IOU – Track shared costs online

Project Title:
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Client retains Intellectual Property: Yes
Confidentiality Agreement required: No

Project Description:
Everybody has been out to coffee with friends and said “I’ll get the next one” or perhaps you live in a share-house and need to see who’s turn it is to buy Friday night pizza or the groceries. Maybe you’re taking a road trip and need to know who’s turn it is to fill up the car next.

IOU is a simple way to keep track of shared costs online.

Define a group who you want to share costs with, for example flat mates or friends you go out with regularly. Each time you buy something for the group log it in IOU. It’s an easy way to see what you have paid for. In your group you can see whose turn it is to pay next to keep the costs even.

IOU is an alternative to transferring cash around, it’s almost like a bank.

IOU is available via the web where users can login to manage their groups and IOU’s and it is also available via mobile devices because you need to be able to track expenses as they happen when you are out and about.

Possible extra features
Within your group you could select your own unit of currency, for example “IOU one coffee”.

It might be a good idea to know if the people in your group are likely to repay the debt. A reputation system to show if you should trust the IOU that someone is giving you would give everyone an incentive to settle their debts.

Sometimes someone in your group might want to log a shared cost you don’t want to pay them back for, perhaps your flat mate bought pizza for themselves and ate it all but wants to log it against your share-house group. Being able to accept or reject a shared cost would make sure everyone is happy with the tally.

Attaching a photo of a receipt or other proof of purchase to an IOU might make it easier to confirm the amount of the shared cost.

Other advanced features might include forgiving or clearing a debt or allowing the transfer of a debt between two people if they both agree.
Project Technical Information:
The website will feature a rich REST/AJAX client site web user interface.
We are happy to discuss the best web framework to develop the project but as a business we are moving from PHP/CakePHP to Python/Django.

About Ionata Web Solutions:
Ionata Web Solutions develops exceptional web and interactive applications for private and public sector clients globally, drawing on a growing team of hands-on developers and highly-skilled design and content contractors to produce fresh, reflexive and bespoke work.

Based in Hobart, Ionata Web Solutions is the leading provider of ecommerce services in Tasmania. The business was established to providing intelligent, user-friendly and exciting online solutions that are technically sound and a pleasure to look at and use.

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