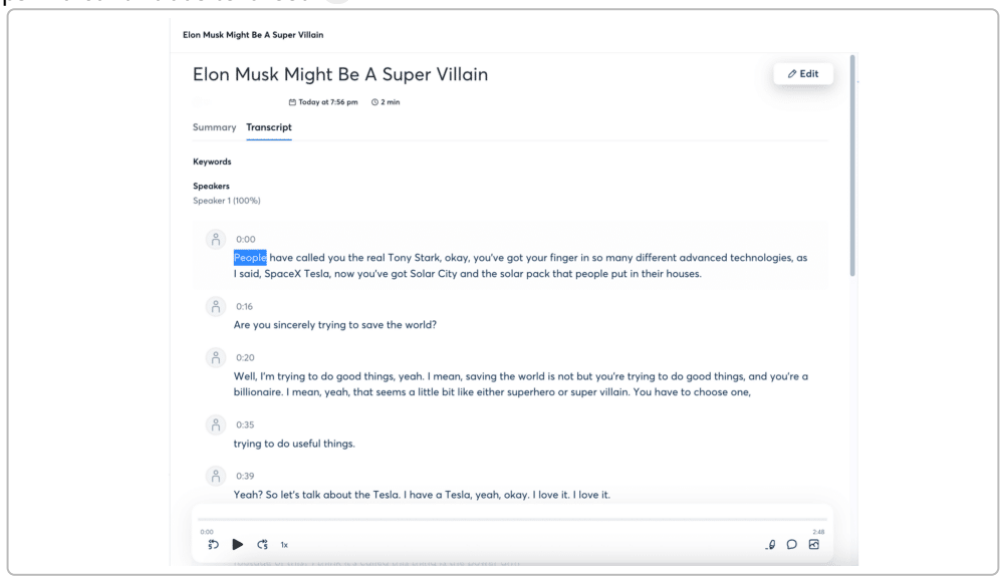
ChatGPT

# Design & UX Strategy for a Next-Gen AI Meeting Notes App

## Otter.ai's Current UX: Strengths and Pain Points

**Transcript Interface & Consumption:** Otter.ai provides real-time transcription with speaker labels and timestamps in a continuous text feed [1]




. This live transcript helps users follow along or review what was said, and it's searchable for keywords [2]. However, consuming long transcripts in this format can be overwhelming. Users have noted that Otter's search UI is initially tough to navigate, indicating the interface for finding information could be more intuitive [3]. The transcript view itself lacks hierarchy – it's essentially a long scroll of text. Important points or action items don't stand out unless manually highlighted, making it hard for readers (especially busy executives) to extract key insights at a glance.

**Collaboration & Editing Flaws:** Otter does offer collaboration features – transcripts can be shared with teammates for viewing, commenting, and even editing, and you can organize transcripts into shared groups or channels [4]. In practice, though, there are UX shortcomings. For one, settings for team sharing are confusing; for example, one user noted difficulty auto-sharing calls into a common team folder, having to manually share each time [5]. Editing transcripts in Otter is also described as clunky, with limited undo/redo support. Because changes save automatically, mistakes can become permanent if not caught in time, which reviewers found "disturbing" when they couldn't revert erroneous edits [6]. This undermines collaborative editing – users need a more forgiving, Google Docs–like experience when refining transcripts.

**AI Summaries & Context:** One of Otter's strengths is its AI-generated meeting summary and outline (the OtterPilot feature). It automatically produces a concise summary of key discussion points and even drafts follow-up emails or action items [7] [8]. The summaries are generally helpful, and one review even found

them “spectacularly” efficient at covering meeting topics [9]. However, not all users fully trust the AI output. Some have reported low confidence in the summaries’ accuracy or completeness [10], especially if the AI misses context or humor. For example, Otter’s AI sometimes fails to interpret nuanced context like jokes or sarcasm [11], which can lead to awkward or less-useful summaries. This signals an opportunity to make AI summaries more reliable and transparent (e.g. showing confidence levels or allowing quick edits to the summary).

**Multi-Speaker Accuracy Issues:** In multi-speaker meetings, Otter can struggle with speaker identification and transcript accuracy. Users complain that multi-speaker conversations are transcribed poorly, often jumbling who said what [12]. The AI sometimes tags too many or too few speakers, causing confusion in transcripts [13]. Speaker labels like “Speaker 1, Speaker 2” are provided, but if they’re incorrect or if Otter attributes one person’s words to multiple fake identities, collaboration suffers. Everyone referencing the transcript needs to trust who said each line. Currently, reliability in this area is lacking – one test found Otter initially thought a single speaker was talking the whole time, then upon refresh split it into three speakers incorrectly [14]. This is a critical flaw for stakeholder trust in the transcript.

**Meeting Integration & Privacy Concerns:** A notable UX issue is how Otter’s meeting bot integrates with calendars. Otter’s **auto-join** behavior has been criticized for being too aggressive – it will join every meeting on your calendar by default, even ones you declined or weren’t attending [15]. This can feel intrusive and raises privacy red flags. Users have expressed concern that the bot might show up in sensitive meetings unintentionally. In enterprise settings, data sensitivity is paramount, and a transcription service should never compromise privacy or control. In fact, a well-publicized incident in 2022 highlighted the privacy risks of cloud transcription – a journalist using Otter for a confidential interview got a disconcerting follow-up email from Otter, reminding us that data on cloud services may not stay completely private [16]. While Otter does allow turning off automatic invites, the default behavior and unclear settings can lead to mistrust. An enterprise-ready competitor must address these integration and privacy nuances head-on.

**Summary of Key Flaws:** In short, Otter.ai’s product is powerful but shows UX and design limitations. The interface, while simple, isn’t as elegant or structured as it could be for digesting transcripts. Collaboration is possible but not seamless, with clunky editing and sharing controls. The AI is useful but not always tuned to every stakeholder’s needs (e.g. execs wanting just decisions, or note-takers needing easy corrections). And the “automation” conveniences sometimes overstep, threatening user control (joining unwanted meetings) or lacking intelligence (no easy way to skip certain meetings or automatically group notes by project). These pain points define where a new **disruptive alternative** can significantly improve the experience.

## Design Vision: Minimalist Aesthetic Meets Enterprise Needs

To build a compelling alternative, we anchor the design in two core principles: **Apple-inspired minimalism** and **enterprise-grade trustworthiness**. The goal is a clean, consistent UI that feels modern and delightful, yet is robust enough for corporate workflows and sensitive data.

