that they can access it from different devices and from different locations without having to be sent files or having to download a program.

10-Client: Ok. Are there any problems with that?

10-Developer: Yes, unfortunately, there will likely need to be a security system to ensure that the stories are secure. You don't want just anyone reading them right?

11-Client: No, I need them to be private.

11-Developer: Ok, so there would be a security system and there may be a cost but I believe that can be avoided. It does however mean that you would not need a computer to be always running to act as a server. This should be handled by the website hoster so you don't have to.

12-Client: That sounds much better, I do not want to have my computer running all the time.

12-Developer: No problem. I am happy to look into that and see what I can do. So I believe you would like a program of some kind which can have stories inputted, stored, categorised and searched for by certain people. And this program would be accessible from different devices and browsers. Such as Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Safari, which is what you find on Apple devices such as an Ipad or a Macbook.

13-Client: Thank you.

13-Developer: So I would like to develop a model, non functional prototype so that you can see what I believe you want and correct me if I have misinterpreted anything. That way you can see if the idea is what you want before we move forward. I can also send you a few colour palettes so that you can see what colours you want.

14-Client: Ok, so will the model be online?

14-Developer: I wasn't planning on it. I can put it online if you want but I think it would be more efficient to create it in visual design software, which is a lot faster than developing a website. If you like the design, we can move forward with it and develop the website, implementing any changes you may have. However, I believe it would be better to get the big changes you would like out of the way with the prototype to save time.

15-Client: Thank you.

15-Developer: No problem, I will send you the colour palettes and I will then get into contact again once the prototype is ready.

Palette

16-Developer:
Dear [REDACTED CLIENT NAME],

I have come up with several palette options that could be implemented on your website. These are attached to this email. I hope some of these are to your liking. If there is something you want to change in any of them, that can easily be done or, if you would prefer something else, I can go back and find some more.

If you don't mind, could you please give me a possible name for the website? It can easily be changed after.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED DEVELOPER NAME]

16-Client:
Dear [REDACTED DEVELOPER NAME],

I quite like the second palette, the turquoise one. It is a wonderful shade of green and blue. Can you please use that one. I believe it is right but hopefully it is not too hard to change when I can see the model. I was wondering if "I remember when" would be the right name. We can change that too later on.

Thank you,
[REDACTED CLIENT NAME]

Model

17-Developer: So here is the homepage I had in mind. It has the title across the top of the screen, clicking this will return you to the homepage wherever the user is. There is also a sign in button which will allow the user to sign in.

17-Client: So that will take them to a new page to sign in?

18-Developer: Actually, I was doing some planning on the best way to implement this and I believe that since you use a google account, it would be better for the user to use an integrated google sign in functionality. So in this case, it would open a google pop up window, the one you might see when signing in to gmail.

18-Client:Ok

19-Developer: The thing is your user's need google accounts to use the website. Is that ok?

19-Client: Is a google account the same thing as a gmail account.

20-Developer: They are different but they work the same way in this case and they use the same username and password. So if your users have gmail, they should be able to sign in with that.

20-Client: OK

21-Developer: Will that work for your users? If not it can be changed but I believe it would be more practical given it streamlines the process.

21-Client: Yep, it should work out.

22-Developer: All right, continuing on we see the search bar where the user will input what they are looking for. This is pretty self explanatory but if you have questions, please stop me. Or concerns. So there is also a new story button which allows the user to add new stories. This will be done through a google form which I can show you here. So the user needs to fill out this form and the result will be added to the website storage. Below all this, there is a frequent searches, last added and most viewed box. These are prompts that the user can go to if they are unsure of what they are looking for or if they are interested. These will take the user to the story that they correspond to. Finally below all this, there is a place to write a bit about the website if you would like.

22-Client: This looks good. I like the way it switches colours in the background. Though the grey is a bit dark. Maybe you could fix that?

23-Developer: Of course. I can make it closer to a white, I see what you mean, it is quite dark.

23-Client: Thank you.

24-Developer: No problem. Anything else you noticed?

24-Client: I think it's ok. Actually, maybe the colours should have a bit more contrast so that it is easier to navigate the page.

25-Developer: I can fix that. I will show you the story page. So as you can see, it is visually fairly similar. There is the same header but the body changes to be a story.

25-Client: It looks neat. I really like it.

26-Developer: That's a relief. I did however want to check how many stories you want displayed. I was wondering whether it would be a good idea to display more stories. That way a user could view a few in case the first result wasn't what they wanted or in case they wanted to see more.

26-Client: That's a good idea. Umm, perhaps three?

27-Developer: Yep, that sounds good. I presume placing them vertically is the only real solution here.

27-Client: It looks like it.

28-Developer: So is there anything you would like to change apart from the colours?

28-Client: Not really. I hope I don't change my mind later. But I think you should go ahead with this, I am satisfied with it.

29-Developer: Ok. If there is anything you realise you would like to change, you can just contact me. I am sending you a copy of this model so that you have it in case you would want to check again.

First tests

The client asked if they could see me change the website while making small modifications to the colour. This was a good opportunity to have them choose in real time and speed up the process.
30-Developer: So I need to change these hexadecimal values to get a colour. I believe this should be brighter. And I also need to change the greens to be brighter and more legible. So how is this? You wanted brighter colours so just tell me when you think it is legible and how you want it.

