

At Ease

Software Requirements Document



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Change History

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1. Introduction

1.1 Key Definitions

Manager - a user who is charged with overseeing all of the operations of a rented property

Tenant - a user who occupies land or property rented from a property manager

User - a person with one of two roles, tenant or manager, who uses the At Ease application

Maintenance Request - a specific instruction submitted by a tenant user that outlines the details of a maintenance defect in their property that does not meet proper standards

Property/Room - One living unit that is occupied by a tenant and managed by a manager

Floor - A group of rooms. While this is expected to be on a floor of a building, it may be defined differently by a manager.

Complex - A group of buildings.

Building - A group of floors.

System - A group of complexes. This is the highest level of grouping allowed.

1.2 Purpose and Motivation

The motivation for this project comes from the problems presented by renting a property from an Independent Rental Owner(IRO). Today, tenants face many unwanted problems that all mostly stem from poor communication between tenants and their property manager. Our app, At Ease, seeks to remedy these problems by attacking their root, and creating an environment where tenants can be at ease about the place they live.

1.3 Scope

The At Ease application is designed for the Google Android Platform. It is intended to be used by small to medium sized property managers who, despite their small size, still desire an efficient approach to manage and communicate to their tenants. Tenants who rent from property managers that communicate via At Ease will have access to the app on any android device. Their account will be connected to their manager's account, and they will have access to all the features provided to them by the At Ease application.

1.4 Project Goals

The overall goal of At Ease is to comfort both tenants and managers throughout the rental process. This is reached by providing them with an environment in which all of their needs pertaining to

renting a property are handled in one intuitive and easy-to-use application. We want our app to be easy to maneuver and work at a high level.

One major goal of this project is effectively managing our time to successfully implement all the features that we desire. We think the three main features(rent, communication, and maintenance requests) are the minimum of what we need to create an app that could compete on the real market. Trying to add all of these features is a major risk to getting this project done and getting it done well. We plan to manage this by effectively collaborating on the major issues of the project, but also dividing up the smaller tasks to get done outside of our meeting times. We believe the app we are trying to create will stretch us to not only do things that we have maybe never done before, but also learn more about time management and effective work in the process.

2. Project Description

2.1 Tenant Portal

Each tenant will access the app through the specific lense, or portal, of a tenant user. This will make the app less cluttered by taking out the options of the app that only pertain to managers. With the proposed features we have right now, the tenant will have the following options: communicating to their specified property manager; initiating, cancelling and checking the status of maintenance requests; and paying their rent.

2.2 Property Manager Portal

Each property manager will access the app through the specific lense, or portal, of a manager user. Like the tenant portal, the property manager portal will take out the features only pertaining to tenants. With the proposed features we have right now, the property manager will have the following options: communicating to their tenants; managing and closing maintenance requests; and managing the rent payments from their tenants.

2.3 Communication Portal

One main feature of At Ease is the communication portal between tenants and their property manager. The communication feature will not be much different than your average messaging environment. We plan to use Sinch in-app instant messaging to be an outline for our communication portal.

2.4 Maintenance Request Priority Queue

Another main feature of At Ease is the maintenance request feature, which provides a simple way for tenants to submit maintenance requests to the property managers, and in turn a simple way for the property manager to check these maintenance requests and clear them from the queue if they are done.

2.5 Rent Payment

Rent payment will be a feature open solely to the tenant. We plan to use PayPal as a payment processor in this feature. Tenants will have either a credit/debit card or a bank account linked to their profile that they will use to pay the property manager for rent. The goal is to eventually implement Stripe and Google Wallet to this feature as well.

2.6 Rent Management

Rent management will be a feature open solely to the property manager. Here the property managers will be able to set rent for each of the properties they manage, and also see the status on whether each of their tenants have paid rent for the specific rental time period.

2.7 Explanation and Justification of Third Party Tools

Parse - Parse is a third-party back-end system that streamlines the use of online database storage. While there is a paid version, the free version should suffice for the scope of this project. Using Parse will allow us to spend more time on creating features for the app, while also making it more portable across different platforms. In addition, Parse has built-in User control, which will allow easy integration with Facebook and Google log-ins.

Sinch - Sinch is a third party messaging API that allows in-app communication between different users. Sinch is designed to be simple and easily imported into Android apps.

