

# Project 1

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# About The Project

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PROJECT

## COOKING APPLICATIONS

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This project is an app dissection of three different mobile applications and of a fourth designed to be more efficient than the other three. The three apps being dissected are already available apps that anyone with a smart phone has access too. Dissecting these apps will help as a developer in understanding how a mobile app is coded and where the information it pulls comes from/how it gets that information.

There are flowcharts for each of the apps and how they work along and diagrams showcasing the information that app needs to work and where it gets the information from. Each of the three applications function slightly differently and have some different functionality but are all cooking apps and were created for the same purpose, helping users find recipes that they can cook. All of the apps can be improved upon in some way, the fourth app being designed hopes to improve on the efficiency of the already existing apps and also provide a better user experience.

The three apps being dissected are

Epicurious

Allrecipes

Supercook

# Dissection Topic

# DISECTION TOPIC

DISECTION TOPIC

## THE PURPOSE?

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The applications being dissected are all looking applications in which their main purpose is helping users find recipes that they can make at home. These apps also all use databases and have very simple design that allows for ease of use and is easy to understand. Dissecting apps that are easy to understand will also help in learning as a developer with the knowledge of what makes apps effective. This will also help in teaching what can be done in the future to recreate the same easy experience for new users in an entirely different app.

The applications being dissecting are Epicurious, Allrecipes, and Supercook. They are all available for both iOS and Android and are all cooking based apps. All three of the apps serve the main purpose of helping its users find recipes they can make at home but all provide different functionality. Some of them let you search by tagging multiple ingredients while another allows you to create your own recipes and post them and doubles as a social media platform where people can share recipes and comment/leave reviews on other people's recipes.

# App Dissection

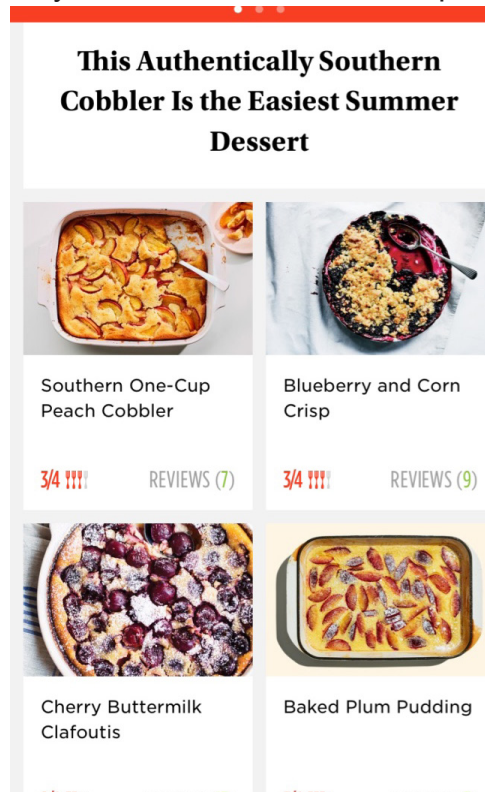
# Epicurious

# APP DISECTION

## APP DISECTION

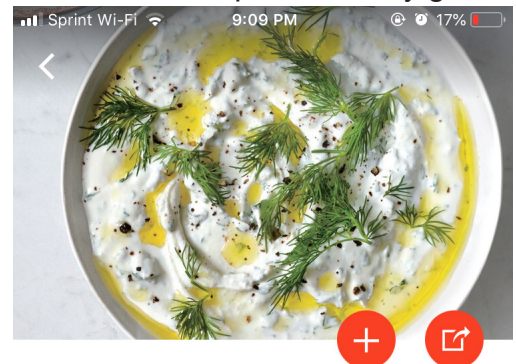
## APP INFORMATION

Epicurious has the most simple design of the three apps being dissected and also looks the most aesthetically pleasing. It provided ease of use and it is easy to never be lost when using the app because all of the main functionality was upfront and easy to find. The app itself provided a great user experience but was however less popular than the other two apps. When searching up a recipe anywhere, most people often look at the ratings/reviews people left on that recipe. While Epicurious provided the easiest to use experience, it was not as popular as the other two apps, with some recipes on the front page of the app having even less than 10 reviews. A few recipes displayed had only one or two which doesn't provide the user with much information on if the recipe is actually good



or not.

