Glint - PRD

The brief, beautiful glimmer of inspiration, now captured.

Knowledge workers and students struggle to efficiently capture ideas and later generate novel insights from their notes, often facing analysis paralysis due to overly complex note-taking tools. This results in underutilized notes and missed opportunities for innovation.

AI-enhanced knowledge management can dramatically boost creative output—studies show AI is 7 times more effective at generating top-rated ideas and delivers a 3,900% efficiency gain in ideation*—while also reducing significant business inefficiencies like time lost searching for information by 50% or more, in a rapidly growing $2.5B global market**.

* Using Large Language Models for Idea Generation in Innovation
** AI Note Taking Market Size, Share | CAGR of 18.9%, https://www.qodequay.com/ai-powered-knowledge-management-for-large-enterprises

Problem

Knowledge workers and students today are overwhelmed by the explosion of digital information, scattered across countless notes, platforms, and tools. Despite the promise of advanced productivity apps, most users still find themselves drowning in fragmented thoughts and spend significant time—up to 2.5 hours per day—just searching for information they already recorded. This fragmented ecosystem fosters “analysis paralysis”: instead of transforming notes into actionable insights, valuable ideas remain buried, rarely revisited or synthesized. liminary+1

While digital note-taking has moved far beyond pen and paper—with features like bi-directional linking, tagging, and powerful search—the shift has not translated into meaningful gains in creativity or knowledge synthesis. Users are often forced to manually organize and connect their thoughts, leading to note piles that are underutilized and ideas that become lost in the shuffle. Industry surveys have shown that 69% of professionals feel overwhelmed by information overload, yet the tools meant to help often add complexity rather than clarity. superagi

The root issue is not a lack of storage or access, but the absence of intelligent support for connecting, structuring, and transforming information into insight. This results in inefficient

workflows, missed opportunities for innovation, and a substantial cost in both time and productivity for individuals and organizations alike. liminary+1

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1. Note-Taking is Not Enough: Knowledge Management for Researchers and Writers
2. Moving beyond note-taking: making room for true knowledge synthesis - Liminary Blog
3. The Future of Note-Taking: How AI Apps Are Transforming Digital Organization and Changing the Way We Work - SuperAGI
4. Note-taking and science inquiry in an open-ended learning environment - PMC

Target User Personas

User Persona: Ananya Mehra

"I have so many great ideas saved, but when I actually need them, I get lost in my own notes and end up feeling more overwhelmed than inspired." - Ananya

- Role: Knowledge Worker (Product Manager, 5 years)
- Background: Passionate about continuous learning, regularly attends webinars, reads industry blogs, and takes thorough notes on new frameworks and strategies.
- Personality Traits: Curious, ambitious, detail-oriented, and strives for high performance. Enjoys experimenting with new tools and systems.

Behavioral Characteristics

- Learning Enthusiast: Constantly seeking new ideas and best practices to improve in her field. Maintains a large digital library of notes, articles, and ideas across different platforms.
- System Hopper: Regularly switches between note-taking tools, seeking the "perfect system" that will finally organize her insights and make them actionable.
- Perfectionist: Spends excessive time formatting notes and organizing information, wanting every detail to be perfectly categorized.
- Easily Distracted: Finds herself sidetracked by digital notifications and tool features, fragmenting her attention and note review process.

- Prone to Analysis Paralysis: When reviewing notes, feels overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information and the complexity of her tools—finds it hard to decide what to focus on or how to connect concepts for real work application.
- Digital Hoarder: Saves more articles and ideas than she processes or revisits, driven by fear of missing out on information.

Pain Points (Psychological Barriers)

- Cognitive Overload: Too many inputs and choices cause her to feel mentally exhausted rather than inspired when revisiting notes.
- Fear of Incompleteness: She worries she might miss a crucial insight, leading to compulsive capturing rather than synthesizing.
- Productivity Culture Anxiety: Feels pressure from peers and social media to have a “system” as aesthetically pleasing and efficient as productivity influencers.
- Loss of Tactility: Misses the creative flow and engagement that came from handwriting notes, feels digital inputs are less memorable.

Goals

- To turn her growing repository of notes into actionable insights that lead to innovation at work.
- To overcome analysis paralysis and actually use what she learns, rather than just collecting information.
- To develop habits that balance effective knowledge capture with creative output, without being bogged down by perfectionism or technology overwhelm.

Product Goals & Objectives

List 2-4 primary objectives—what the product should achieve (e.g., “Enable users to easily capture ideas,” “Help users synthesize notes into actionable insights”). Ensure these link to business or user outcomes

- **Simplify Idea Capture:**
  Enable users to effortlessly and intuitively capture thoughts, inspiration, and information across multiple contexts (work, meetings, learning), reducing friction so that no idea is lost.
  Outcome: Boosts user adoption and daily engagement by making note-taking easy and instinctive.

- **Transform Notes into Insights:**
  Empower users to synthesize and connect their notes using AI, turning fragmented information into clear, actionable insights and creative solutions.
  Outcome: Increases user productivity and satisfaction—demonstrated by more ideas implemented and higher retention rates.
- **Reduce Information Overload:**
  Organize, declutter, and prioritize information automatically, alleviating “analysis paralysis” and enabling users to focus on what matters most.
  Outcome: Saves time, improves decision-making quality, and reduces cognitive fatigue, leading to improved business efficiency.
- **Accelerate Retrieval of Critical Information:**
  Make it fast and effortless for users to find key notes, references, or insights exactly when they need them, using smart search and context-aware suggestions.
  Outcome: Minimizes time wasted searching, directly improving user efficiency and supporting business productivity goals.

Research & Context

I. AI in Knowledge & Creativity: Power & Peril AI is revolutionizing information capture, processing, and idea generation, offering significant benefits but also critical limitations.