Paypal/Stripe/Google Wallet - These third-party programs will allow us to safely and securely process payments from a User. We will only implement one at first, but the goal is to allow the use of all three.

3. Functional Requirements

3.1 Priority Legend

The legend describing the different priority levels found throughout the functional and nonfunctional requirements sections is found below, in table 3.1.

Priority	Description	Chance of completion (by Dec.)
Essential	One of the main goals of the project. Unless further research shifts the priorities of the app, these will be completed.	100% > x > 95%
High	A major component of the current plan, almost all of these should be completed, and they are often complementary to the essential tasks.	95% > x > 75%
Medium	While these tasks are important to complete, they are not critical to the completion of the project. Completion will be mainly based on the time needed to implement.	75% > x > 40%
Low	Tasks that would be nice to have, but are not important at all for the completion of the app.	40% > x > 15%
Stretch	Great goals for the future, but unless the plan is changed drastically, they will almost certainly not be implemented by December.	15% > x > 0%

Table 3.1 Functional Requirement Priority Legend

3.2 Rent

Requirement	Description	Priority
Edit Rent	Allow the manager to edit the rent for a tenant. This includes the collection frequency and dates.	Essential
Pay Rent	System for a tenant to pay the required rent to the manager.	Essential
Rent Reminders	User specified reminders for upcoming rent deadlines. A push notification would be good. Ideally, clicking the notification takes the user to the pay rent screen.	Medium
Request Rent	Managers can manually or automatically request late rent from a tenant.	Medium
Rent Penalty	Automatically assess a set penalty to late rent, if the option is enabled.	Low

Table 3.2 Rent Functional Requirements

3.3 Maintenance

Requirement	Description	Priority
Initiate Maintenance Request	A tenant will create a maintenance request, which will be sent to the manager's inbox.	Essential
Cancel Maintenance Request	Allow a tenant to cancel a previously issued maintenance request.	Essential
Close Maintenance Request	Allow a manager and tenant to jointly close a maintenance request. A manager first marks a maintenance request as complete. The tenant must then approve this action. Once both approve the action, the request is considered closed.	Essential
Update Maintenance Request Progress	The manager can update the status of the request, and post progress updates to keep the tenant informed.	Medium
Ask for Progress Update	Allow the tenant to request a progress update on a stale request.	Low

Attach Picture	Tenants can attach a picture to a maintenance request.	Low
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Table 3.3 Maintenance Functional Requirements

3.4 Communication

Requirement	Description	Priority
Inbox	Have an inbox containing the messages of a user.	
Manager->Tenant direct message	A direct message from the manager to the tenant.	Essential
Tenant -> Manager direct message	A direct message from the tenant to the manager.	Essential
Manager -> Group message	A group message from the manager to a room, floor, building, complex, or system.	Medium
Building bulletin board	A place where users can place messages and announcements visible to the whole floor, building, complex, or system. Ads here would be useful as well.	Stretch
Tenant -> Room “door note”	A system for tenants to leave anonymous messages visible to everyone in a room. The manager will have access to see who posted the message, to prevent abuse.	Stretch

Table 3.4 Communication Functional Requirements

3.5 Reviews

Requirement	Description	Priority
User Profiles	A profile page for managers and tenants. Could include contact info, a description, and various other common social media profile components.	Stretch
Building Pages	A profile page for a building. It should include a description,	Stretch

	pictures, and a location.	
Tenant Reviews	Reviews of a tenant, covering their rent reliability and how easy they are to rent to.	Stretch
Manager Reviews	Manager reviews, covering how easy they are to rent from.	Stretch
Building Reviews	Building reviews, covering quality, features, and livability.	Stretch
Building Amenities	A list of amenities available at the building.	Stretch

Table 3.5 Reviews Functional Requirements

3.6 Matching System

Requirement	Description	Priority
Searchable Buildings	Allow users to search the database of buildings by name, location, or amenities available.	Stretch
Roommate Match	Match tenants to other tenants who would be compatible roommates, based on a survey.	Stretch
Manager Match	Match tenants to a nearby manager or building, based on a survey.	Stretch

Table 3.6 Matching System Functional Requirements

4. Non-Functional Requirements

4.1 Rent

Requirement	Description	Priority
Financial Reliability	The payment system should be financially reliable, meaning that if there is a failure of some sort, no money is moved or lost.	Essential
Use Stripe	Integrate Stripe as a payment option.	Medium
Use PayPal	Integrate PayPal as a payment option.	High
Use Google Wallet	Integrate Google Wallet as a payment option.	Medium

