PeerNotes

Classmate Notes, Just a Tap Away

# Note-Share Platform

## Organized, Trustworthy Study Materials for Students

Haneen Alhajali

3 weeks

Figma, Miro, Lookback, Zeplin ,Maze ,Stark (Accessibility)

# Challenge or Problem Overview

The Problem: University students struggle to access reliable study materials due to scattered notes across multiple platforms and lack of quality verification systems.

User Impact:

- Computer Engineering students waste time searching through WhatsApp groups, Google Drive folders, and social media for notes
- 60% of students reported difficulty finding trustworthy study materials
- Students fear sharing their own notes due to judgment concerns
- Lack of centralized system leads to missed opportunities for collaborative learning

Target Users: University students, specifically Computer Engineering majors who need organized access to peer-generated study materials (PDFs, Word docs, presentations, and scanned notes).

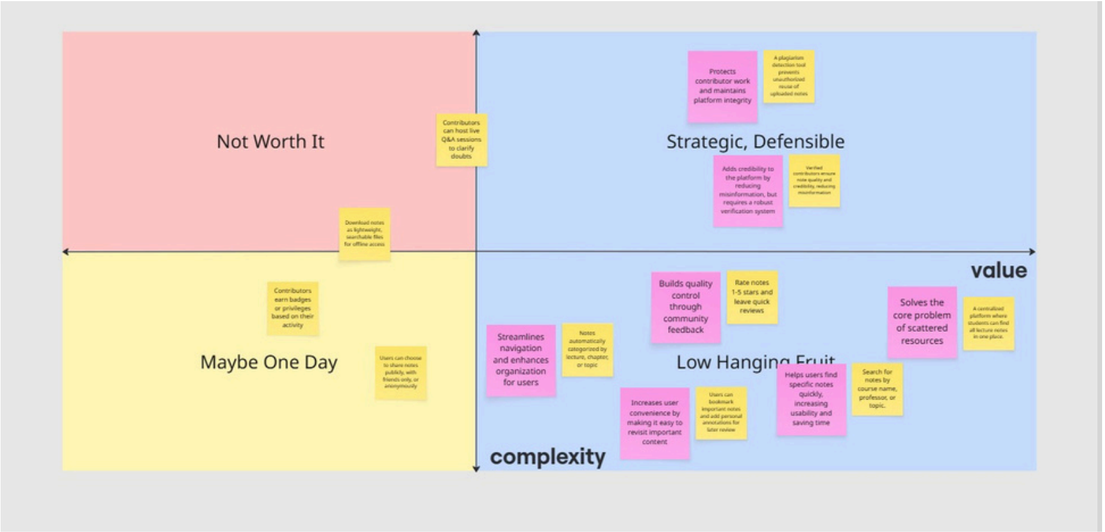
# Discovery: Research & Analysis

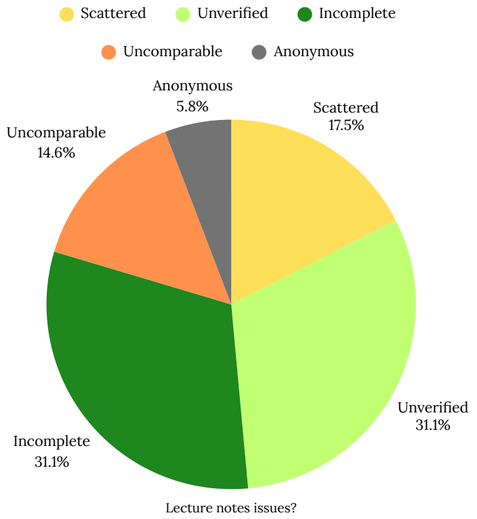
## Research Approach:

- 5 Semi-structured interviews (30 minutes each) to understand current note-taking and sharing behaviors
- Survey with 50+ responses to validate findings at scale
- Competitive analysis of existing platforms (Masaaq.net, WhatsApp groups, Google Drive)