**Apple-Style Minimalism & Elegance:** The app’s look and feel should channel the simplicity and polish of Apple’s design language. This means using clear typography, ample white space, and a “content-first” layout where the transcript and key information take center stage over any chrome or ornamentation. Modern minimalist apps adopt *“clear headlines, simple universal icons, reduced use of color, and abundant negative space”* to let content shine [17]. Following this approach, our interface will use a neutral color palette (light and dark mode), with perhaps one accent color for interactive elements or highlights (similar to how iOS

emphasizes actionable text in blue, for instance). Icons will be intuitive and sparse – for example, a simple microphone icon for recording status, a chat bubble for comments, a flag for action items – all in a cohesive icon set. By stripping down visuals to the essentials, we reduce cognitive load. A busy project manager opening the app should immediately see what they need (e.g. the meeting title and summary), without distraction. Every screen and dialog will be purposefully designed with consistency; if a certain button style means "action" on one screen, it will look and behave the same elsewhere. This consistency builds user trust that they know how to navigate the app instinctively.

**Information Hierarchy & Clarity:** A minimalist approach doesn't mean lacking information – it means structuring it clearly. We will establish a strong hierarchy in the UI. For example, on a meeting's page, the meeting title and date will be prominent as a header, followed by tabs or sections for *Summary*, *Transcript*, and *Actions*. The summary might use slightly larger or bolder text for section headings ("Key Takeaways", "Decisions", "Action Items"), whereas the full transcript uses a more neutral style. Important keywords or entities (like people's names or dates) could be subtly boldfaced or color-highlighted in transcripts to catch the eye. We'll also use spacing and dividing lines to segment content logically (much like Apple's Settings screens group related options). The overall effect should be that a user can scan the page and quickly differentiate the high-level summary from the detailed notes, and find the portion relevant to their needs.

**Enterprise-Grade Usability & Trust:** Enterprise users demand not only functionality but also assurances of security, privacy, and reliability. The UX should reflect these needs. Concretely, we'll include **clear status indicators and confirmations** for the transcription bot: e.g. a dashboard indicator showing "Next meeting auto-join: On" or "OtterBot (Notetaker) is **not** in this meeting" so users are never uncertain about when the bot is active. We'll also offer **administrative controls** in a well-organized settings panel (with an enterprise admin in mind). Instead of burying settings in confusing menus, we'll use plain language and perhaps a setup wizard for key configurations. For instance, an admin could be guided through "Meeting Auto-Join Settings" where they choose default behavior for the organization (with explanations of each option). Data sensitivity will be addressed by transparent privacy options – e.g. a toggle to "Mark this meeting as confidential (do not store in cloud)" available to meeting organizers, or the ability to permanently delete a transcript (with double-confirmation) when needed. These kinds of features, presented in a straightforward way, assure enterprises that the app respects their data policies. We will also highlight compliance and security features in the UI (without being intrusive): for example, showing a lock icon or "Encrypted" label on transcripts to signify they are secure. In essence, the design should constantly communicate reliability: from predictable navigation to responsive performance (with graceful loading states) to the knowledge that nothing mysterious is happening with their meetings.

**Consistent, Cross-Platform Experience:** Another aspect of Apple's design philosophy is continuity – the app should feel seamless whether on web, desktop or mobile. Our strategy includes using responsive design to adapt the layout for various screen sizes while maintaining that clean, familiar feel. On desktop web, a two-column layout might show a list of recent meetings on the left and the selected transcript on the right. On a mobile screen, the list might collapse into a dropdown or separate screen. We will use consistent icons and terminology across platforms (for example, always calling the AI bot "Notetaker" or a specific name, and using the same calendar icon for scheduling on all devices). This consistency means a user training or onboarding is minimal – once you learn the interface on one device, you know it on others.

**Delightful, Not Distracting:** Minimalism also means carefully choosing where to add *delight*. Small micro-interactions can make the app feel high-end and human without cluttering it. For instance, when a user saves an edit to the transcript, a subtle "saved" checkmark could animate briefly to confirm the action. Or

when the meeting summary is generated, a gentle fade-in of the text (instead of it just appearing abruptly) can signal that "your summary is ready." These touches, akin to Apple's gentle use of animation (e.g. the bounce at the end of a scroll), give feedback and enjoyment. We must be cautious that these never hinder productivity – they should be quick and unobtrusive. The overall visual style, with clean lines and spacing, will reflect an **elegant simplicity** that appeals to users who value design (like many Apple users) and also ensures that new users at an enterprise aren't intimidated by a complex interface. As one Gartner review noted, *"Otter.io has great UI and UX, and offers a highly intuitive design"* [18] – our aim is to surpass this by eliminating the noted flaws while embracing a truly modern minimalist approach.

## Gamification & Engagement Without Overload

To differentiate this product and encourage users to actually leverage meeting transcripts (not just let them collect dust in the cloud), we will introduce **lightweight gamification** elements. The key is to **increase engagement and value extraction** from meeting content, *without* turning the professional app into a frivolous game or adding friction to core workflows.

**Purpose of Gamification:** In an enterprise context, gamification should serve to motivate and reward productivity and thoroughness. Research shows that incorporating game-like elements (points, badges, challenges) into workplace tools can boost motivation and make routine tasks more engaging [19]. Our app will use this strategy to prompt users to review and interact with their meeting outputs. For example, one challenge in meeting software is that busy stakeholders might not read the full transcript or even the summary after a meeting. By adding a sense of progress or reward, we encourage them to utilize these resources.

**Gamified Micro-Actions:** We will embed game elements into micro-interactions that align with useful behaviors:
- *"Read and Review" Incentives:* After a meeting's transcript and summary are ready, the app can display a progress indicator of how much of the transcript the user has reviewed (perhaps a progress bar that fills as you scroll). If a user reaches 100% (or even, say, the key parts), they might get a subtle congratulatory message like "  Good catch! You reviewed this meeting." If they consistently review all their meetings in a week, a small badge or icon could appear on their profile (visible only to them, or optionally to a team leaderboard) – encouraging a habit of staying informed. This turns transcript reading into a satisfying task completion, rather than a chore. It's gamification serving a real purpose: ensuring stakeholders actually consume the content that was generated.

- *Highlighting and Notes Game:* We could treat the act of highlighting important points or adding notes as a collectible activity. For instance, if a project manager highlights 5 decision statements in a transcript, they could earn an "Insight Hunter" badge for the week. This is analogous to awarding points for meaningful interaction. Another idea is to give a weekly score (just to the user privately) based on how many action items they extracted or how promptly they checked the summary. This taps into the intrinsic motivation for competition and progress [20], even if the competition is just with oneself to improve over last week.