Table 4.1 Rent Functional Requirements

4.2 Maintenance

Requirement	Description	Priority
Use Parse	Store data in Parse.	Essential
Maintenance Request Form	Have a set form for tenants to enter data into to create a maintenance request.	Essential
Customizable Form	Allow managers to create their own custom maintenance request form.	Stretch
Store Pictures	Have a storage system for the pictures uploaded with maintenance requests.	Low

Table 4.2 Maintenance Functional Requirements

4.3 Communication

Requirement	Description	Priority
Use Parse/Sinch	Use a combination of Parse and Sinch to store and send messages securely.	Essential
Use Parse Users	Control user access using the Parse User feature.	Essential

Bulletin Board Recyclerview	Use a recyclerview to show the Bulletin Board, and design the layout to look like a physical one.	Low
Door Note Graphics	Design the graphics of the door note system to actually look like a whiteboard on a door.	Low
Load Inbox Dynamically	When loading the inbox, dynamically show messages as they load.	Medium
100+ Item Storage in Inbox	Keep up to 100 items in an inbox of a user.	High

Table 4.3 Communication Functional Requirements

4.4 Reviews

Requirement	Description	Priority
Compute an Average Rating	Compute an average rating from all the ratings given to a user or place.	Stretch
Store 1000 character reviews	Written reviews by a user should be able to store up to 1000 characters, or more.	Stretch

Table 4.4 Reviews Functional Requirements

4.5 Matching System

Requirement	Description	Priority
Advanced Search Menu	Have a standard, easy to use form to allow advanced searching of users and buildings.	Stretch

Table 4.5 Matching System Functional Requirements

5. UML Diagrams

Note: Due to the scope of this project, only requirements that have been marked as “essential” will be included in the diagrams found within this section.

5.1 Use Case Diagrams

5.1.1 Top-Level Use Case Diagram

The Top-Level use case diagram is shown in Figure 5.1. This shows a general overview of the features that Actors of the system can access. The core features will be the main focus, while the additional features and the stretch goal features will only be added if time permits, and the core features are fully working.

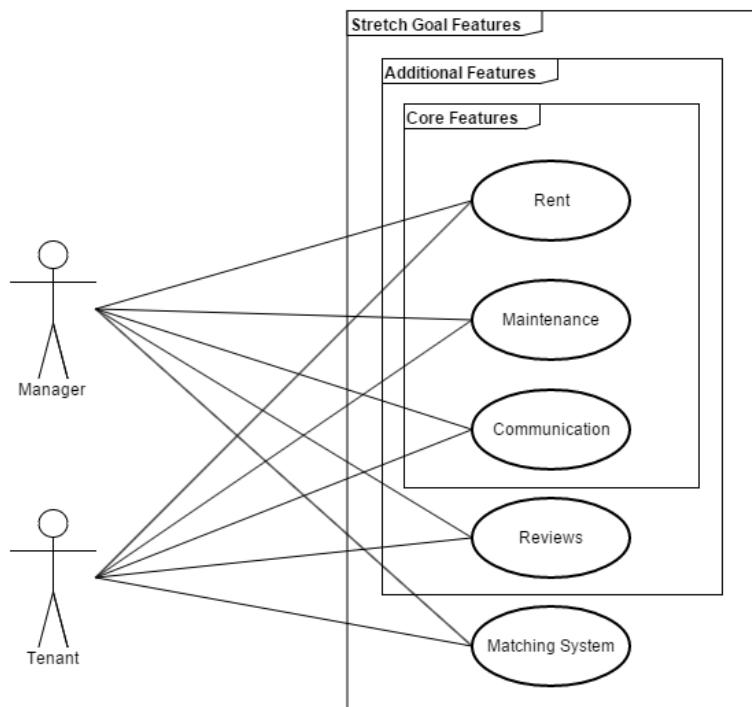


Figure 5.1

5.1.2 Rent Use Case Diagram

The rent use case is shown in Figure 5.2. A Tenant can Pay Rent and Check Rent. A Manager can Check Rent and Edit Rent. Pay Rent interacts with a third-party payment processing system, such as Paypal.

