Top 3 Prioritized Non-Functional Requirement:

Scalability:

- Spoonacular API limits the amount of API calls we get per day as free users. To ensure that we are able to let users see different recipes on our platform, while also implementing new features, we need to limit the amount of API calls that we make for each feature that needs it. To do this, we implement a way to store recipes on our local database, so that we can save API calls.

Useability:

- Our target audience are every day users, some may not be tech-savvy or experienced at cooking. Our team focused on developing a User Interface that is intuitive and easy to navigate. For instance, our platform made features that the user may want to access very easy to locate and have clear labels for each button that indicates what their functionality is.

Performance:

- Our recipe platform relies on fast and real-time feedback. Users would expect quick loading and response when adding meals to the meal planners, uploading images for meal nutritional analysis, or interacting with our Step-by-Step Cooking AI Assistant. For these features, we aimed for an approximately 2 second response to ensure a smooth user experience.

Trade Offs:

Could not Utilize Spoonacular's Complex Search API:

- Due to API call rate limits and scalability concerns, we avoided using Spoonacular advanced but expensive complex search endpoints

- Our team was okay with making this trade off because it enabled us to make our own internal recipe matching logic, and ultimately helped to create the leftover ingredients feature. Moreover this trade off allowed us to:

    - Have more control over search performance and customization.

    - Avoid hitting the API call daily Limits

    - Enable us to continue to use Spoonacular's API for other feature developments

Accessibility was not Prioritized for our Platform:

- Accessibility features such as aria labels, screen reader support and keyboard navigation were not focused during our development of our recipe platform. Moreover, our platform's layout is not optimized for visual, cognitive or motor impairments.

- Our team's primary goal was to launch high-impact and complex features that would make our platform standout in the crowd. This trade off allowed us to:

  - Add interesting features such as the AI cooking assistant

  - Hit our sprint deadline without compromising on core features.

  - Deliver a user friendly, stable and high performing recipe platform.