- *Team Challenges (Opt-In):* For teams that want it, we can introduce friendly competition such as a leaderboard for most meetings summarized or highest "transcript engagement" (a composite metric of reading, highlighting, commenting). This must be opt-in and carefully managed to avoid pressuring users unnaturally. But in contexts like sales or customer support, a manager might

enable a challenge like “This month, whoever logs action items from their calls fastest gets a shout-out.” The app can support this by tracking how quickly after a meeting the summary was reviewed or tasks were created. These game mechanics – points for swift follow-up, or a streak for consecutive days of reviewing notes – drive timeliness and accountability in a playful way.

**Integrated, Not Distracting:** All gamification elements will be integrated subtly into the UI. We won’t add garish graphics or anything that would clash with the minimalist aesthetic. Instead, we’ll use the existing design elements to indicate gamified status. For example, the user’s avatar in the top corner might have a small ring or icon indicating their current “level” of engagement, or a tooltip that says “Streak: 3 days of meeting reviews.” The color scheme for gamification can align with the accent color (e.g. if our accent is blue, perhaps a blue star icon denotes an achievement, blending with the design). We will also provide users the ability to turn off these notifications or hide the gamification layer if they personally find it unhelpful – respecting that some enterprise users might prefer a very straightforward approach. The core idea is to **reward behaviors that extract value**: reading summaries, correcting AI errors (to improve future accuracy), sharing notes with colleagues, and closing the loop on action items. By making these actions slightly fun and rewarding, we encourage adoption and habitual use of the app’s features. Gamification in the workplace, when done right, *“provides continuous feedback”* and *“creates a positive culture by promoting a sense of achievement”* [21] [22]. Our design will leverage this principle to ensure the app isn’t just adopted company-wide, but actively used to its full potential. Users should feel a small dopamine hit from keeping their meeting workflow tidy and complete, which in turn benefits the organization through better knowledge capture.

Importantly, we’ll **avoid overcomplicating workflows** with these game elements. Accessing your transcript or sharing notes will never require extra steps for gamification. The game layer is an *overlay*, not a requirement. For instance, as soon as a summary is generated, it’s immediately available – the gamification might just come in later with a nudge: “Summaries are more useful when read within 24 hours – you’re on a 5-meeting reading streak, keep it going!” delivered via a gentle notification. By striking this balance, the app remains a serious productivity tool at its core, enhanced by a touch of enjoyable feedback to keep users engaged.

## Enhanced Transcript & Summary Experience for All Stakeholders

The heart of this product is how it handles transcripts and AI summaries – not just generating them, but making them *useful* for different types of users. We propose a suite of features and UX improvements that cover the full lifecycle: generation, review/editing, sharing, and consumption of meeting content. Each enhancement is designed with various stakeholders in mind (executives, note-takers, project managers, etc.), ensuring that everyone finds the output meaningful.

### Smarter Generation with AI Assistance

**High-Accuracy, Multi-Language Transcription:** We will invest in a top-tier speech recognition engine to surpass Otter’s ~85% accuracy rate [23]. The goal is to minimize the manual correction burden by achieving accuracy on par with best-in-class (Sonix claims up to 99% [24]). This includes better handling of domain-specific terms (through a custom vocabulary feature) and speaker separation. Importantly, unlike Otter’s English-only limitation [25], our app will support multiple languages and even translate transcripts on the fly. Enterprise teams today are global; an executive in Paris might hold meetings in French, which need to be accessible to an English-speaking manager. Our transcription engine will detect the language spoken

and transcribe accordingly, or allow the user to specify the language beforehand for optimal accuracy. This immediately broadens the stakeholder base – no one is excluded because of language, a key advantage for multinational companies.

**Context-Aware AI & Speaker Identification:** Taking advantage of calendar integration, the AI will know the meeting invite details (participants, agenda, meeting title) and use that context to enhance transcription. For example, we'll preload the names of invited attendees into the AI's vocabulary, so it's more likely to correctly label speakers or at least correctly spell their names. If five people are invited, the UI might initially label speakers as "Speaker A, B, C…" but quickly prompt the note-taker (or host) to assign real names to these labels by matching them with the invitee list – a simple one-click assignment if the voice is recognized, or manual if needed. This small UX step can drastically improve how useful the transcript is: instead of "Speaker 1/2", an executive reading it sees actual names ("Alice: … Bob: …") making it far more readable. We'll also leverage any prior data (with permission) – e.g., if the same person spoke in previous meetings and was labeled, the system can learn their voice for future ones. Our approach aims to eliminate the confusion caused by Otter's inconsistent speaker tagging [13]. In cases where the AI is uncertain or believes two speakers might be the same, it will flag this in the transcript (perhaps under the speaker's name with a subtle "?" or highlight) for a human to quickly verify. By involving the user briefly during generation (for confirmation of speakers or acronyms), we get a more accurate end product for everyone to consume.

**Richer AI Summaries & Customization:** Rather than a one-size-fits-all summary, our app will generate **multiple summary views** to cater to different stakeholders. For instance: - A **Brief Executive Summary** (a few bullet points of key decisions and high-level topics). - A **Detailed Summary/Outline** (a longer form narrative or outline covering all main points, similar to meeting minutes). - An **Action Items List** (tasks, decisions, and questions captured separately).

These will be presented in the UI as toggles or tabs under the Summary section, allowing users to switch based on their needs. The executive can stick to the brief version, whereas the project manager might dive into the detailed recap to ensure nothing is missed. We will also allow **summary customization**: users (or admins) can define what the summary should emphasize. For example, an engineering manager might configure their default summary to include a section on "Technical Challenges Discussed," if that's relevant to them, whereas a sales leader might want "Next Steps and Client Concerns." The AI can be instructed via templates to cater to these preferences when generating the summaries. This level of personalization ensures the summary is *meaningful* to the recipient, not just a generic blob of text. Additionally, to build trust in the AI, we will provide an easy way to trace summary points back to the source transcript. Each bullet in the summary could have a "→" hyperlink that, when clicked, scrolls the transcript to the relevant portion where that point was discussed. This way, if an executive questions a summary point, they can immediately see the context in the transcript – increasing transparency and confidence in the AI's output.

**Real-Time Insights During Meetings:** Similar to (but improving on) Otter's live transcription, our app can offer a live "meeting assistant" view that stakeholders can watch during the call. This view would not only show live transcript text, but also dynamic highlights – e.g., if the AI detects an action item being stated ("I will send the report by Friday"), it could display a small label like "Action ->" next to that live line. Participants in the meeting (who have the app open) might even see a running list of detected actions or decisions accumulating in a sidebar in real time. This immediate feedback loop is a form of gamification too – it engages users to perhaps speak clearly when they see the AI didn't catch something, or to explicitly state a decision so it's captured. However, we will present these live insights in a subtle way (maybe a small sidebar

or footnote text) so as not to distract from the conversation. The aim is to assist note-takers by auto-bookmarking important moments (Otter has a similar concept of live bookmarks, but we will refine the UX so that it's more automated and intelligent). By the time the meeting ends, the transcript isn't just raw text – it's already augmented with markers for key points, making the subsequent review much easier for all.

