HealthiNet
Online Social Health Information Network

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HealthiNet is an online social health information network focused on anonymity and security to give users confidence that their identity and personal information remain confidential. The aim of this project is to produce a concept for an online social heath information network that gives users confidence and allows communication in a secure environment.

The Need for HealthiNet

HealthiNet has been developed as there is a need for an online social health network that focuses on privacy and anonymity.

Similar social networks and forums focused on health do exist, however none of these networks provide the level of privacy needed, by requiring that users register with their full name, display personal information publicly, and reserve the right to sell members' personal information.

The Correct Approach to Privacy

The primary focus of HealthiNet is privacy. This is addressed in a number of ways:

- Minimal personally identifiable information is requested upon registration and stored in the system
- Users are encouraged not to use their real names
- Personal information such as email address and gender is never disclosed to other users
- User profiles are only viewable by matching users on the system
- Users are able to select from a limited range of avatars to show their personal style
- User information is completely confidential and is never sold to third parties

User Profile Generation

One of the main strengths of HealthiNet is its capability to store a varying degree of user information to generate user profiles.

HealthiNet allows the creation of personalised user profiles based on health concerns and lifestyles. Users are able to add as much or as little detail about their concerns as they are comfortable with. Profile information can be completely removed from the system at any time if the user feels that they are no longer comfortable with sharing that information, or if the information is no longer of concern.

The user is in complete control of how much information is displayed on their profile, and have the confidence that their information will only be viewable by registered users with similar concerns.

User Matching and Communication

HealthiNet allows communication between users with similar health concerns and lifestyles to allow them to share their experiences and concerns.

