**Corner Grocer: Grocery Tracking Program Overview**

This C++ program was designed to help the Corner Grocer better understand purchasing trends by analyzing daily sales data. The application reads from an input file containing a list of purchased items and provides a simple menu-driven interface for users to view item frequencies, search for specific items, and visualize trends using a text-based histogram.

At the core of the program is a class called GroceryTracker, which stores item data using a std::map<string, int> to keep track of how many times each item appears. The class handles reading input, writing a backup file (frequency.dat), generating reports, and returning item-specific data. By organizing the program into a class with public and private members, the code remains clean, modular, and easy to maintain or expand in the future.

When the program starts, it automatically reads CS210\_Project\_Three\_Input\_File.txt and builds a frequency map of the items. It then writes this data to frequency.dat without user input, ensuring the backup is always current.

Users are then presented with four menu options:

1. Search for a specific item’s frequency.
2. Display the full list of items with their purchase counts.
3. Show a histogram using asterisks to represent item frequencies.
4. Exit the program.

Each feature is easy to access and provides useful feedback. The histogram gives a quick, visual sense of which items are most popular. Input validation ensures smooth user interaction. Meaningful variable names and inline comments improve readability and maintainability, following professional standards.

**A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

Overall, the program meets both technical and user needs. It’s accurate, efficient, and user-friendly, helping store owners make better layout and inventory decisions based on real purchase data. With a clear structure and flexible design, it’s ready for future improvements such as category filtering or time-based reports.