### Streamlined Review & Editing Workflow

Not all transcripts will be perfect; editing and reviewing are crucial, especially for note-takers or meeting organizers who want a clean record. Our strategy is to make editing a transcript as easy as editing a document, with **collaborative, safe editing tools**.

**Google Docs–Style Collaboration:** We will allow multiple team members to open a transcript and edit or annotate simultaneously. Changes will be highlighted per user (perhaps each editor gets a colored cursor or highlight, much like in Google Docs). This is useful if, after a meeting, a couple of teammates want to split the task of cleaning up the transcript or adding notes. To avoid the pitfalls Otter has (like accidental autosave issues [6]), we'll implement **version control and undo history**. Every edit will be auto-saved (to prevent loss), but users can easily undo changes step-by-step, and a version history will be available to restore earlier text if needed. This way, the fear of "messing up the master transcript" is gone – you can always revert or review past versions. Additionally, we might include a "Suggest Mode" (similar to Google's suggestion edits) where edits are tracked as suggestions for an owner to approve, which is great for sensitive meetings where perhaps only the project lead should finalize the notes.

**Annotation, Comments, and Tags:** Beyond raw text edits, the app will support rich annotations. Users can highlight any portion of the transcript and add a comment (the UI might show a small comment icon or their avatar at the margin, and clicking reveals the comment). This is useful for clarifying what was meant, or for an executive who reviews the transcript to ask a question ("What did we decide here?") – which the team can answer in context. We'll also implement quick **tagging** of transcript segments: selecting text and tagging it as an "Action Item", "Decision", "Question", or custom tags. This could be done via a small pop-up menu that appears when you highlight text (a micro-interaction: highlight triggers a tiny toolbar with icons for comment, tag, highlight color, etc.). These tagged elements can then feed into automatically populating the summary or an actions list. For example, if a note-taker tags a sentence as a Decision, the summary can include it under a Decisions section. This human-AI synergy ensures that the final record isn't solely AI-determined; users have a say in emphasizing what matters.

**Role-Specific Reviewing Tools:** Different stakeholders may interact with the transcript in different ways: - *For the dedicated note-taker or meeting secretary:* We'll provide an **"Editor's Workspace"** view. This could be a special mode that surfaces all AI-detected low-confidence segments (words the AI was unsure about could be underlined in red, for instance) so the editor can quickly play back that audio snippet (with one click) and correct the text. It might also list all the "umms," stutters or filler words the AI detected, allowing the editor to remove them in bulk if producing a cleaned-up report. This workspace streamlines the cleanup process (turning what is now a manual, line-by-line slog into a guided set of tasks: e.g., "Check Speaker labels", "Verify flagged words", etc.). The UI here might gamify a bit: showing a checklist of review tasks and a completion percentage for the transcript's quality review. - *For a project manager:* The app might highlight any commitments or deadlines mentioned (using NLP to find dates or "I will" statements). The PM can quickly skim just those bits, and perhaps confirm them as tasks. We might even integrate a one-click "Create Task" button next to each actionable statement, which could push it to an external tool (like Jira, Trello, or the app's own task list). This saves the PM time and ensures action items aren't lost in the text. - *For an*

*executive or busy stakeholder:* They may not want to edit at all, just verify and comment. For them, the UI could offer a **"Review Highlights"** mode: basically filter the transcript to only the key sentences (AI summary sentences, plus any user-highlighted points). This condensed view is essentially a curated transcript. The executive can add a comment or question here if something's unclear. This way, they don't wade through every word, but still engage where needed. The design will make it easy to toggle between the condensed view and full view.

**Smooth Feedback to AI:** As part of the review process, any manual edits or tags can feed back to improve the AI's models (with user consent). For example, if a user repeatedly changes "ta" to "to" due to a transcription quirk, the system can learn. Or if the user assigns speaker names, the AI remembers voice profiles. We'll surface this in the UI by occasionally asking for quick feedback: e.g., "Are the speakers labeled correctly? [Yes/No]" with one-click response, or "Rate the accuracy of this transcript" after editing. This is optional, but users who do provide feedback essentially help the AI get better for future meetings – a form of engagement as well. Over time, this could reduce the editing needed, which every stakeholder benefits from.

## Seamless Sharing and Permission Controls

Once a transcript and summary are ready (or even while they are in progress), sharing that information with others should be effortless and secure. We plan robust features to handle various sharing scenarios common in enterprises.

**One-Click Sharing & Distribution:** At the end of a meeting, users shouldn't have to manually download and email notes. Our app will have an *"Auto-Share"* setting that can be configured per meeting or globally. For example, an organizer can set "Share transcript & summary with all invitees after meeting" with a single toggle when scheduling the transcription. If enabled, the app will automatically email the summary (or a link to the full notes) to everyone who was on the calendar invite, minutes after the meeting ends. (Otter already emails all participants by default with the notes [26], but we will make this behavior customizable to avoid oversharing when not desired.) The email itself will be clean and actionable: a brief summary in the body, and a button to "View Full Transcript" that brings them into the app (web) with proper access. For stakeholders who prefer their information in other channels, we'll integrate with those as well – e.g., a Slack integration that can post the summary to a project channel, or a Microsoft Teams message to the group chat associated with the meeting. The idea is to deliver value where people already communicate, reducing the friction of going to a separate app.

**Granular Permissions & Privacy:** Sharing needs to respect confidentiality. We will support **role-based access** for transcripts. By default, only meeting attendees (and authorized team members) can access a transcript, but the owner can add others (e.g. share with a senior exec who wasn't in the meeting). We'll have roles like *Viewer* (can read/download), *Commenter* (can comment but not edit core text), and *Editor* (full edit rights). If a user tries to share outside the company domain, the app might warn or require confirmation, depending on admin settings. All sharing links can be made to expire after a certain time or be revoked, to prevent long-term access lingering. For especially sensitive meetings, we might have a "Restricted Mode" where even if transcription was done, the content is encrypted and only accessible to explicitly named individuals with additional authentication. This might be used for board meetings or HR discussions, for example. In terms of UI, when you click "Share", a dialog appears with these options clearly laid out (much like Google Drive's sharing dialog, which many users find familiar). It might also show a

toggle for “Allow download as text/audio” or “Allow AI chatbot queries by recipients” – giving fine control over how others can use the data.