30-Client: What about that one? It looks good. Yes, that looks much better thank you. But we should probably also change the text at the bottom. My parent may not be able to read that anymore, it's quite dark.

31-Developer: Yep, I see what you mean, thanks. I think that this should work.

31-Client: It looks nice. Well done. I like the light blue.

32-Developer: So now that that is good on my screen, would you mind checking it on your devices. I noticed some slight tint changes on mine but nothing majorly noticeable.

32-Client: It looks the same. A bit dimmer on my laptop though, can you fix that?

33-Developer: Unfortunately, it would be quite hard as it looks like that might be your laptop screen and not the website though as the screen looks a bit dimmer in general. I can raise the brightness a bit so that it is more legible on your device but it would change the brightness for everyone else as well.

33-Client: That's ok, it's not too bad.

34-Developer: Are you sure?

34-Client: Yes, I can read it easily, it's just different.

35-Developer: Okay. So I want to run a test. I've inputted these stories so far. Could you please create one? I've tested this a few times and it works. I've had someone else test it too but I would like to see how it goes for you. Please don't write a personal story yet. Just a generic piece about anything.

35-Client: Ok. So just like this?

36-Developer: Yep. Great, now if you could search for the story.

36-Client: Allright. It gives me a message.

37-Developer: Yes, that's ok. I put a message to ensure that the user knows that the website is working. It shouldn't actually take that long.

37-Client: Ooh. Yes. There it is. Wow. That's great. Thank you so much.

38-Developer: That's a relief.

38-Client: It worked perfectly.

39-Developer: Actually, if you notice, you didn't have to sign in. I still need to set up a security system.

39-Client: Oh yes. That needs to happen.

40-Developer: So I can get back to you when that is done. But otherwise you are ok with the website so far?

40-Client: Yes, thank you very much.

//The client mentioned to me that they wanted the frequent searches to bring up the search itself instead of the stories. I was not able to record this unfortunately.

Final tests

41-Developer: So the website has been tested in different scenarios. It encounters some slight trouble in incognito mode, as the browser blocks outgoing signals. This shouldn't pose a major problem as the user should have no reason to use the website in incognito mode. Is that something you would like to look at?

41-Client: As in to fix it?

42-Developer: Yes. It will likely however require a restart and a paid server.

42-Client: I don't think it's worth it. I had forgotten secret mode was a thing until now.

43-Developer: Ok, great. Have you had any other changes of mind with the layout? The colours?

43-Client: I think what we set up last time is good. I may get back to you later if that's ok. In case there needs to be a slight change.

44-Developer: Yes. That's ok. So I wanted to show you how to use the security system. You can see how I am able to register. I just need to input a name and my email address. And anytime now, you should receive a notification on your email.

44-Client: Should I open it?

45-Developer: Yes please.

45-Client: The email address is there.

46-Developer: Yep. So in case this is someone you wanted to access the website, you would just copy their email and paste it in the sheet shared with you titled users. From there, they can access the website by signing in.

46-Client: So that's all I have to do?

47-Developer: Yep. That will automatically allow them to sign in.

47-Client: That seems good. So it will allow people to sign in. Is it easy to hack?

48-Developer: I believe it should be fairly secure unless people have gotten access to your gmail account or stolen your device, given they need to sign in with your google account.

48-Client: Thank you.

Extensions

49-Developer: So unfortunately, I have not yet had time to develop a method to easily edit stories. Currently, you can edit them through the database. The stories are all on the left side and split into parts so that you can tell apart the dates, the story and the author. Yet, you can't immediately select one. You need to find it and edit it there. So I am going to try to develop a way to easily import the story from the database and edit it in the near future.

49-Client: Oh. Ok. That would be nice.

50-Developer: Yeah. I am happy to add that. I have also been able to add most of the code to make the frequent searches bring up the stories directly. I haven't changed it though, as you requested. If you do change your mind, I can easily change it. Additionally, the server takes a little bit to respond currently, about 8 seconds. This could be optimised by changing where the server is but this would require you to pay for a server.

50-Client: Do you think it will be problematic?

51-Developer: I think it should be alright. But it's really up to you. A paid website might cost 10 dollars a month.

51-Client: Let's leave it like this for now. The storys too.

52-Developer: I have recorded the data I need at this point but unfortunately the website still needs to be shown so you can't add any stories at this point. You can always add test stories and try to use it but I will need to remove them, I can store them and add them back though. But for privacy reasons we can't leave them up. Sorry.

52-Client: That's fine. I will add stories that you can store before removing them then. Is there anything you could add with machine learning? To make the site more interesting? It's a weird question, I don't have anything in mind.

53-Developer: Not really. There isn't much room for machine learning in this project. I guess you could try to develop a system to analyse stories and write new stories. But I am not sure whether that helps you. And I would not be able to develop that very well. These projects are developed by teams with very large amounts of data. Millions of stories.

53-Client: That's fine. Sorry.

54-Developer: That's fine. Interesting question. But otherwise is there anything you think of that I should add?

54-Client: Actually, I think it's ok for now. Thank you.

55-Developer: I did have some ideas that could be looked at. The search engine could be made more intelligent. For example, it could offer autocomplete prompts like google does when you are searching for something. Also, there could be a button which allows the user to flick through all the stories, perhaps in chronological order?