(Conde Nast Digital, 2013)



### Herbed Feta Dip

BY THE BON APPÉTIT TEST KITCHEN | **BON APPÉTIT**  
MARCH 2014 | CHARLES MASTERS

3/4 ★★★★★  
REVIEWS (11)

55%  
MAKE IT AGAIN

**YIELD**  
Makes 1 1/4 cups



# EPICURIOUS FLOWCHART

(Conde Nast Digital,  
2013)

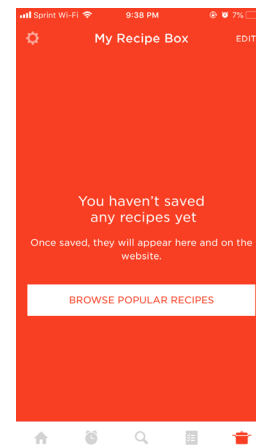
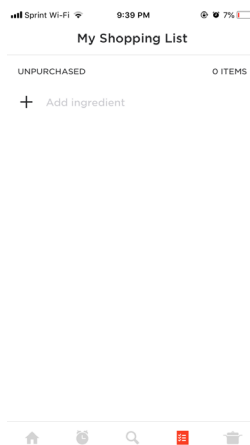
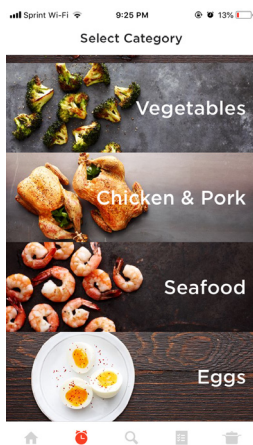
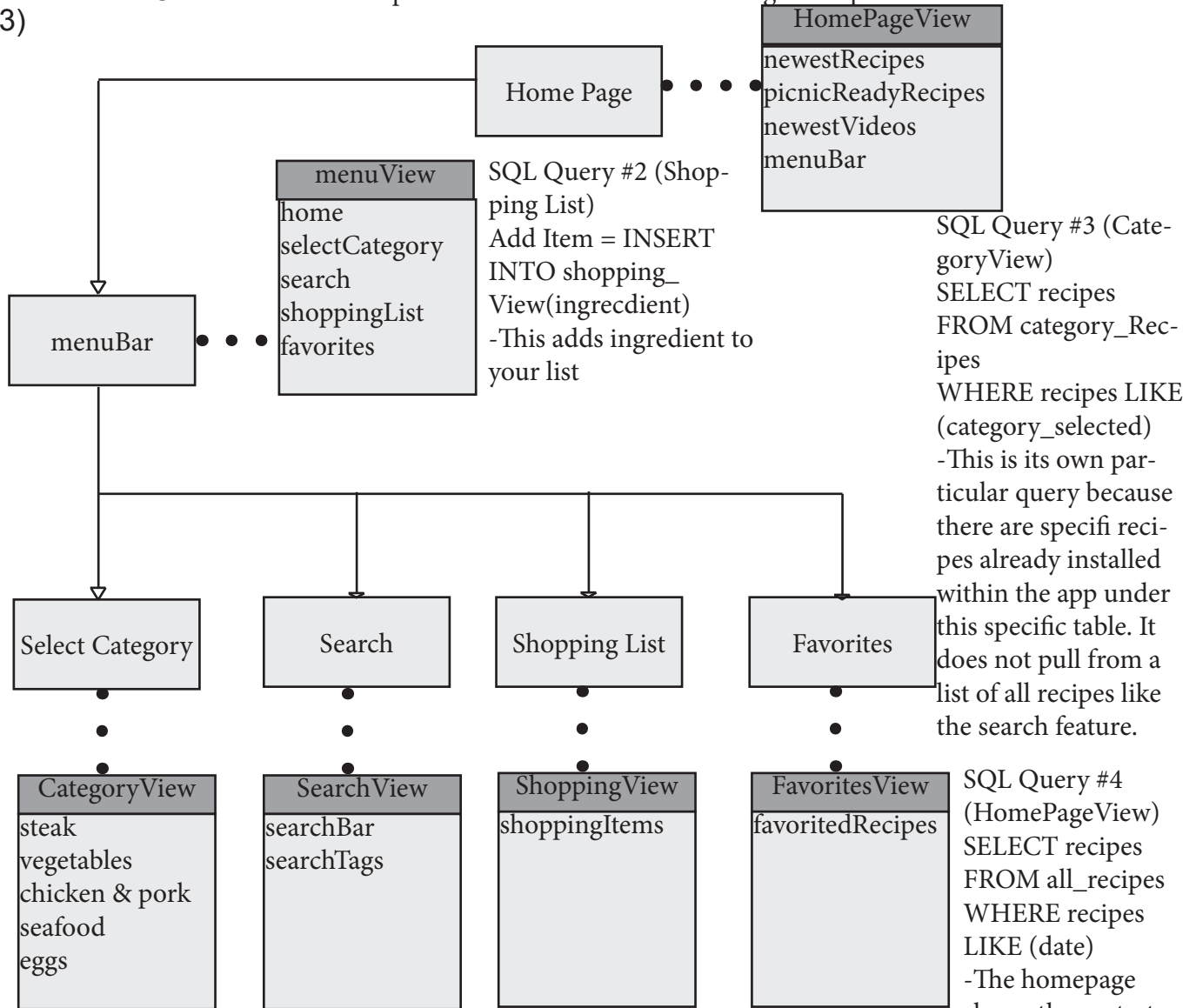
SQL Query #1 (SearchView)