**Collaboration Spaces and Channels:** Borrowing the concept of Otter’s “Channels” and expanding it, we envision a feature where transcripts can be organized into **workspaces** or channels by topic or team. For example, all meetings related to Project X could live in a Project X channel that the team has access to. To improve on Otter’s execution, we will allow rules for auto-filing transcripts: e.g., any meeting with “Project X” in the title or any meeting organized by a certain department can automatically be grouped into a specified channel. This saves users from manually sorting notes after the fact. In the UI, these channels appear in a sidebar, much like folders, so a user (say a new team member) can click the “Project X” channel and see all past meeting notes there, instead of hunting through someone’s personal list. This benefits stakeholders like project managers or team leads who need a bird’s-eye view of all discussions in their area. It also aids knowledge sharing – a team member who missed a meeting can confidently go to the channel and find the summary, rather than pinging someone for updates.

**Integration with Productivity Tools:** To truly be enterprise-ready, our app should integrate or export data to where stakeholders manage their tasks and knowledge. We plan features such as: - **Task Integration:** If action items are identified in the meeting, the user can send them to task management apps (Asana, Jira, Monday.com, etc.) with a couple of clicks. For example, a task “Prepare Q3 Budget draft – due Aug 15” could be created in the company’s project system directly from the transcript highlight. The UI could show an icon next to that transcript line; clicking it brings up a form to confirm details and choose a target system. This saves project managers time and ensures nothing falls through the cracks. - **Calendar and Email Integration:** If follow-up meetings are needed, the app can suggest “Schedule a follow-up” and integrate with calendar APIs to propose times. Or if an executive wants to forward the summary to someone not in the meeting, they can do so from within the app (we’ll have a “Forward summary to…” option that opens an email draft or sends from the app). - **Knowledge Bases:** We might allow exporting or syncing transcripts to knowledge bases like Confluence, Notion, or SharePoint. Many companies like to keep a permanent record of meeting minutes in a wiki – our tool can automate that by pushing the cleaned summary and transcript to a specified page or folder. This again increases the reach of the content we capture.

All these sharing and integration capabilities will be presented in a **cohesive, simple UI**. A “Share/Export” menu on each transcript could list the options (with company-wide defaults set by admins). The user doesn’t have to do anything complex – just a click to choose the medium, and our app handles the formatting and sending. The justification for prioritizing easy sharing is that a transcript or summary has no impact if it isn’t actually accessed by stakeholders. By making distribution nearly effortless, we ensure the valuable insights and decisions in meetings reach the right people in time to be actionable.

## Tailored Consumption Experiences

Different stakeholders consume meeting content differently. Our design will accommodate varying needs by offering multiple ways to view and interact with the transcripts and summaries, ensuring each user gets the most **meaningful use** out of the content.

**Executive Snapshot vs. Detailed Dive:** An executive logging in likely cares about the “big picture” of what was discussed and what decisions were made, without wading through minutiae. For them, we will have an **Executive Dashboard** view: essentially a feed or report that highlights key summaries and action items across their meetings. This could be a home screen that says, for example: *“Today’s Meetings: 3 – Summary of*

*Outcomes:"* and list each meeting with a one-liner outcome or decision. They can tap into any one to read the short summary. Additionally, busy execs might prefer passive consumption – we could offer an **audio playback of the summary** (text-to-speech reading of the summary) that they can listen to on their commute, or even a feature to generate a brief slide deck of main points (if they need to present updates). These are essentially alternate modalities to consume the content without reading long text.

Meanwhile, a detail-oriented user (say a business analyst or a lawyer reviewing a call) might want the **full transcript with timecodes** to locate exact statements. For them, the transcript view remains available and searchable. They can use advanced search filters (e.g. filter by speaker, or by tags like "contract" or "deadline"). We'll ensure the search function is robust and user-friendly, addressing the complaint that Otter's search needed polish [3]. Our search will include suggestions ("Did you mean…") and highlight all matches on a scrollbar for quick jumping.

**Interactive Transcript Playback:** For any user who wants to relive the meeting, we will include an integrated audio (or video, if available) player tied to the transcript. As in Otter, clicking a word in the transcript can jump the audio to that spot – but we'll refine this with a **timeline scrubber** that has markers for important moments (like bookmarks or slide changes if it's a presentation). Users can hover on the timeline to see a preview of the text at that time – a bit like preview thumbnails in video players, but with text quotes. This helps in skimming through an hour-long meeting by its transcript content. It's particularly useful for stakeholders who couldn't attend the meeting: they can either read, or listen, or both, depending on what's convenient, with the assurance that they can quickly find the parts that matter to them (e.g., "the five minutes where budget was discussed").

**Personalized Highlights and Notifications:** To avoid information overload, the app will learn what each user tends to care about. For instance, if an executive usually only cares about action items and skips the rest, the app might start highlighting the "Action Items" section for them or even provide a toggle to auto-hide non-action content. If a user often searches for mentions of a particular project, we could proactively flag that project name whenever it appears in new transcripts for them. We'll also allow users to set up **notifications or alerts** for certain keywords or topics. E.g., a VP of Marketing might set an alert for "launch date" – whenever any transcript gets that phrase, they get a notification and link, so they can jump in if needed. This level of personalization ensures that each stakeholder isn't just passively receiving a generic blob of notes, but the system actively surfaces what's likely relevant to them.

**Accessibility & UI Preferences:** Consuming content should be easy for all roles, including those who might have accessibility needs. We will support font size adjustments, high-contrast mode, and screen-reader friendly structure (our HTML will label speaker names, timestamps, etc., so a screen reader can announce them properly). Keyboard shortcuts will be available for power users (e.g., press "F" to favorite a highlight, "C" to open comment on a selection, etc.). Also, internationalization of the UI for non-English users (since enterprise teams might be in any locale). These things make the product usable by a wider range of stakeholders.

Finally, we plan to incorporate a **meeting content dashboard** where a user can get analytics about their meetings. For example, a project manager might see that in the past month, 10 decisions and 20 tasks were recorded across 5 meetings – giving them a macro view of outcomes. An executive might see a summary of how much time they spent in meetings and key themes emerging (via word clouds or topic summaries). This kind of meta-consumption helps stakeholders get value even when they aren't actively reading each

transcript – trends and insights over time can be extracted by the AI and presented in a digestible format. It's like having an AI chief-of-staff that briefs you on not just one meeting, but the patterns across many.