## Key Research Insights:

1. Finding #1: Notes are scattered across 3-5 different platforms per student
2. Finding #2: 70% of students need quality indicators (ratings, verified uploaders) to trust shared content
3. Finding #3: Students want to contribute but fear judgment about note quality
4. Finding #6: Gamification elements motivate high-quality contributions




(P2) "I spend more time looking for notes than actually studying them"

# Design: Concepts & Sketching

Concept Development Process: Based on research findings, I sketched multiple approaches to organize and present study materials:

Key Design Decisions:

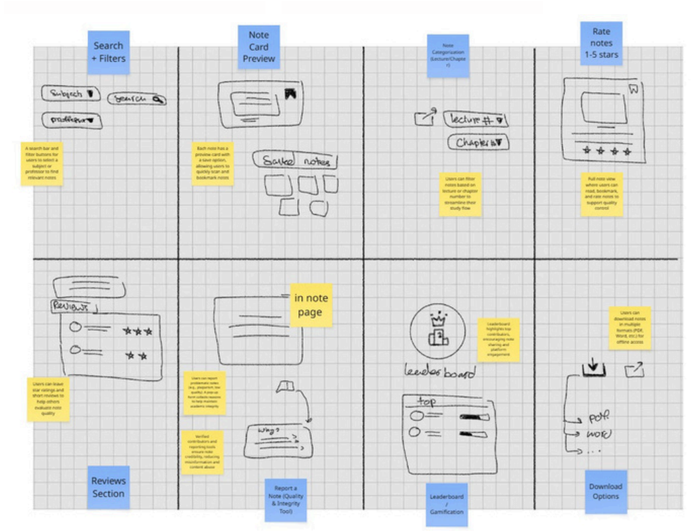
- Centralized subject browsing to address scattered notes (Finding #1)
- Trust indicators including ratings, verified badges, and author profiles (Finding #2)
- Supportive community features with reviews and recognition systems (Finding #3)
- Leaderboard integration for gamification motivation (Finding #6)

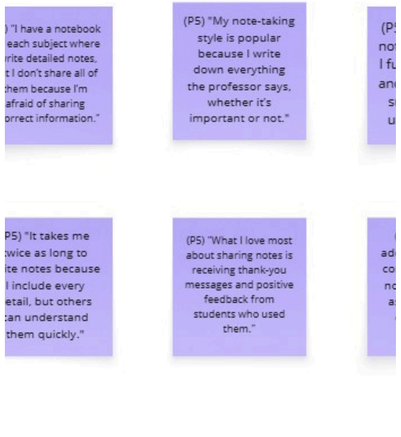
Hand-drawn Explorations:

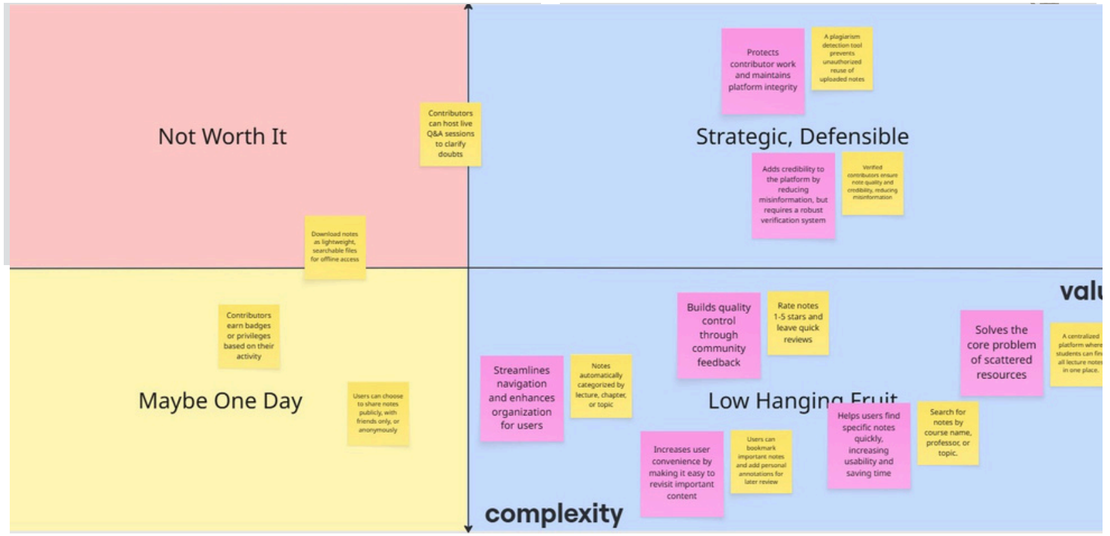
- Information architecture sketches
- User flow wireframes for finding and accessing notes
- Multiple layout options for note cards and details