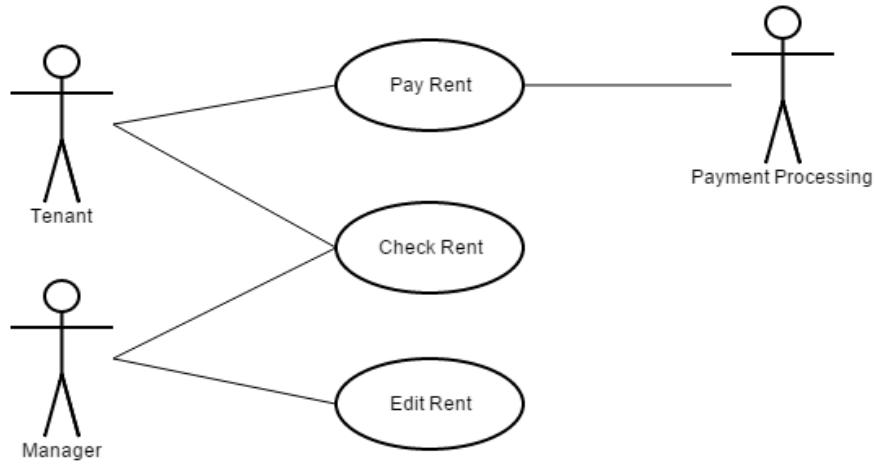


Figure 5.2

5.1.3 Maintenance Use Case Diagram

The maintenance use case is shown in Figure 5.3. A tenant can initiate requests and cancel requests that are not needed. Managers can Close completed requests, which will then allow tenants to jointly close the completed request.

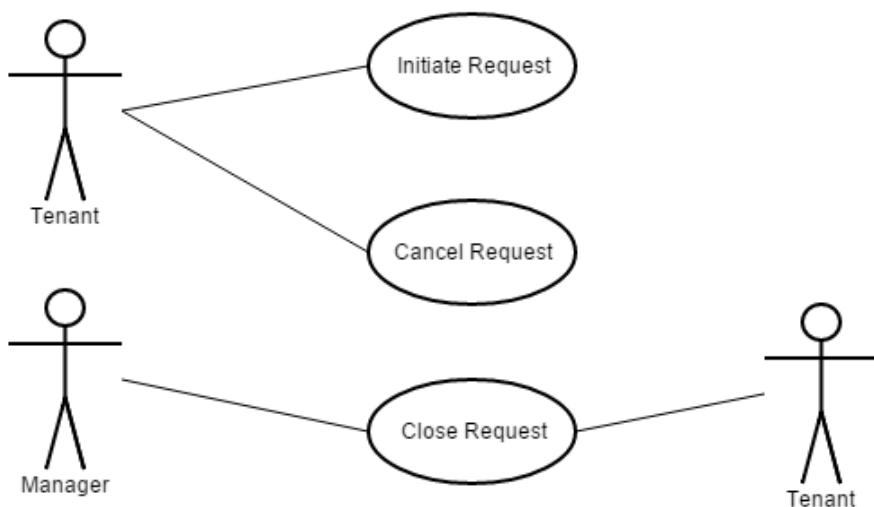


Figure 5.3

5.1.4 Communication Use Case Diagram

The communication use case diagram is shown in Figure 5.4. Both tenants and managers can send messages, receive messages, and archive messages.

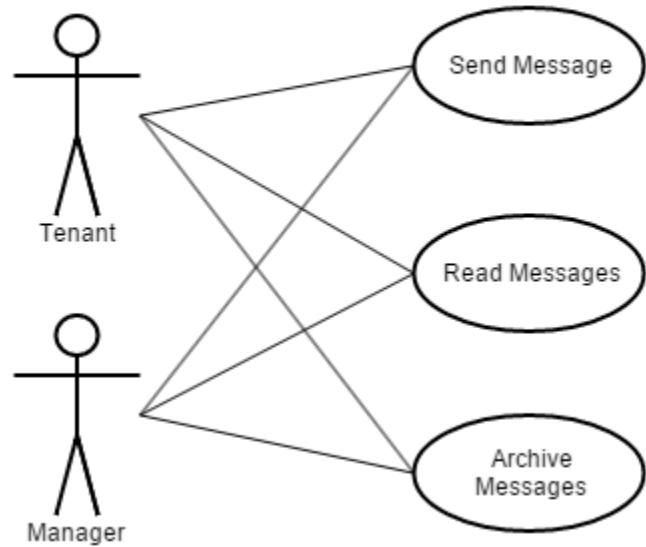


Figure 5.4

5.2 Class Diagram

The high level class diagram is shown in Figure 5.5. The diagram shows some preliminary relationships between classes that will exist in our system. We have not included full implementation details in this version of the class diagram.