Users are matched according to the number of similar health concerns and lifestyles on their profile, and the level of importance of this information for the user. Matching users are generated and displayed only when the user wishes to find new connections. Only matching users are able to view other users' profiles and request connections.
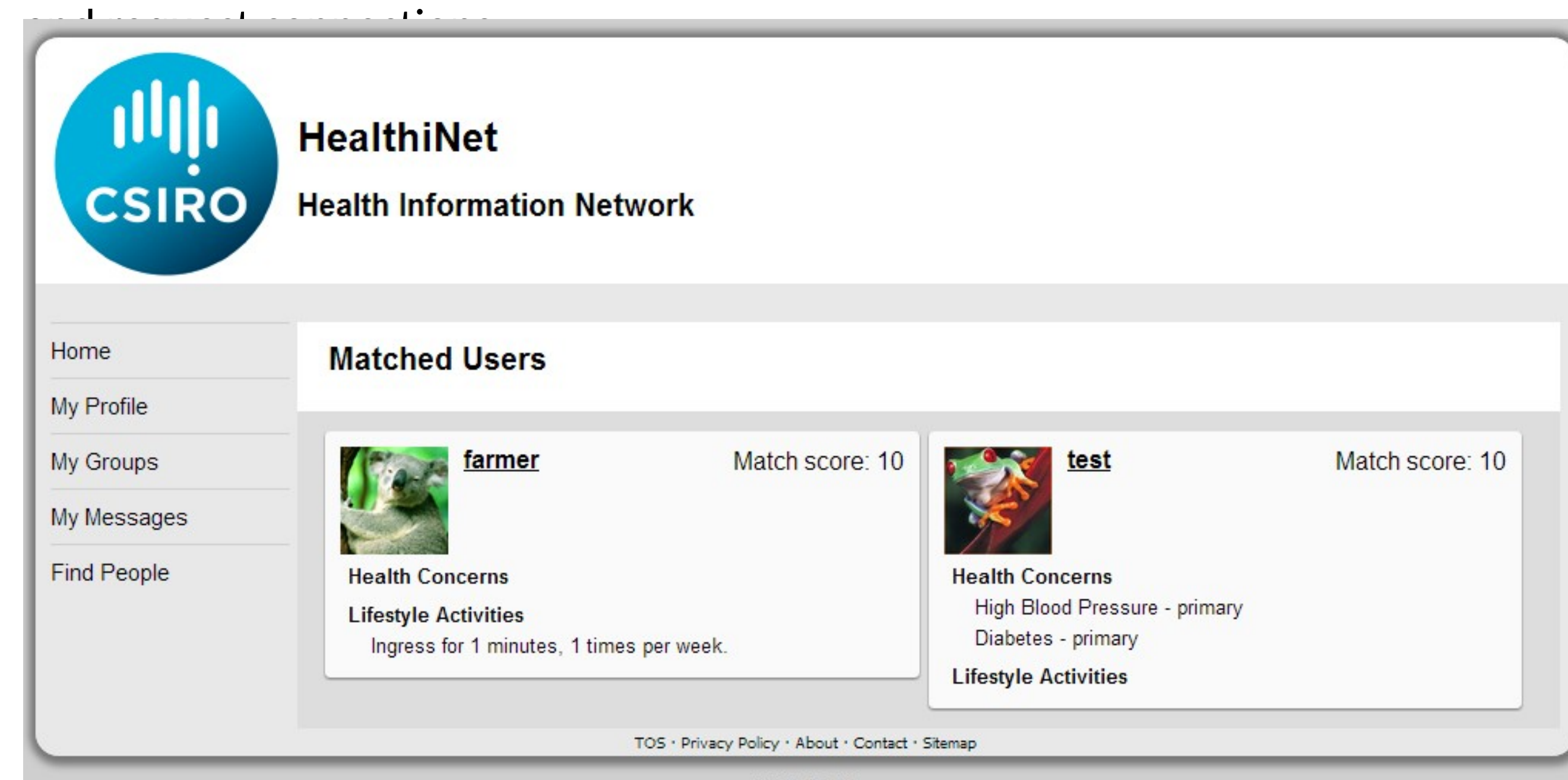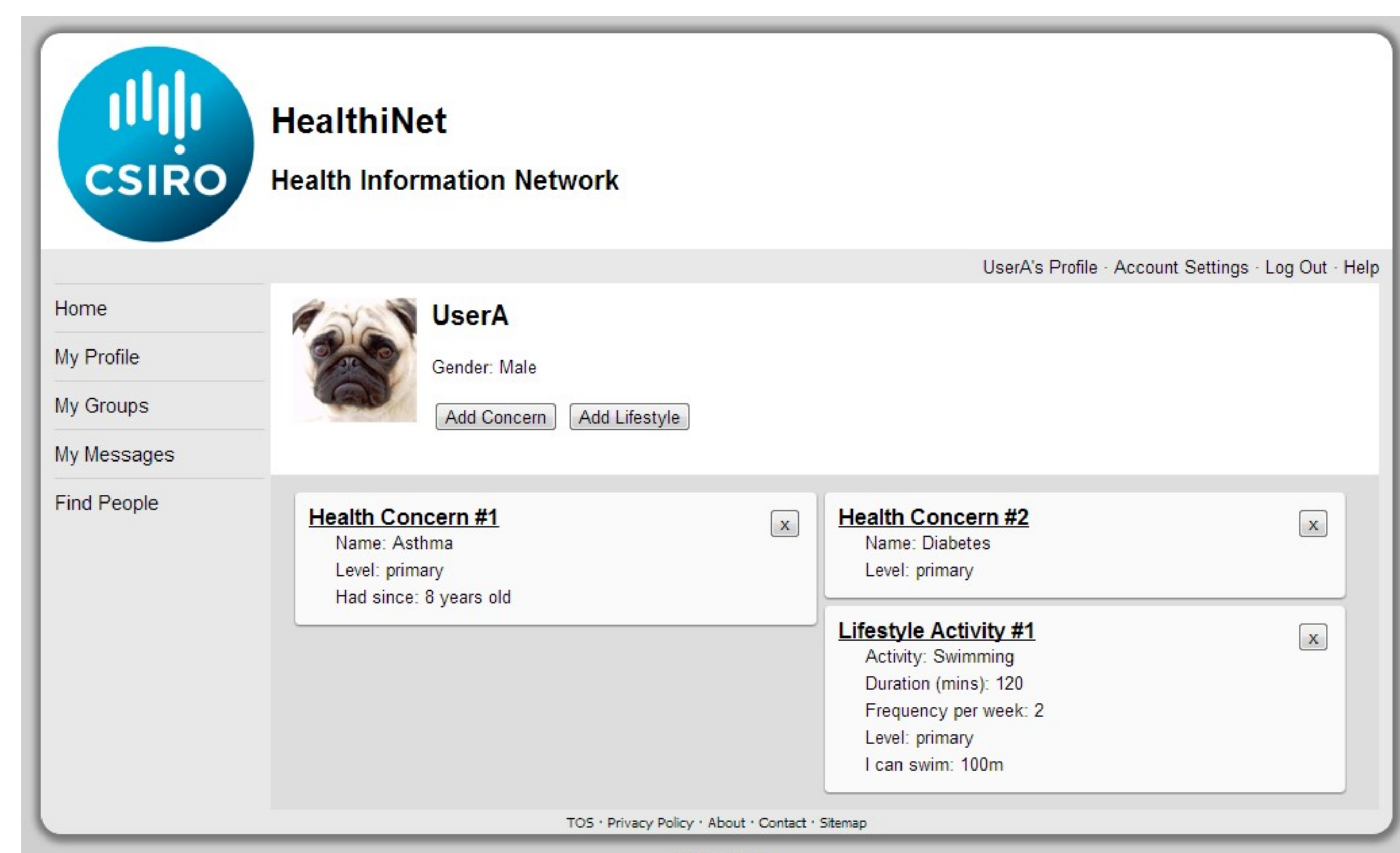

When the user requests connection with a user, one-to-one communication with that user is enabled only if they accept the request. The user is able to remove a connection with another user at any time.