SELECT recipes

FROM available\_Recipes

WHERE recipes LIKE (search)

-Search represents what the user is searching for in particular.



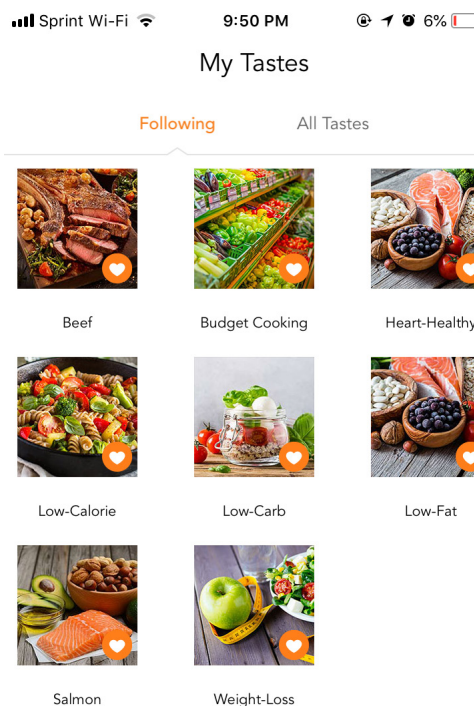
# Allrecipes

# APP DISECTION

## APP DISECTION

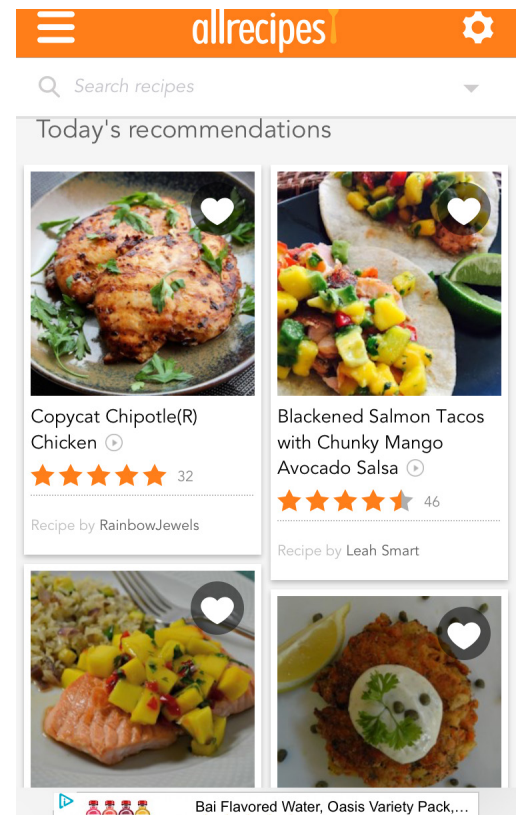
## APP INFORMATION

Information wise, Allrecipes was the best of the three apps being dissected. Aesthetically it was also nice and the user experience was similar to Epicurious, in ease of use, and was quick to learn. Due to this app having more users and recipes to choose from, it is much more effective at doing the same thing as Epicurious was. The app itself has not been around as long as Epicurious but already has as many users, if