Design Principles Applied:

- Reduce Cognitive Load: Simple navigation and clear visual hierarchy
- Gestalt Principles: Consistent grouping and visual patterns
- Emotional Design: Trust-building elements and positive feedback loops


Search + Filters
Note Card Preview
Rate notes 1-5 stars
in note page
Reviews Section
Leaderboard Gamification
Download Options
Report a Note Quality & Integrity Tools
leaderboard
top
pdf
word


) "I have a notebook each subject where rite detailed notes. t I don't share all of hem because I'm fraid of sharing orrect information."
(P5) "My note-taking style is popular because I write down everything the professor says, whether it's important or not."
PS) "It takes me wice as long to te notes because include every etail, but others an understand them quickly."
(P5) "What I love most about sharing notes is receiving thank-you messages and positive feedback from students who used them."


Not Worth It
Contributors can host live Q&A sessions to clarify doubts
Strategic, Defensible
Protects contributor work and maintains platform integrity
A plagiarism detection tool prevents unauthorized reuse of uploaded notes
Adds credibility to the platform by reducing misinformation, but requires a robust verification system
Verified contributors ensure note quality and credibility, reducing misinformation
Download notes as lightweight, searchable files for offline access
Contributors earn badges or privileges based on their activity
Maybe One Day
Users can choose to share notes publicly, with friends only, or anonymously
Builds quality control through community feedback
Rate notes 1-5 stars and leave quick reviews
Solves the core problem of scattered resources
Streamlines navigation and enhances organization for users
Notes automatically categorized by lecture, chapter, or topic
Low Hanging Fruit
Increases user convenience by making it easy to revisit important content
Users can bookmark important notes and add personal annotations for later review
Helps users find specific notes quickly, increasing usability and saving time
Search for notes by course name, professor, or topic.
complexity


Gamification and Rewards
Search and Filtering Features
Sharing Preferences & Privacy
Preference for Detailed and Organized Notes
Rating and Review Systems
Fear of Criticism
Technical Challenges in Uploading and Sharing
Helping Others and Building Reputation
Lack of Direct Sharing Platform