Users are also able to form private groups with any number of their existing connections for discussion of health concerns in a secure, group environment.
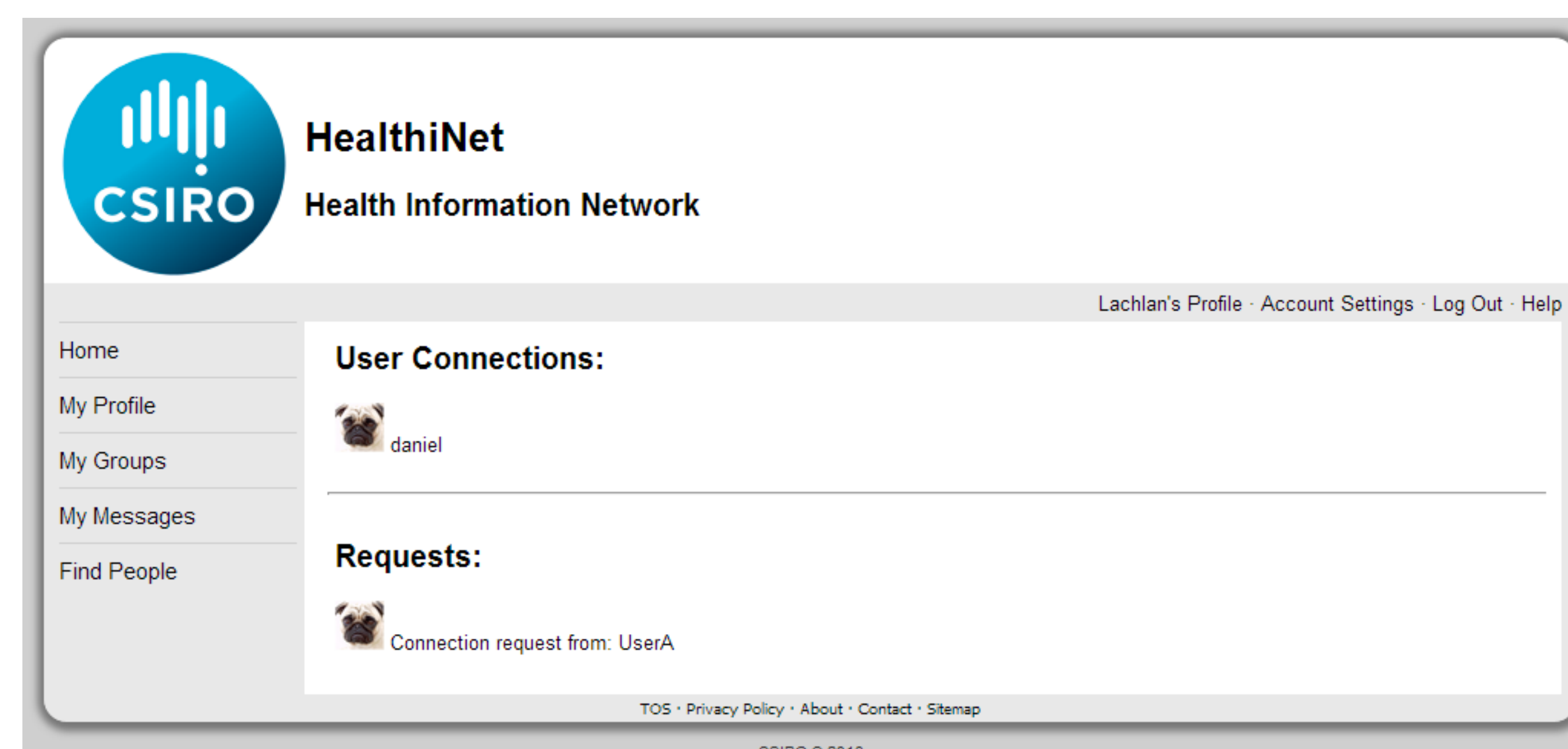
Semantic Data

HealthiNet is intended as a semantic web application capable of storing and retrieving data via triples from a datastore. The use of semantic data allows the system to re-use data from other online ontologies and vocabulary systems such as SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terms).

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