not more. The app itself also had a unique feature that allowed you to randomly spin and it would choose a meal for either breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner etc. It would then spin for a main ingredient such as beef, cheese, vegetables, chicken, fish, fruit, etc. and then spin again for either a time or how the recipe is prepared such as either baked, slowcooked or



20min, 30min, 1hr, etc. This was a pretty unique feature because you could use it to end up with something new or different you may not have thought of.

All Recipes, Inc,  
2017



# ALLRECIPES FLOWCHART

All Recipes, Inc,  
2017

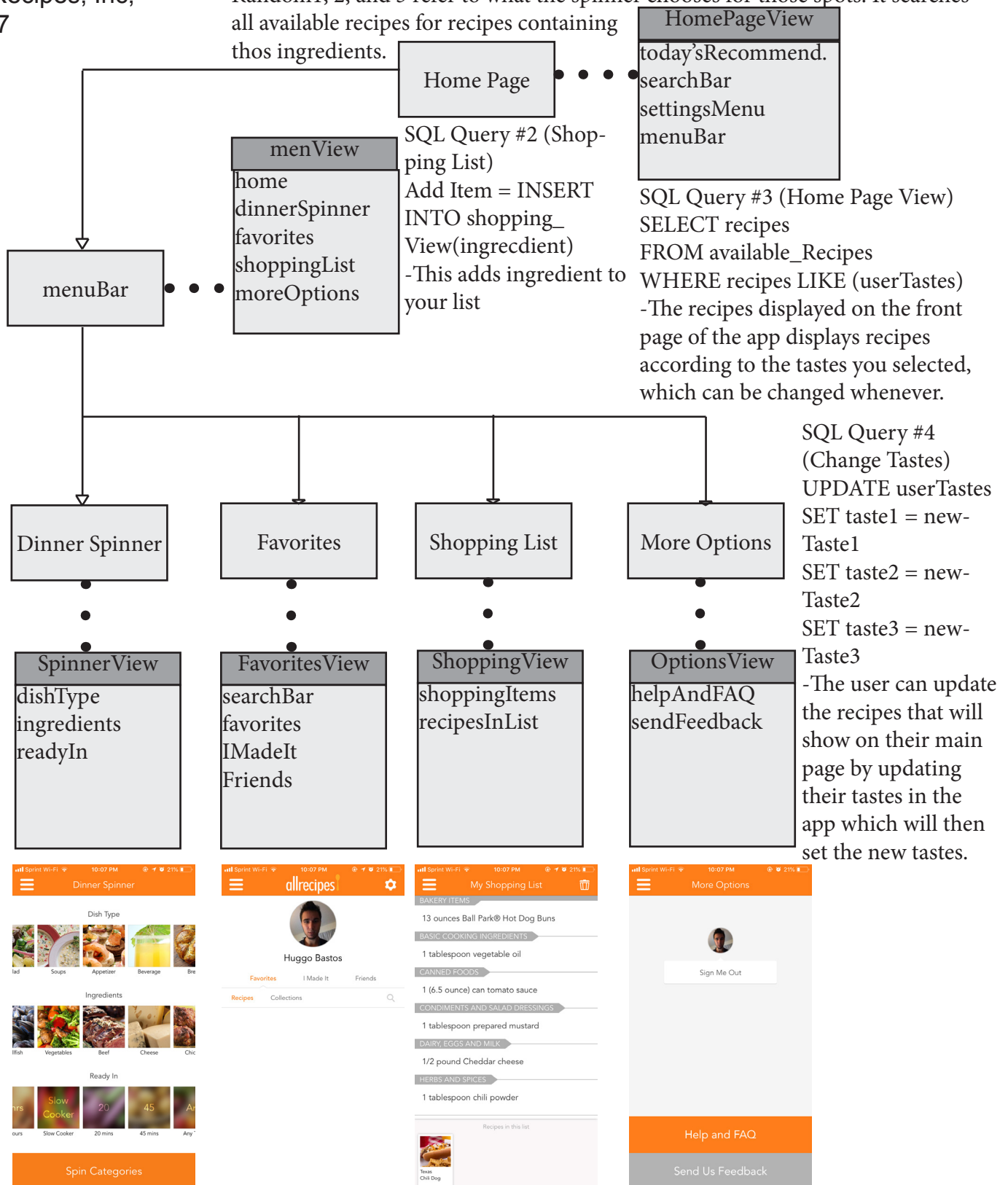
SQL Query #1 (Dinner Spinner)