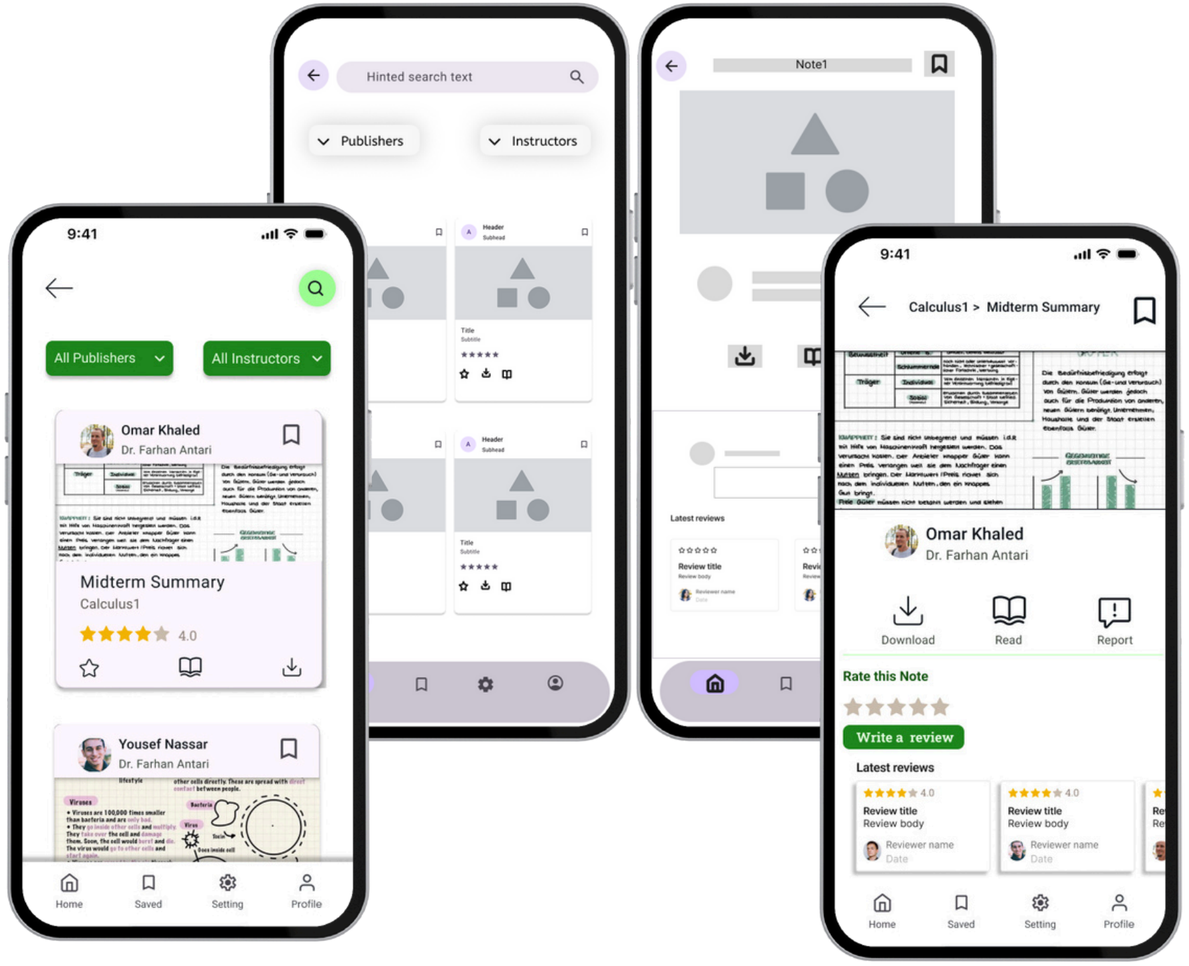

Search for notes by course name, professor, or topic.
Users can bookmark important notes and add personal annotations for later review
Verified contributors ensure note quality and credibility, reducing misinformation
Contributors earn badges or privileges based on their activity
Notes automatically categorized by lecture, chapter, or topic
A plagiarism detection tool prevents unauthorized reuse of uploaded notes


(P4) Shared notes by uploading them to Google Drive and sharing links on Facebook groups to reach more students.
(P4) "I share notes to help others and feel encouraged when students appreciate my summaries."
(P4) "I feel my summaries aren't perfect, but if I spent more time on them, I could share them on bigger platforms."
(P4) "I want the platform to make it easy to search for notes by course or topic, with notes divided into chapters or themes."

# Develop: Prototyping

I started with the low fidelity design , I used Figma to create my design which were based on the sketch I have did before. lo-fi Figma prototype link.

Then after the surveys and interviews I developed my design to the final look hi-fi Figma prototype link



# Test: Validation, Usability, Feedback

**Usability Testing Method:**

- 10 participants via Lookback (remote testing)
- Task: Find and open "Midterm Summary" note from Calculus1
- Duration: 15-20 minutes per session

**Critical Findings:**

- Task Success Rate: Only 30% completed the full task successfully
- Time on Task: 4-5 minutes (expected: 1-2 minutes)
    - Main Pain Points:Note cards too small (24x24px) - 100% of users struggled
    - Unclear action icons - 70% couldn't identify "open" function
    - Users got lost between screens - 60% confusion rate

**User Feedback:**

- "The cards are too small to read the text clearly"
- "I'm not sure how to actually open the note to read it"
- "I thought I was done when I reached the details page"

