Overview

I’m developing a cooking assistant. The assistant can store user information and use that information to make personalized recipe suggestions.

So far, I have implemented a version of the app that catered to one user and determined that there wasn’t much value in that idea. I shifted the concept from being about once user and one meal to incorporating a group of people in a shared possibly multiple meal gathering. After making the concept shift, I’ve been able to update the profiles management and GUI to support groups of people and the individual users within the group. I’ve also created a “kitchens” sub profile within each family group that contains different ingredients and tools. This is to support different cooking locations.

I also adjusted the scale of my intended uses of the OpenAI API to be more straightforward. Notably, I’m only intending on using it for recipe generation not profile management and additional user context will be gathered in simpler way than using the LLM. Basically, make things simple where they can be so they can be more complex where they need to be. It took me about 3 iterations to figure this out.

Key Points

* Layout needed to expand so that I could see different variables and possible interactions at the same time
* I struggled with how to present the app and ended up trying a modular menu approach that is loosely based on what could fit onto a simple smartphone menu
  + This allowed for me to isolate the different functions and visualize how they need to share information.
  + It also provided structure for developing new menus.
  + This structure also provides a module base for expanding the functionality of the app in general

Issues

* The underlying issue is that my original application concept didn’t match the service idea I was working up in my mind.
* I realized that there was only so much that could be personalized in one recipe.
* I had to tweak and adjust the application concept to avoid developing something that didn’t actually add value to a user
* Making the UI understandable so that I can test the other UI aspects
  + Ende up not using LLM tricks but more typical data management techniques

Outstanding Issues

* How to best interact with the LLM
  + There is still the task of bringing the information together into a coherent clear and configurable statement to be fed to the LLM.
  + In tandem with the prompt creation is developing the output function
    - Going to need a new output menu with the output from the LLM structured to feed into it.
* Tracking user activity
  + This was more straightforward with one user per profile than with a group.
  + Need to see how we can store this information and how to present it.
    - This will depend on how the output is structured for visualization.

Next Milestones

1. Generating Individual Recipes
   1. Implement the logic and develop the prompt to generate individual recipes for a specific user or a plan
2. Saving Recipes
   1. Can save recipes and pull them up later without using the LLM.
   2. Also need to have the ability for the LLM to not suggest recipes that have already been saved.
3. Displaying Recipes
   1. Need to put some thought into how to best display the recipe
   2. Going to be another screen and a new style

Self-Reflection

* I’m very satisfied with my progress so far.
* I’ve had to make adjustments to the plan and rethink how I wanted to implement it but I’m happier with what I created than what I originally concepted.
* I’ve had extra practice developing some apps for my work the past few weeks and that experience has helped me progress on my understanding of what makes a good GUI and how a good GUI can help progress and validate a data science project/concept