In summary, by providing multiple layers of detail (from a 10-second skim to a deep dive) and interactive tools to navigate content, we ensure every stakeholder – whether they want the quick gist, the actionable to-dos, or the full context – can get what they need efficiently. The design will make it easy to switch between these modes so users always feel in control of how they consume the information.

## Smart Calendar Integration & Onboarding Experience

A standout feature of our product is its seamless integration with calendar systems (Google Calendar, Outlook/Office 365) to automatically handle meeting transcription. Getting this right is crucial for a "minimalist yet enterprise-ready" feel, because it should *just work* without constant manual intervention, yet also respect the user's intentions. Equally important is onboarding new users into this flow in a way that feels simple and even delightful.

**Intelligent Auto-Join Logic:** Unlike Otter's blunt approach of joining every meeting by default [15], our app will implement **smart join logic** that's both configurable and context-aware. Here's how it will work: - **User Control Panel:** In the app settings (surfaced prominently during onboarding and adjustable anytime), the user will have a clear panel for "Calendar & Meetings." They can choose defaults such as "Auto-join all meetings on my calendar" or more selective options like "Auto-join work meetings only (skip those marked private or external)" or "Ask me case-by-case." By default, we might choose a middle ground – for example, auto-join meetings that the user has accepted and that have a video/call link attached, but skip any where the calendar status is "declined" or marked private. This immediately prevents the scenario of joining a meeting the user isn't in or doesn't want recorded. - **Context Awareness:** The app can analyze meeting invites for certain clues. If a meeting invite has keywords like "1:1", "interview", "confidential", or comes from outside the organization, the bot could either not join or at least prompt the user for confirmation. Conversely, for large team meetings or recurring stand-ups where transcription is almost always useful, it will reliably join without nagging the user each time. This logic will be tuned, and we'll also allow easy one-click overrides. For instance, in the app's integrated calendar view, each upcoming event could have an icon (like a microphone) indicating whether the bot is scheduled to join. The user can click to toggle it on or off per event. That means if tomorrow there's a particularly sensitive meeting, the user can quickly ensure it's not recorded, while still leaving the rest on autopilot. - **Calendar Interaction:** The integration with Google/Outlook Calendar will use either an OAuth connection or an add-on. The benefit is two-way: our app reads the calendar to schedule the bot, and we could also insert a note or placeholder into the calendar event description like "(Notetaker enabled)" so that other participants know (transparency), depending on company policy. We will follow ethical design by possibly alerting or indicating to meeting participants that an AI assistant is present (similar to how Otter names a bot in Zoom). However, the presence should be less disruptive – maybe joining with a more discreet name or indicator configured by the company.

**Robust Onboarding UX:** When a new user signs up or a company rolls out the app, onboarding must quickly get them integrated and comfortable. Our onboarding flow will likely proceed as:

1. **Account and Calendar Connection:** After basic account setup (which could be through Single Sign-On for enterprise), the user is prompted to connect their calendar. We'll have dedicated buttons ("Connect Google Calendar", "Connect Outlook") and a brief explanation of why (e.g., "Connect your calendar so the AI Assistant can join and transcribe your meetings automatically"). This screen will

use an illustrative graphic – perhaps a calendar icon and a friendly bot icon shaking hands – to visually convey what's happening. The flow uses the provider's auth to get permission. We'll reassure users about privacy here with a note like "We only use your calendar to know when to join meetings you want recorded. You remain in control." This sets a trust tone from the start.

2. **Meeting Preferences Setup:** Immediately after connecting, we present the smart join settings discussed above in a simple checklist or toggle form. Possibly something like:

3. " Join all my meetings by default" (recommended for full automation)
4. " Only join meetings I mark or when I press a button" (for manual control)

5. "⚙ Advanced settings…" which could expand to show the more granular rules (skip if external, skip if private, etc.).
   By doing this upfront, we empower the user to tailor the bot's behavior and avoid surprises. If they choose the fully automatic, we still highlight how to quickly exclude a meeting if needed.

6. **Tutorial of App Interface:** Once calendar is set, the app might walk the user through a quick UI tour. This could be done with interactive tooltips or a short "welcome" modal that points out: "This is your Meetings dashboard – upcoming meetings will appear here with their status. After meetings, transcripts will show up below." Then highlight: "Here's where summaries appear," etc. We will keep this light (5 steps max, each just one sentence and an arrow pointing). Users can skip, but for new users this is key to understanding the minimalist interface (since minimal UIs sometimes hide functionality behind icons, the tutorial ensures nothing important is missed).

7. **Demo or Sample Content:** It's often useful to provide a sample meeting transcript for a new user to play with, especially if they sign up when they have no live meetings to test. We might auto-generate a "Welcome Meeting" note – for example, a fake meeting summary that demonstrates what the app can do ("In this sample meeting, Alice and Bob discuss quarterly goals…"). The transcript could be a short few-line example. We encourage the user to click around – maybe even have a checklist like "Try highlighting text in the transcript" with an interactive pointer, "Switch to Summary view", "Open the calendar view". Completing these gives the user immediate familiarity. This can also tie into gamification – we could award a small "Onboarded!" badge or just a satisfying checkmark when they finish the quick tutorial actions.

8. **First Meeting Notification:** On the day of their first real meeting after installing, the app can send a gentle nudge: "Your meeting at 3 PM will be recorded by [OurAppName]. We'll handle the notes – you can focus on the discussion!" This reassures the user everything is set. After the meeting, another notification: "Your transcript and summary are ready." Clicking it takes them straight to that content. This kind of guided experience from the start ensures the user sees the value immediately (no digging required).

**Calendar View & Management:** Within the app, we will likely include a **calendar view** or at least a list of upcoming scheduled meetings, drawn from the connected calendar. This serves two purposes: (1) It lets the user verify which meetings will be transcribed (the UI can show an icon or colored highlight on those events). (2) It provides a convenient launch point – clicking an event could offer options like "Join meeting now" (to quickly jump into the Zoom/Teams link) and "Manage recording setting for this meeting". This way, the app becomes a bit of a meeting hub as well, aligned with the user's schedule. The design will keep it

simple – maybe a collapsed sidebar calendar or an Agenda list view – nothing too heavy, since we want to remain minimalist. But the info is there when needed.

**Error Handling & Trust in Automation:** A critical part of integration UX is handling when things go wrong. If the AI assistant fails to join a scheduled meeting (due to, say, a change in the meeting link or a permissions issue), the app will promptly notify the user: e.g., "We couldn't join the 10 AM meeting – click to retry or record manually." Perhaps even offer a one-click "Record using your microphone" fallback if the bot fails. This transparency and backup plan ensures the user isn't left empty-handed. Conversely, if the bot joins successfully but the meeting gets canceled or ends in 2 minutes with no content, the app can intelligently not create a useless transcript (or at least label it clearly as empty). These edge cases, when handled gracefully, increase user confidence that the integration is reliable. Over time, as the user sees the assistant consistently appear in their meetings when expected (and *not* appear when not wanted), they'll come to trust it like a real assistant.

