Plans and Progress

Here you should give as much detail as you can about what your project will do, and how you will do it. This should also include how far you have got with developing any features or outcomes from your project. Tell us about the “story" of your project – how it began, how it has progressed, and what stage of the plan you are up to. Include any dead ends you may have followed, decisions made, and changes that have been made to the project plan. This will need to include a significant amount of detail, so that it is easily seen what precisely you have done and are planning to do. If it helps, imagine the information that would be required if you were to hand this project over at the end of the semester to a new team to complete the job. What would you want to know, if you were one of the people taking over? There is no set length for this section, but it is hard to believe that less than two pages could be adequate. Three or four pages is far more likely.

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Plans and Progress

The plan behind the application is to assist people to maintain a healthy diet whilst eliminating wastage. Using modern technology we use a person's optimum Body mass index to see what nutrition required and assist in building healthy meals with the least amount of food necessary.

Our initial reason for creating our application is the levels of food waste in the world are truly staggering we throw out tons of food daily yet still people go hungry and as the world population continues to grow so does the problem. The wasteful nature of the developed world whilst the undeveloped goes hungry cannot be allowed to continue. As we thought about the effects the app would have on the the world at large we also came to realise that obesity would also be challenged as one way of looking at obesity is the wasting of food by putting the excess into our bodies.

There are many obstacles to ending this pattern of behaviour the biggest being that it wired into our DNA from less bountiful times to “consume all the food available to us as we may go hungry tomorrow, even if we do not actually consume it just pile it onto our plate and then throw away engorged to the point of falling into “sleep comas” . The advances in agricultural practice, food preservation technology, the afore mentioned tonnes of “wasted” food and the ever increasing waste bands and obesity epidemic of those of us living in the western world. all show this fear that we may be hungry tomorrow to be completely unfounded. Today we can view images of starving victims of famine live and in vivid colour whilst we go about looking like a scene from the Disney movie Wall E. We cannot allow this to continue.

The myriad of foods out there and the varieties within, gluten free, Low glycemic, containing wonder substances like Omega 3 and the seemingly insurmountable collection of numerical codes used for chemical additives in our food, make knowing what we consume and how much we should consume perplexing, let’s be honest we are all intelligent people how many of us can really understand the nutritional information on the side of packaging? All this information that we need to adequately fuel our selves could make one think think that to stop us from becoming a drooling muttering mess from information overload, it is like we need to carry nutrional encyclodieas around with us. Luckily for us we do all the information is on the internet yet finding takes a lot of time and effort and even then it looks even more intricate and confusing than the side of the packaging did. Modern society has become obsessed with instant gratification and convience, and we already live a life that is information saturated to say the very least. Therefore the most likely way we are going to be able to change our ways is with the assistance and support of our hand held devices and an app which finds and translates this information for us, which is where we come in.

The primary goal of the app is a user can look at a food they intend to use in a recipe or on it’s own and the app will tell them how much they need to use, not as a standard serving but exactly for their individual BMI, allowing the rest to be put away back into storage or the refrigerator. With a little planning we can expand this into calculating exactly what to purchase in our grocery shopping. In time with the development of the app and changing of societal practices both food wastage and obesity can become just another factor of society for future generations to look back on, laugh and say they did some weird thing back in those times

The most daunting part of our project will be getting the myriad of the aforementioned foods onto a central database and recorded in portions for which the app can perform the necessary calculations and then keeping this database up to date as food is improved apon and modified further. To be honest I am not sure a small group can accomplish this and keep it up to date, the assistance of groups like the CSIRO in Australia or the UN’s World health organisation who would then take ownership would be hugely beneficial both to the app and the world at large. This is not an app for making money or for providing momentary entertainment, as grandiose as it may sound this is an app for global improvement and one that we cannot hold morally hold ownership of.

At the time of writing this we are in the development and data collection stage, as you can probably tell by the grandiose endeavour of the apps goals this is quite a substantial stage