SELECT recipes

FROM available\_Recipes

WHERE recipes LIKE (Random1, Random2, Random3)

Random1, 2, and 3 refer to what the spinner chooses for those spots. It searches all available recipes for recipes containing those ingredients.



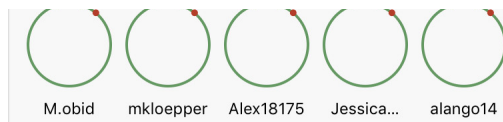
# Supercook

# APP DISECTION

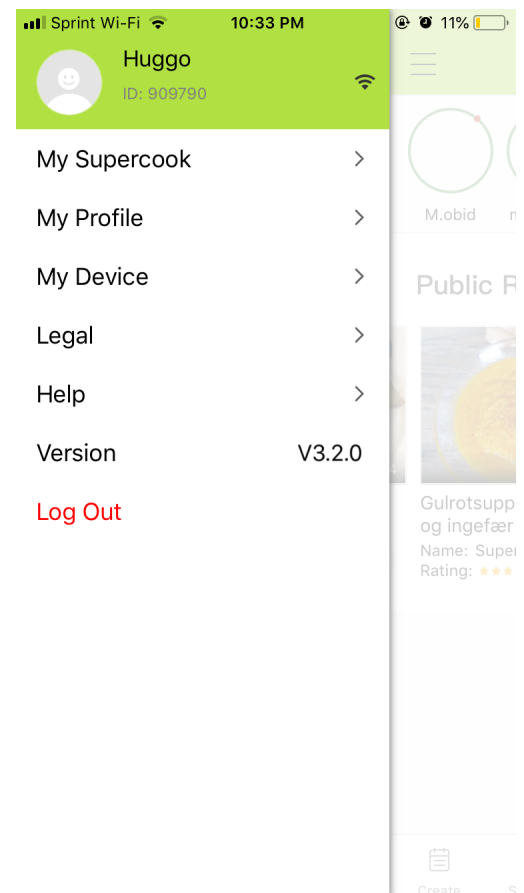
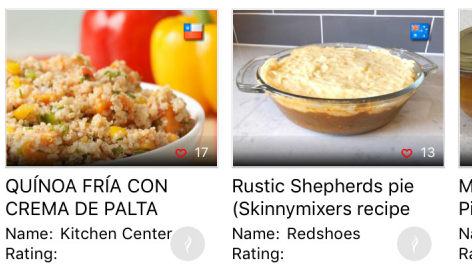
## APP DISECTION

## APP INFORMATION

Supercook as an app had two main features not provided in the other two apps that helped set it apart; a create feature and a share feature. Personally, This app's design felt as if it was not done as well as the others. The app also feels more difficult to use compared to Epicurious and Allrecipes. This app however does have two unique features that set it apart from the others. One of the features that set this app apart, was that it allowed you to create your own recipe and share it with other people where they could comment on and give their opinions/ratings on the recipe. This cooking app also doubled as a part social media platform specifically for the recipes. This unique feature really helped set it apart.