# Design: Iteration

**Data-Driven Design Changes:** Based on 70% task failure rate, I made strategic improvements:

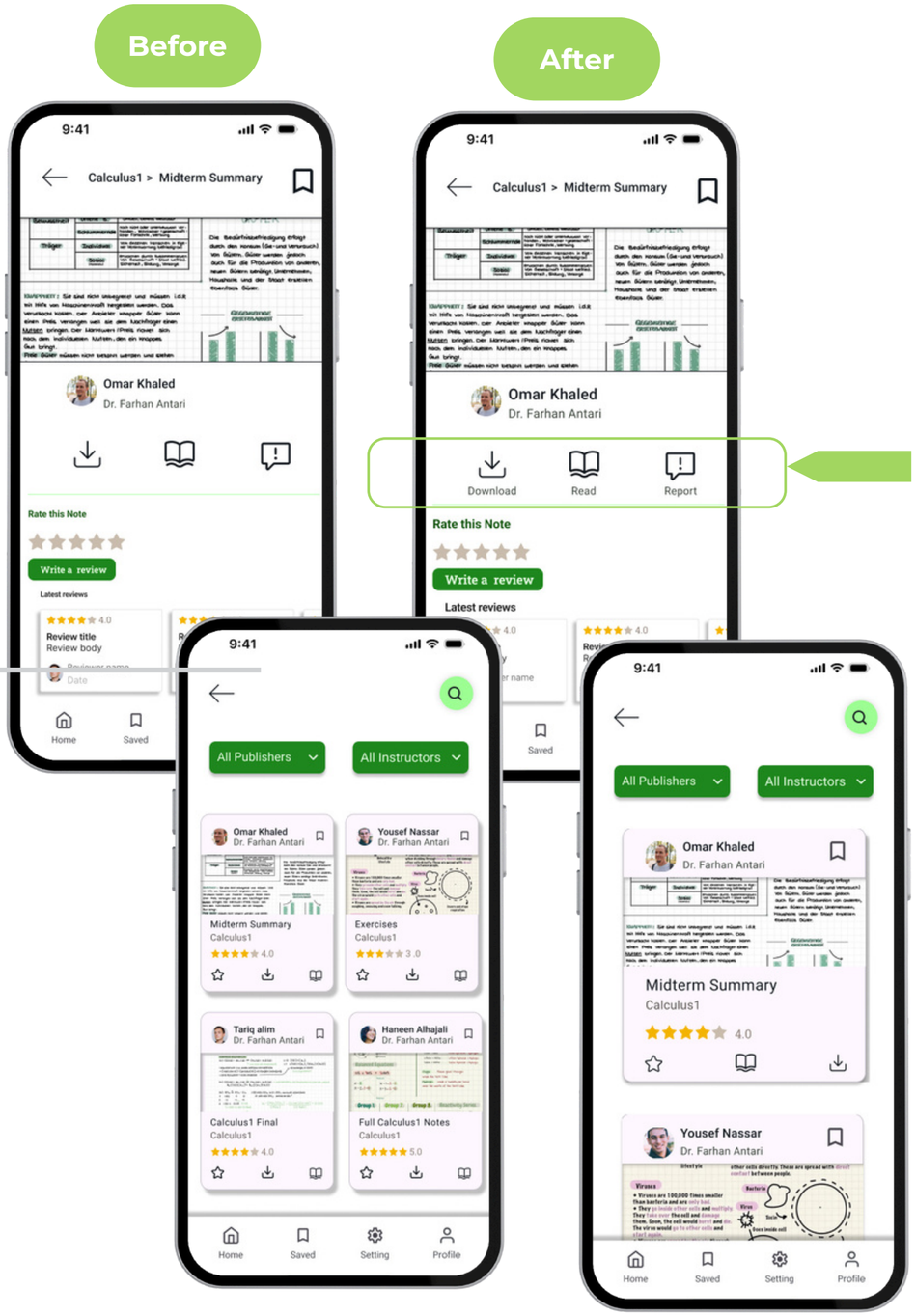
**Before vs After:**

- Layout: 2-column grid → Single-column list for better readability
- Card Size: Increased from 24px to 44px touch targets (WCAG compliance)
- Action Buttons: Icon-only → Icons with text labels ("Read", "Download", "Bookmark")
- Visual Hierarchy: Enhanced contrast and typography for better scanning

**Accessibility Improvements:**

- Improved color contrast ratios for WCAG AA compliance
- Increased touch target sizes for motor accessibility
- Added semantic labels for screen readers
- Enhanced font legibility (10px → 12px minimum)

**Hypothesis:** If we make note cards larger and add text labels to action buttons, task success rate will increase from 30% to 80%.