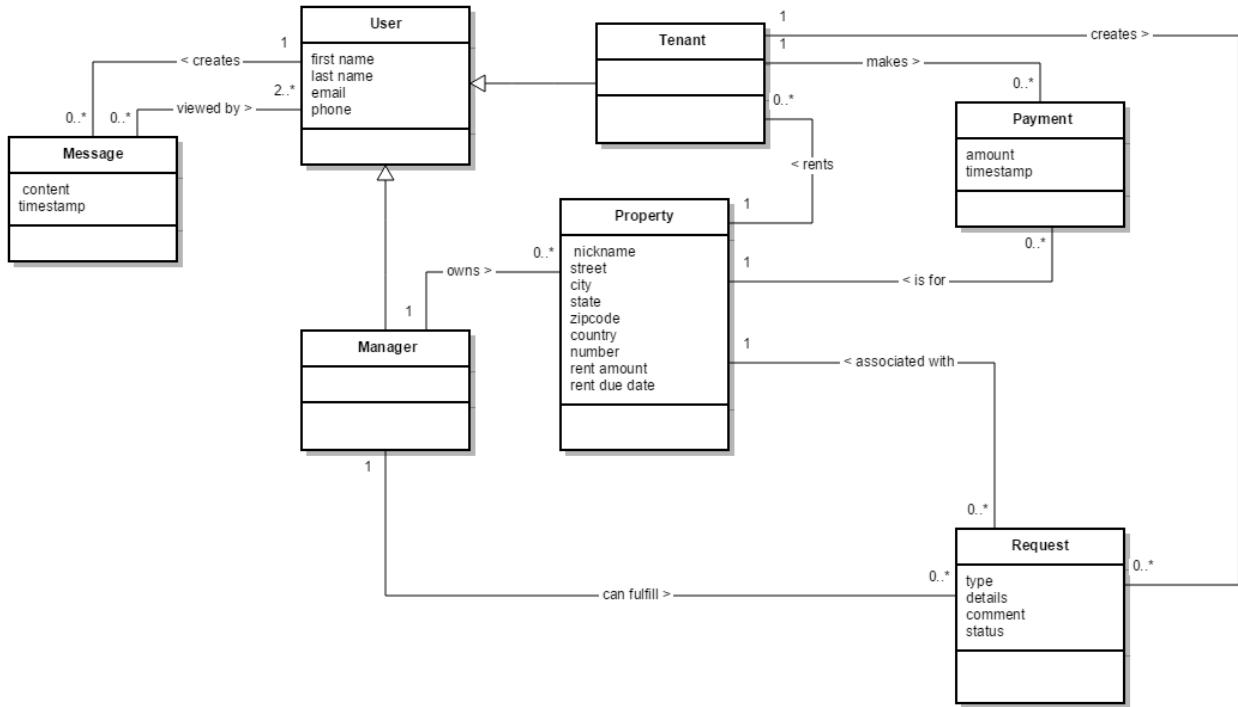


Figure 5.5

5.3 Activity Diagrams

5.3.1 Top-Level Activity Diagram

The top-level activity is shown in Figure 5.6. This activity outlines the way a User will navigate into the other activities. The User will also be identified here as either a Tenant or a Manager.