### Public Recipes (4877)



(Plawa Photo.Digital,  
2016)

# SUPERCOOK FLOWCHART

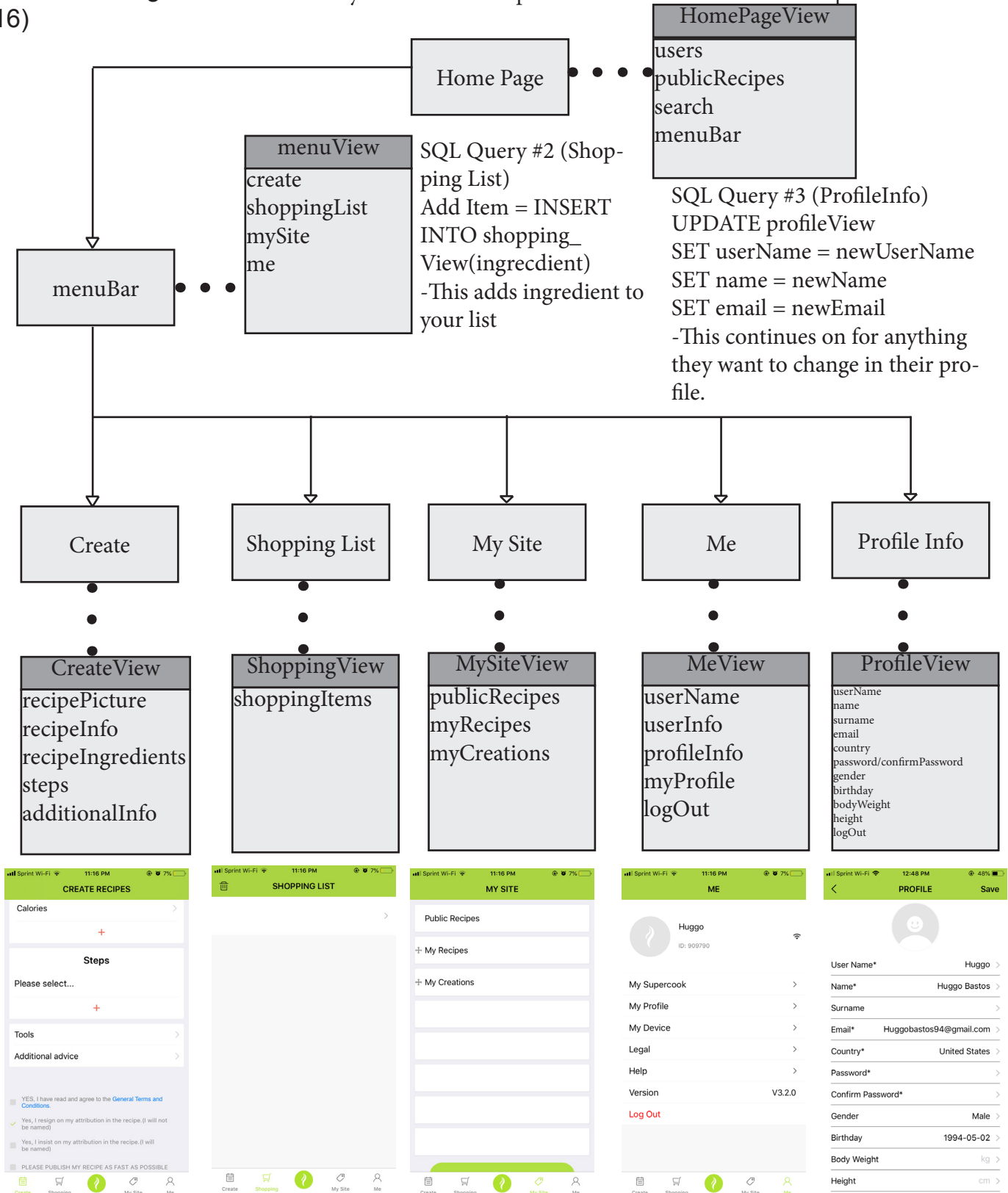
(Plawa Photo.Digital,  
2016)

SQL Query #1 (Create)

INSERT INTO available\_Recipes(recipePic, recipeInfo, recipeIngredients,  
steps, additionalInfo)

VALUES (recipePic, recipeInfo, recipeIngredients, steps, additionalInfo)

This adds your created recipe to the database of available recipes



# Custom App



# CUSTOM APP

## APP DISECTION

## APP INFORMATION

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One way to create a better application than the three dissected above would be to take the best features from each of these apps and put them all together. The simplistic and nice design along with the ease of use from Epicurious would be a good start. Advertising and trying to pull an audience and grab more users would be very important to keep the app successful such as Allrecipes. The social media platform type aspect that was available in Supercook would work very well in this type of app because with users interacting with one another it will help keep the app always fresh and help keep user's online.