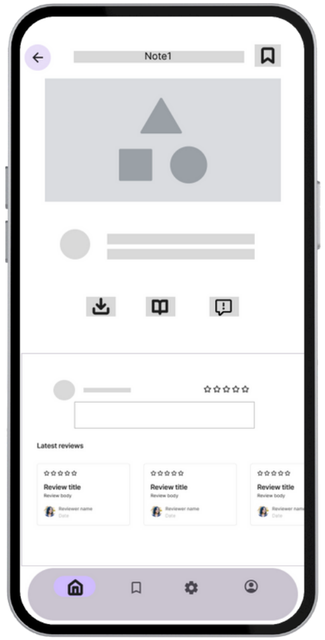

Login
Signup


Signup
Login

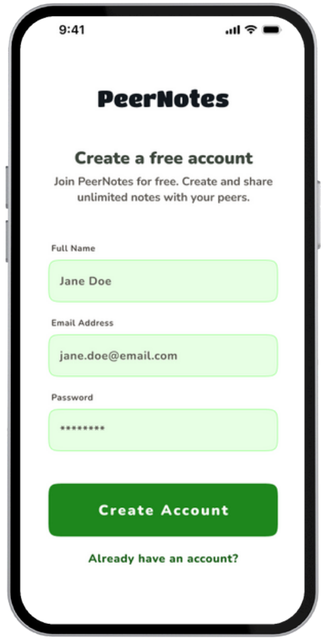

Hinted search text
category1
category2
category3
subject1

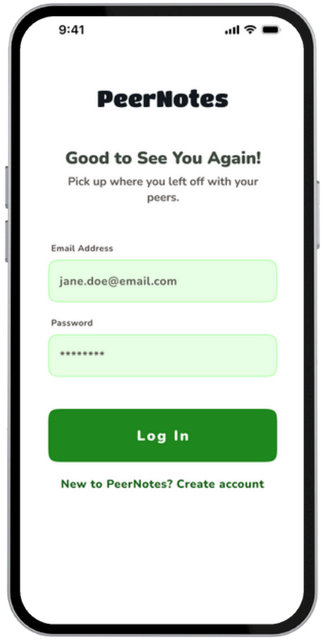

Note1
Latest reviews
Review title

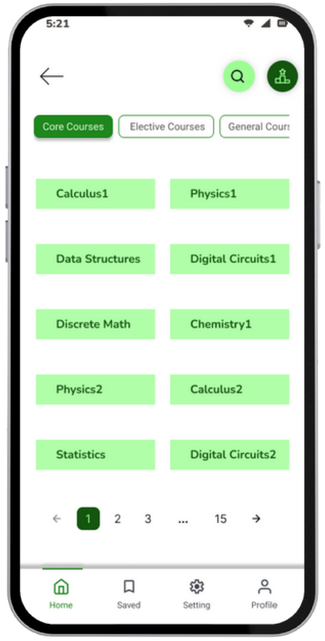

Note1
Latest reviews
Review title


Note1
Latest reviews
Review title


9:41
Classmate Notes, Just a Tap Away
Share your knowledge, view real notes from your peers, and download the ones you need. Learn faster, together.
GET STARTED
Already have an account?


9:41
PeerNotes
Create a free account
Join PeerNotes for free. Create and share unlimited notes with your peers.
Full Name
Jane Doe
Email Address
jane.doe@email.com
Password
Create Account
Already have an account?