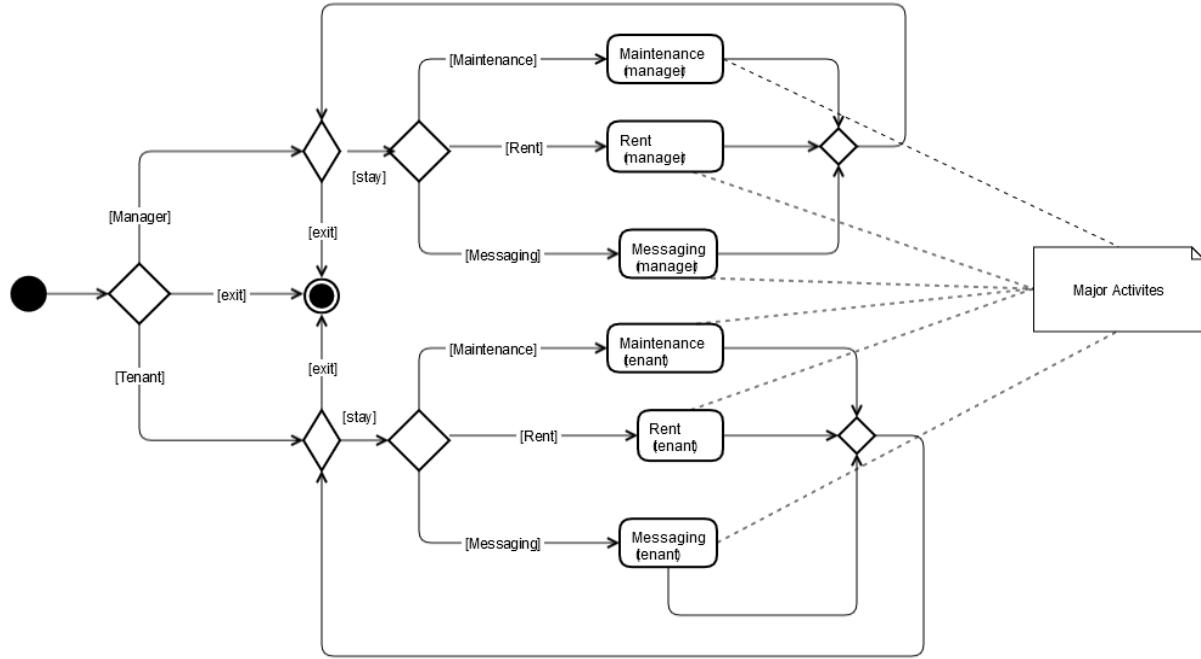


Figure 5.6

5.3.2 Maintenance (Manager) Activity Diagram

The Maintenance (Manager) activity is shown in Figure 5.7. This diagram outlines how a manager can view maintenance requests, mark them as done, or add a comment to a maintenance request.

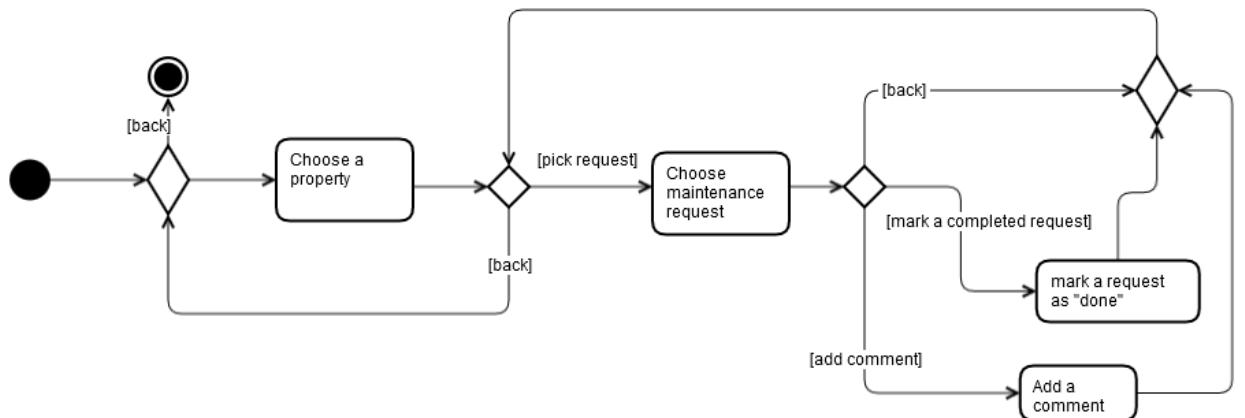


Figure 5.7

5.3.3 Rent (Manager) Activity Diagram

The Rent (Manager) activity is shown in Figure 5.8. This diagram outlines how a manager can set rent for a particular property, and view payment history of their tenants.