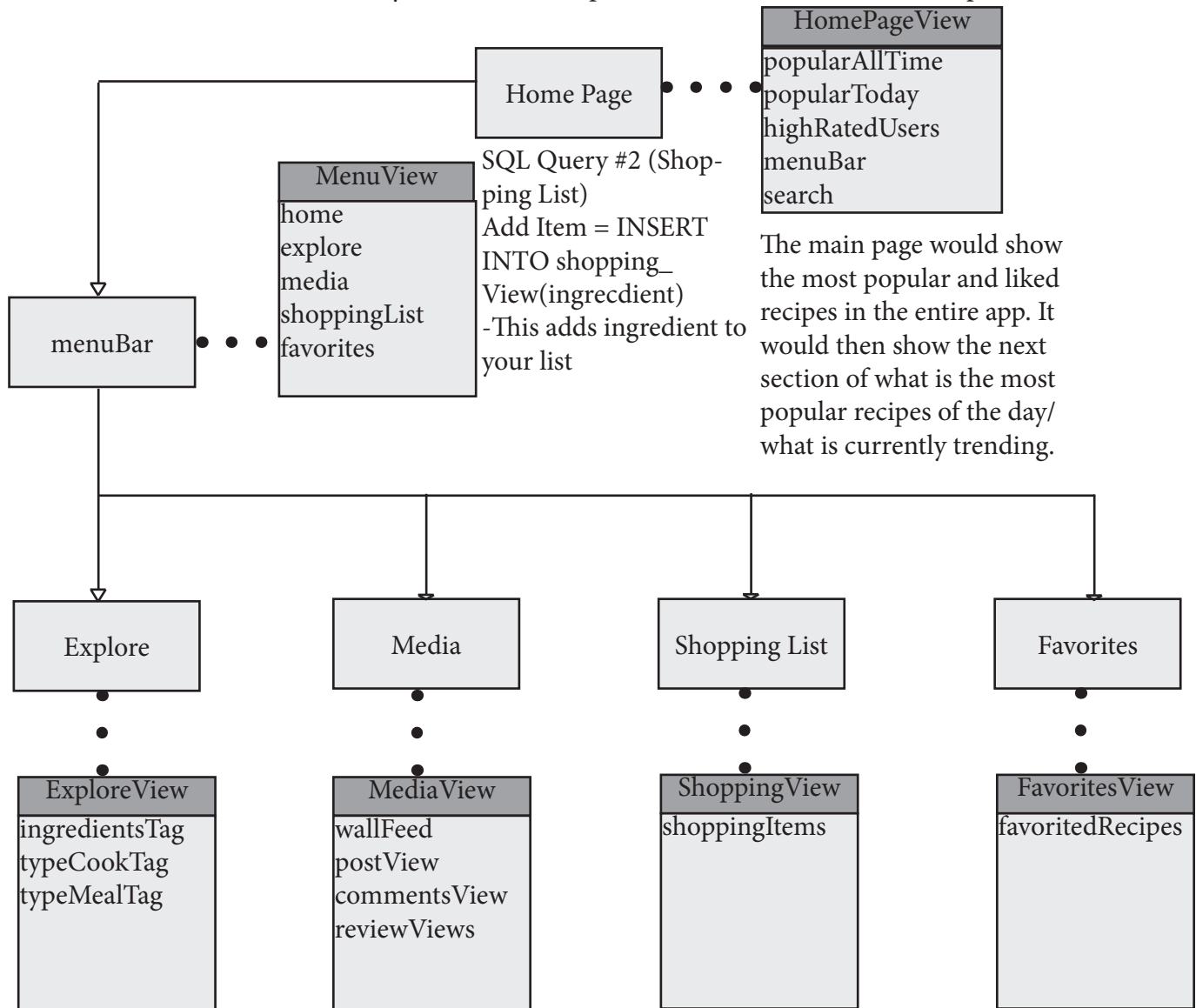
# CUSTOM APP FLOWCHART

SQL Query #1 (Create)