9:41
PeerNotes
Good to See You Again!
Pick up where you left off with your peers.
Email Address
jane.doe@email.com
Password
Log In
New to PeerNotes? Create account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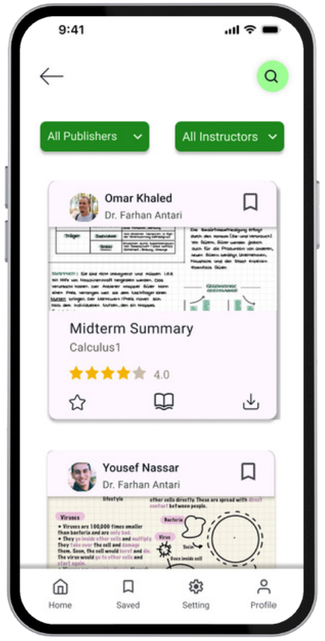
Core Courses
Elective Courses
Calculus1
Physics1
Data Structures
Digital Circuits1
Discrete Math
Chemistry1
Physics2
Calculus2
Statistics
Digital Circuits2
Home
Saved
Setting
Profile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All Publishers
All Instructors
Omar Khaled
Dr. Farhan Antari
Midterm Summary
Calculus1
4.0
Yousef Nassar
Dr. Farhan Antari
Home
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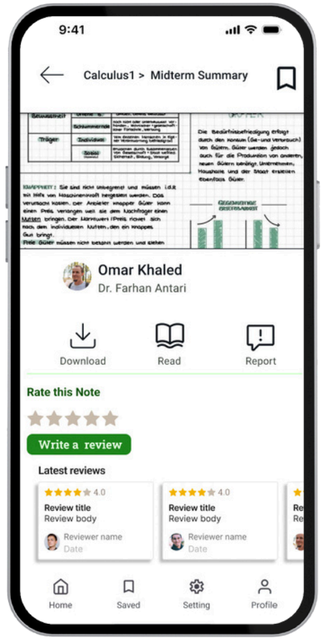
Setting
Profile


9:41
Calculus1 > Midterm Summary
Omar Khaled
Dr. Farhan Antari
Download
Read
Report
Rate this Note
Write a review
Latest reviews
Review title
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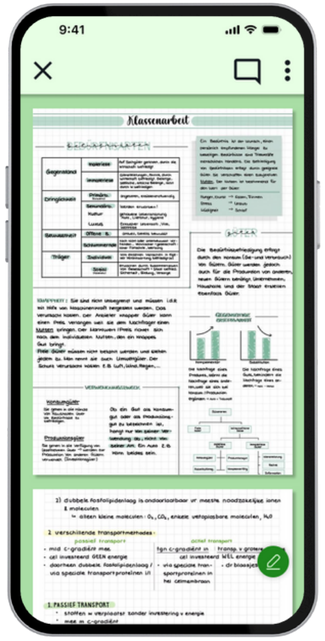
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# Solution & Impact Overview

**Final Solution:** A centralized note-sharing platform that connects Computer Engineering students with organized, trustworthy study materials through intuitive design and community-driven quality assurance.

**Measured Impact:**

- Task Success Rate: Improved from 30% to 80% (167% improvement)
- Time on Task: Reduced from 4-5 minutes to 1-2 minutes
- User Satisfaction: "I can now find trustworthy notes in half the time"

**Key Features Delivered:**

- Centralized subject organization with smart categorization
- Quality indicators through ratings and verified contributors
- Accessible design meeting WCAG AA standards
- Gamification elements encouraging high-quality contributions

**Next Steps:**

- Implement note request feature for missing content
- Expand to additional university departments
- Integrate with existing university systems

# About Me

**Haneen Alhajali**

**UX Researcher & Designer**

Passionate about creating accessible, research-backed digital experiences.

**I bridge user needs with thoughtful design through:**

- User Research: Interviews, surveys, and usability testing
- Inclusive Design: WCAG compliance and accessibility-first solutions
- Prototyping: From hand sketches to high-fidelity Figma flows

**My Approach:**

Start with data, not assumptions. My student-focused projects (like NoteShare) prove how research-driven design solves real problems.

**Currently:** Completing UX Nanodegree with focus on educational technology.

**Let's connect**: haneenalhajali2003@gmail.com