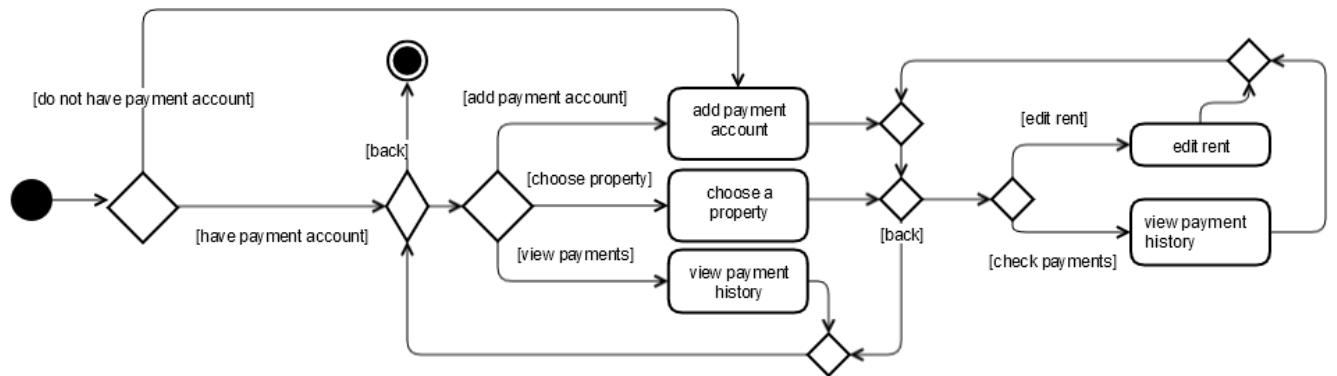


Figure 5.8

5.3.4 Messaging (Manager) Activity Diagram

The Messaging (Manager) activity is shown in figure 5.9. This outlines the process by which a Manager can read, delete, and send messages to a Tenant.

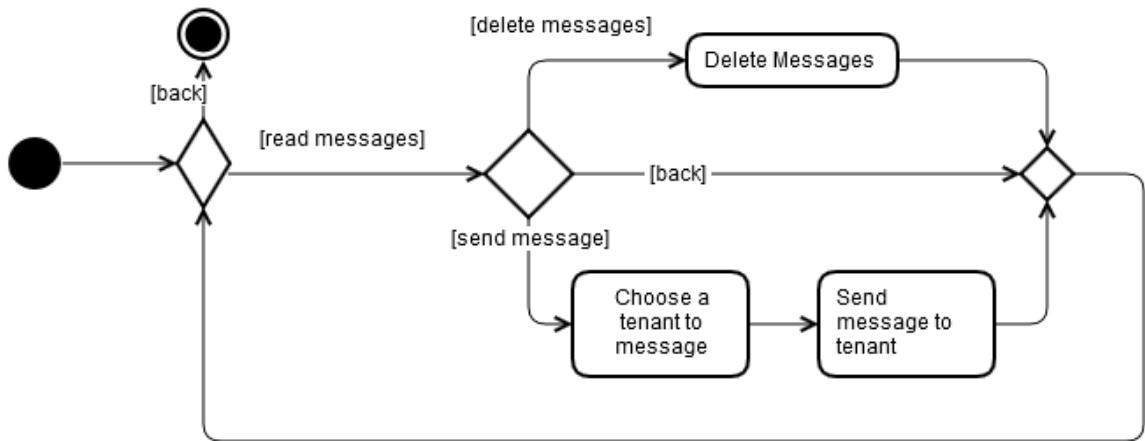


Figure 5.9

5.3.5 Maintenance (Tenant) Activity Diagram

The Maintenance (Tenant) activity is shown in Figure 5.10. This illustrates how a Tenant can view the different maintenance requests he has submitted, cancel or check the status of the request, initiate a new request, or accept a request as completed.