INSERT INTO available\_Recipes(recipePic, recipeInfo, recipeIngredients, steps, additionalInfo)

VALUES (recipePic, recipeInfo, recipeIngredients, steps, additionalInfo)

This adds your created recipe to the database of available recipes



## CUSTOM APP SQL QUERY (CONT.)

SQL Query #3 (ExploreView)

```
SELECT recipes
FROM available_Recipes
WHERE recipes LIKE (userTastes)
or
```

```
WHERE recipes LIKE (search)
```

-The recipes displayed on the mediapage of the app displays recipes according to the tastes you selected, which can be changed whenever.

The search variable would be whatever the user typed in to search for.

SQL Query #5 (HomePageView)

```
SELECT MAX (like) recipes
FROM available_Recipes
```

-Showing the most liked recipes of all time on the main page

Most of the SQL Query's are similar for all of the apps because they all do the same thing and have the same functionality. There is different sequel code added on the 1 or two different functions each app has. The custom app has extra different Query's because of the different functionality it was given/ the changes made that set this app apart.

SQL Query #4 (MediaView)

```
SELECT recipes
FROM available_Recipes
WHERE recipes LIKE (friends)
```

-Similar to the homePageView but this is your specific feed and just shows posts from your friend (think instagram explore page vs your personal feed).

SQL Query #6 (HomePageView)

```
SELECT MAX (like) recipes
FROM available_Recipes
WHERE date == today
```

-This runs the same sql code but checks to make sure that the date of the recipe matches today's current date. This will get the most popular recipes of that day.

## 4 APP DIFFERENCES

All of these applications are built to accomplish the same task yet do it slightly differently. Some of the apps even have some features that set them apart from other similar apps in this category. The custom app created would be designed to keep user experience in mind and maintain many of the details that make these other apps great. The aspects from each app kept would be; the social media like aspect provided from Supercook and the accessibility of Epicurious, while trying to maintain the userbase of Allrecipes.

This app's front page would show the most shared or most liked recipe of that day on the main page. This would help maintain and promote the social media aspect of the app. it would also allow you to add users if you liked a recipe they created so whenever they posted a new recipe you would be notified. Whenever you created a recipe you would be able to share it on the main page but it would also notify any friends of yours in the app that you released a recipe. Another feature added would be the ability to take a video and show the process of creating the dish instead of just following instructions. This would make it much easier to follow along and help out users who are either new to cooking or just aren't familiar with any particular techniques needed for that dish.

## HOW CUSTOM APP IS BETTER

The custom app created would be better because of the same reasons listed above. The best parts of each app that makes them so great would be taken and incorporating them all into one app along with improving any features that could be improved would make this app better.. With the custom app doubling partly as a social media platform for cooking it would be made with ease of use in mind as it's main priority because, especially with an older generation, it can be very difficult for new users to become familiarized with a social media site which can in turn cause people to quit it.

# What I Learned

# WHAT I LEARNED

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## WHAT I LEARNED

I learned many things from doing this project. While the paps were dissected in a particular way, that does not mean that it was also the only way that it could have been done or coded. While at first it may seem like all of the apps would be similar, because they are all simple cooking apps, I realised there are many different ways to accomplish the same task and there is also always something that can be improved upon. Being able to realise what an app does right can help in the development of a future app if you follow the same guidelines or principles they used. On the same note being able to realise why something doesn't work and what an app does wrong can help you improve your own app by making sure you don't make the same mistakes.

Disecting these apps really helped give an understanding as a developer what can be done in the future to make sure any apps created is more successful and provides a better experience for the user.

# REFERENCES

## REFERENCES

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All Recipes, Inc.. (2017, January 23). Allrecipes Dinner Spinner. App Store. <https://www.allrecipes.com/>

Conde Nast Digital. (2013, October 20). Epicurious. App Store. <https://www.epicurious.com/>

Plawa Photo.Digital. (2016, August 25). Supercook. App Store. <http://www.supercook.me/en/supercookstart/>

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