In summary, our calendar integration and onboarding focus on giving the user control, clarity, and confidence from day one. By mimicking the best aspects of a human personal assistant (anticipating needs, but deferring to the boss's instructions), the app's bot will be seen as a helpful colleague rather than a nuisance. And a smooth onboarding means even non-technical users in an enterprise can get set up with minimal IT help, paving the way for broad adoption.

## UI Design Patterns, Micro-Interactions & Personalization

To bring all the above ideas to life, we will employ specific UI design patterns and interaction techniques. These details will elevate usability and delight, making the app feel modern and "alive" without straying from its minimalist core.

**Card-Based Layouts & Content Organization:** One pattern we'll use is presenting information in **cards** or panels for easy scanning. For instance, the home dashboard might show recent meeting summaries as cards – each card showing the meeting title, date, and a 1-2 line synopsis (AI-generated). This card could have icons or buttons on it for quick actions (like share, or mark as reviewed). Card layouts are very adaptable to different screen sizes and lend themselves to a clean grid (very much in line with Apple's aesthetic of orderly spacing). On the flip side, when viewing a single meeting, a **two-pane layout** is useful: a left pane listing all sections or an outline, and the right pane with the content. We might allow the user to toggle this outline on/off. This gives an information hierarchy: overview on the left, details on the right – a proven pattern in email clients, note apps, etc.

**Navigation and Menus:** We'll likely have a sidebar or topbar for main navigation (Meetings, Channels/Projects, Settings, Help). Apple-inspired design would favor simple iconography possibly with labels (think of the MacOS sidebar style). We want to keep navigation visible but minimal in footprint. Perhaps a collapsible sidebar with just icons when collapsed. Within screens, we'll use **tabbed interfaces** for sub-content (as seen in the Otter screenshot: Summary | Transcript tabs). Tabs or segmented controls will let users switch views without losing context, e.g., switching between the summary and full transcript of a meeting.

**Micro-Interactions & Animations:** These are the small visual feedback moments that make an app feel polished: - Buttons will have subtle hover effects and depress animations (so clicking feels tactile). - When a user toggles something (like turning on auto-share for a meeting), the switch might smoothly slide and

perhaps show a tiny lock or share icon briefly to confirm the meaning. - If an action item is marked as done, it could strikethrough and a checkmark pops up with a satisfying *ding* (audible feedback optional, likely off by default in enterprise, but maybe a subtle sound could be fun if not distracting). - Drag-and-drop could be enabled for organizing – e.g., dragging a meeting card into a project channel – with an animation to indicate the drop was successful (the card might shrink and pop into the channel). - Loading states: Instead of spinners, we might use skeleton screens (gray placeholders) for transcript lines while they load, or a gentle pulsing Otter/bot icon while waiting for a summary. This keeps the user informed without a harsh "loading..." text.

One important micro-interaction is with the **AI assistant (chatbot)** if included. If a user asks the AI a question about the meeting ("What was decided about budget?"), the answer could highlight on the transcript or blink the relevant text as it provides the answer. This ties the AI feedback directly into the content, reinforcing trust. Also, the AI's presence (maybe a small chat icon) might animate or glow when it has something to offer (like "3 new action items identified" after a meeting).

**Personalization Options:** We will include a **Profile & Preferences** section where users can personalize aspects of the UI. This might include choosing a theme (if not just light/dark, maybe a couple of color accents choices to match their company branding). They can also set their preferred default view (maybe an exec wants the summary tab first, a lawyer wants transcript tab first – they can set that). Notifications preferences will let them choose how and when they get nudges (some might want immediate mobile push when a summary is ready, others might prefer a 5pm daily digest email of all meeting notes). By giving users control, the app feels like it adapts to them, increasing satisfaction.

Even on a per-channel or per-project basis, personalization could occur: maybe a project space could have a custom icon or color so it's easily distinguishable, or templates for summaries that differ (one project might always require a specific format for notes). The UI design will incorporate these without overwhelming the user – possibly by progressive disclosure (advanced settings are hidden until you click "show advanced").

**Accessibility & Inclusivity Patterns:** We adhere to WCAG guidelines in design – ensuring color contrasts are sufficient (even in dark mode), that we're not relying on color alone to convey meaning (icons and labels help colorblind users). Interactive elements will be big enough for comfortable touch use as well (even though it's web-based, many will use tablets or touch laptops). We will also consider localization lengths (UI should accommodate longer text for other languages, which ties back to multi-language support).

**Consistency and Pattern Libraries:** We will develop a design system (like a pattern library) to ensure consistency. Every component – buttons, modals, cards, form fields – will follow the same styling rules. This makes the UI predictable. It's Apple-like in that once you learn what a toggle looks like in one context, you recognize it anywhere. Our pattern library will likely borrow from popular frameworks (Material Design or Fluent or Apple's Human Interface Guidelines) but customized to our brand's look (maybe a fusion of iOS simplicity and a bit of enterprise heft). For example, dialogues will look clean with a clear title, message, and two options max (e.g. "Cancel" and "Confirm" with color emphasis on confirm), avoiding any unnecessary clutter.

**Concrete Layout Idea – Meeting Page:** To tie many of these ideas together, imagine the UI when you open a specific meeting's page:
- The top header shows the meeting name, date/time, duration, and participants (with small avatars or initials icons). There might be an indicator if the transcript is shared with those participants or private.

- Just below that, you have the **Summary / Transcript / Chat** toggle (tabs). The summary view shows sections like a nicely formatted report (bullets under "Key Points", numbered list under "Action Items"). Perhaps each bullet expands on click to show more detail or the related transcript snippet.
- The transcript view (if selected) shows the text segmented by speaker with timestamps. Each speaker turn could be in a chat-bubble style box or just separated by spacing, but we may subtly alternate background color or use a side border to delineate different speakers – improving readability. If a segment is tagged as important, maybe there's a colored bar on the left of it.
- On the right side (or floating at a corner) could be a context menu or icon set: one for sharing, one for editing mode, one for asking AI a question (chat). This keeps the primary content area clean, with actions just an icon away.
- Scrolling behavior: If the user scrolls the transcript, maybe a small "Back to Top" or "Back to Summary" button fades in for convenience. If they highlight text, an inline toolbar appears (comment, highlight, task). These appear on cue and disappear when not needed, aligning with minimalism (only show tools when relevant).