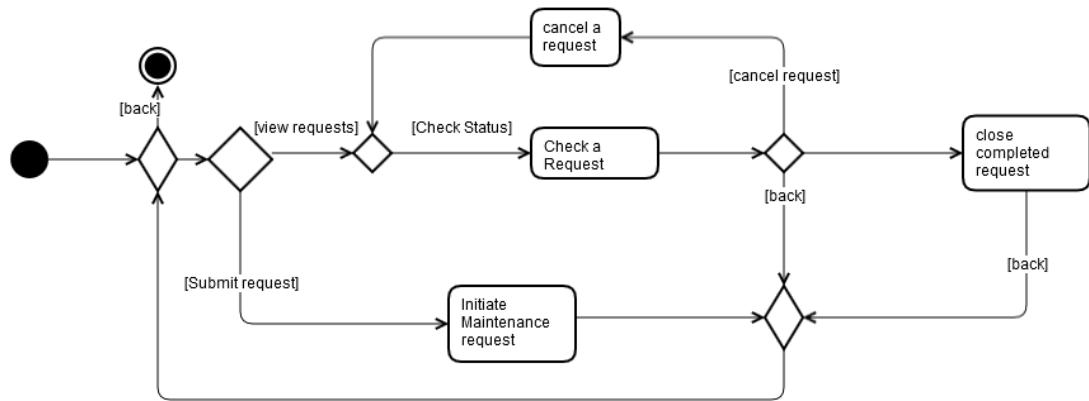


Figure 5.10

5.3.6 Rent (Tenant) Activity Diagram

The Rent (Tenant) activity is shown in Figure 5.11. It outlines how a tenant can pay for their rent, add a payment account, or check their payment history.

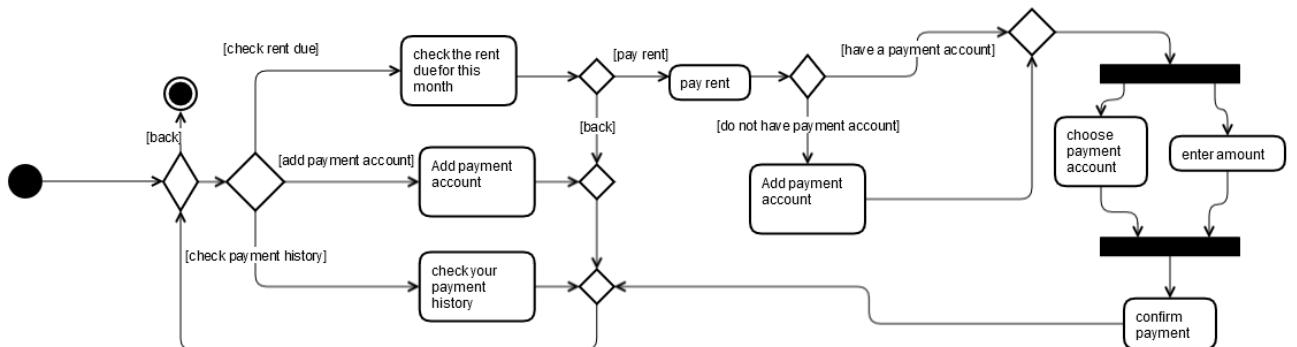


Figure 5.11

5.3.7 Messaging (Tenant) Activity Diagram

The Messaging (Tenant) activity is shown in Figure 5.12. The activity describes how a Tenant can read, delete, and send messages to a manager.

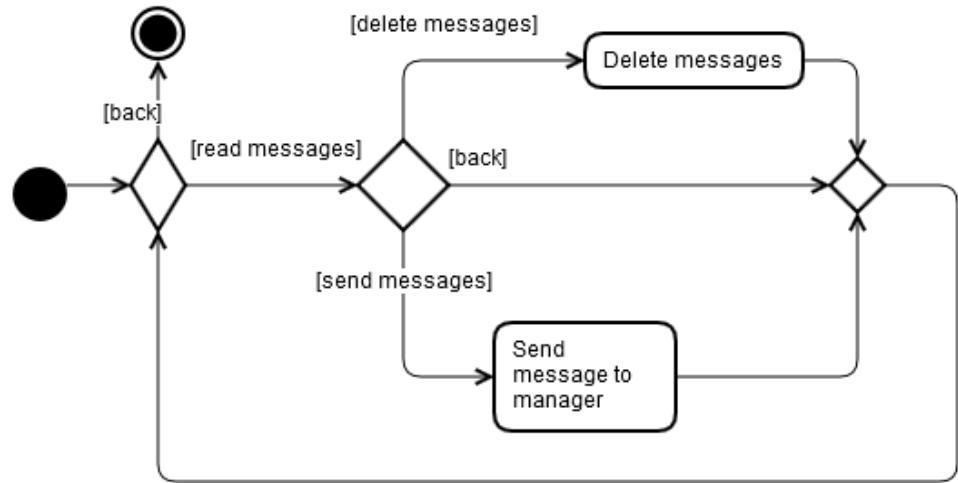


Figure 5.12