**Micro-interaction Example – Assign Speaker Names:** One specific UX detail: when the transcript labels are generic (Speaker 1, Speaker 2), we can place an unobtrusive "Assign names" prompt at the top of the transcript. Clicking it opens a small panel listing detected speakers with waveform icons and an input or dropdown of invitees. The user selects names, and upon confirmation, an animation could slide through the transcript updating all "Speaker 1" to "Alice (Speaker 1)" etc., then fade out the prompts. This encourages a quick action that hugely improves transcript clarity, delivered in a user-friendly way.

**Ensuring Adoption and Ease:** All these patterns and interactions are aimed at making the experience smooth and even delightful. We want first-time users to get the hang of it quickly (intuitive patterns from familiar apps), and power users to find efficiency (keyboard shortcuts, drag-drop, etc.). The app should feel **lightweight** – fast to load, not bogged down by heavy graphics – yet **powerful** in capability. By prioritizing content and using modern UI techniques, the design can achieve that balance where the user feels, *"This tool is slick and easy, yet it does so much for me!"* That ultimately drives both usability and adoption in the long run.

## Prioritized Recommendations Summary

To conclude, here's a prioritized list of the key UX/UI enhancements and features for this Otter.ai alternative, along with the rationale for each:

1. **Privacy-First Calendar Integration & Smart Join (Highest Priority):** Implement intelligent meeting join logic that only records what users intend, addressing Otter's intrusive auto-join flaw [15]. This includes clear user controls during onboarding to build trust from day one. *Justification:* Privacy and user control are foundational – no one will adopt an enterprise app that might violate meeting confidentiality. This feature prevents mistrust and sets the stage for all other usage.

2. **Accurate, Contextual Transcription with Speaker ID:** Focus on high transcription accuracy (aim 95%+), multi-language support, and robust speaker identification that leverages meeting context (invite names, voice learning). *Justification:* The core product value is the transcript itself – improving accuracy and speaker clarity directly impacts all stakeholders' satisfaction. Getting this right reduces manual cleanup and makes the transcripts immediately more useful [13].

3. **Advanced AI Summaries & Multi-View Notes:** Provide AI summaries in multiple formats (executive brief, detailed outline, action list) and allow customization per role. Include features like traceable summary points and live meeting insights. *Justification:* Different stakeholders need different levels of detail; a one-size summary won't fit all. By catering to each and making summaries more transparent, we ensure the AI notes are actually read and trusted [10].

4. **Elegant, Minimalist UI Overhaul:** Design a clean interface with Apple-like consistency – clear typography, ample whitespace, simple icons [17] – putting content at the forefront. This includes intuitive navigation (tabs, cards, sidebars) and responsive design for cross-device use. *Justification:* A minimalist, high-quality UI differentiates the product in a crowded space and drives adoption by making the app pleasurable and easy to use. It reduces training needs and errors by having a consistent look and feel.

5. **Collaboration & Editing Enhancements:** Introduce Google Docs–style collaborative editing, comments, and tagging within transcripts. Ensure an intuitive editing mode with version history and undo, fixing pain points where Otter felt clunky [6]. *Justification:* Meetings involve teams, so the notes should too. Smooth collaboration means the transcript becomes a living document for the team, not just a static dump. This increases the longevity and value of the notes (they turn into plans, follow-ups, knowledge base entries, etc.).

6. **Gamified Engagement Loops:** Integrate light gamification (review streaks, badges for highlights, completion progress) to motivate users to engage with meeting content [19]. Keep it subtle and opt-out friendly. *Justification:* These elements drive user engagement and habit formation. They encourage stakeholders to actually read summaries, add notes, and complete action items, which in turn improves team productivity. Gamification gives a competitive edge by tackling the common issue of "people don't use the tool after initial novelty."

7. **Powerful Search and Indexing:** Refine the search functionality with filters, keyword suggestions, and cross-meeting search (search across all transcripts for a term). Make it fast and easy to navigate results (with highlights in context). *Justification:* One of the main advantages of having transcripts is the ability to find information later. By outperforming Otter's search (which users said needs polish [3]), we ensure the product becomes an indispensable knowledge repository. This is especially valuable for large enterprises where hundreds of meetings happen – being able to pull up "what was said about X last month" instantly is a killer feature.

8. **Enterprise Integration & Security Features:** Provide integrations with common enterprise tools (Slack, Teams, project management, CRM) and enterprise-grade security (SSO, encryption, admin governance of data). *Justification:* To be enterprise-ready, the app must slot into existing workflows and IT requirements. Integrations prevent information silos (so meeting outputs flow into where work happens next), and security compliance is non-negotiable for adoption in many organizations (addressing concerns like those raised in privacy scares [16]).

9. **Personalization & Adaptability:** Allow users to personalize views (default to transcript vs summary, topics of interest alerts, theme preferences). Incorporate adaptive learning where the app surfaces relevant content based on user behavior. *Justification:* Personalization increases user satisfaction and efficiency – the tool feels tailored to them. Over time, an app that learns "what matters to you"

becomes more than a utility; it's a smart assistant. This can set our solution apart by catering to each stakeholder's unique needs without them even having to constantly configure settings.

10. **Comprehensive Onboarding & Support UX:** Design an onboarding journey with tutorials, sample data, and contextual help. Continue with an in-app help center or chatbot for questions. *Justification:* A great feature set is only as good as a user's ability to discover and use it. Onboarding ensures even non-tech-savvy users get value quickly (critical in enterprise rollouts), and ongoing support UX reduces frustration and support tickets. This ultimately leads to higher adoption rates and user retention.

By prioritizing the above enhancements, we create a **UX/UI framework** for an Otter.ai competitor that is not only functionally rich but also exceptionally user-centric. The recommendations start with fundamental needs (privacy, accuracy, clarity) and build up to innovative differentiators (gamification, AI-driven personalization), ensuring a strong foundation before adding bells and whistles. Each element is justified by either a known gap in the current market leader or a UX principle that drives engagement and satisfaction. The end result will be a **design-forward, enterprise-tailored meeting assistant** that truly disrupts the status quo of meeting transcription and collaboration. Users from executives to note-takers will find it both useful and a joy to use – a rare combination in enterprise software – leading to deep adoption and a competitive edge in the growing AI meeting assistant space.

**Sources:** The strategy above is informed by user feedback on Otter.ai's shortcomings (e.g. confusing settings, search issues [3], editing limitations [6], and privacy concerns [15]) as well as design best practices and trends in minimalism [17] and gamification for engagement [19]. These learnings guided the proposed improvements to ensure our product addresses real-world pain points and aligns with modern UX standards.

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