Benefits:
AI dramatically boosts productivity: saving 30% of meeting time (up to 45 minutes), increasing document output by 59%, and improving content quality by 40%. Overall, AI tools increase business users' throughput by 66% and employee productivity by 40%. It also acts as a creative amplifier, overcoming blocks and generating original ideas (AI scored in the 99th percentile for originality on creativity tests). The market for AI note-taking and transcription is experiencing rapid growth, projected to reach $2.5 billion and $19.2 billion respectively by 2033-2034.

Limitations:
AI faces significant accuracy issues. Transcription averages 61.92% accuracy (compared to 99% for humans), with medical transcription sometimes exceeding 50% error rates. AI summarization is five times less accurate than humans, and newer models are prone to fabrication (e.g., Grok 3 generates incorrect citations 94% of the time). AI also struggles with

contextual understanding, bias amplification from training data ("garbage in, garbage out"), and poses privacy/security risks due to sensitive data handling and inadequate encryption.

II. Note-Taking Tools & Methods Different tools cater to distinct needs, and research-backed methods enhance effectiveness.

Tools:

- Obsidian: Best for networked creativity, deep knowledge linking, and building a "digital brain" with bidirectional links and a graph view. AI features can generate ideas 40% faster.
- Notion: Ideal for structured knowledge management, collaborative projects, and personalized productivity with flexible databases and AI for content generation.
- Evernote: Excels at fast, frictionless quick capture (text, web clips, audio, images) from any device, with AI for summarization.
- Mymind: Designed for visual thinkers and minimalist, AI-organized quick capture of mixed media, surfacing connections automatically.

Creative Methods:

- Divergent & Convergent Thinking: Synergistic processes where divergent generates ideas, convergent refines them.
- Incubation: Taking breaks from problems allows unconscious processing, leading to breakthroughs (optimal 5-15 mins for short problems).
- Bisociation: Connecting unrelated concepts (e.g., Velcro, Post-it Notes) drives innovation.
- Zettelkasten: Transforms thoughts into insights through interconnected notes, excellent for deep, long-term academic/research work, but time-consuming (5-10 mins per note) and has a steep learning curve.

Effective Methods:

- Handwriting offers superior memory and comprehension over typing. Cornell Notes (cues, notes, summary) improve retention. Progressive Summarization (layered summaries) aids discoverability and retention. Spaced Repetition and Active Recall significantly boost long-term retention and learning.

III. Psychological Barriers & Voice/Wearable Tech Understanding mental blocks is crucial for effective note-taking, while new tech introduces its own challenges.

- Barriers: Analysis paralysis (too many app choices, perfectionism) prevents starting. Fear of Being Incomplete (FOBI) leads to unsustainable "digital hoarding". Digital distractions, feature overload, and loss of tactile connection also hinder effectiveness.
- Voice/Wearable Tech: Offers speed and hands-free convenience (90% accuracy in optimal conditions), reduces cognitive load, and aids creative flow. However, it suffers from accuracy issues (background noise: 45% errors; accents: 16-28% higher error rates), privacy concerns (unintended capture, data breaches), and may compromise deeper cognitive processing compared to handwriting

Do’s

Leverage AI for Productivity:

- DO use AI for rapid transcription, summarization, and initial content generation to save significant time (e.g., 30% per meeting).
- DO embrace AI for brainstorming and idea amplification, especially to generate diverse and original concepts (AI excels in divergent thinking).
- DO integrate AI-powered semantic search and knowledge graphs to quickly find and connect information based on meaning, not just keywords.

Choose Note-Taking Tools Strategically:

- DO use Obsidian for deep, networked thinking and creative exploration, especially if you enjoy customization and non-linear connections.
- DO use Notion for structured knowledge, project management, and collaborative tasks, leveraging its AI for content outlines and solutions.
- DO use Evernote or Mymind for fast, frictionless idea capture from any device, prioritizing quick intake over complex organization for initial thoughts.

Employ Research-Backed Learning Methods:

- DO integrate Active Recall and Spaced Repetition to significantly improve long-term memory retention and learning outcomes.
- DO use structured note-taking methods like Cornell or Progressive Summarization for better organization and comprehension.
- DO handwrite notes for critical information when possible, as it leads to deeper processing and superior memory retention.

- DO engage in idea incubation by taking short breaks (5-15 minutes) from a problem to allow unconscious processing and foster breakthroughs.

Mind Your Mental Well-being:

- DO set clear boundaries for technology use and create distraction-free environments for focused note-taking.

Don’ts

Don't Over-rely on AI for Accuracy:

- DON'T blindly trust AI for factual accuracy in transcription (averages 61.92% accuracy) or summarization (five times less accurate than humans). Always verify critical information.
- DON'T ignore potential biases in AI outputs, as systems can amplify biases present in their training data.
- DON'T neglect human oversight; AI performs best when humans retain judgment and selection responsibilities, especially for convergent thinking.

Avoid Psychological Traps:

- DON'T fall into analysis paralysis by endlessly comparing note-taking apps; start with a minimal system and gradually build.
- DON'T succumb to perfectionism in note formatting; prioritize capturing content over aesthetics, viewing notes as "temporary scaffolding".
- DON'T engage in digital hoarding; regularly review and process notes rather than just collecting them.

Be Cautious with Voice & Wearable Tech:

- DON'T use voice-to-text for highly sensitive information without robust privacy measures, due to risks of unintended capture and data breaches.
- DON'T assume continuous recording is socially acceptable; be mindful of bystander privacy.
- DON'T expect voice recording to replace the deeper cognitive processing benefits of handwriting for complex learning.

Avoid Over-complicating:

- DON'T immediately jump to complex methods like Zettelkasten for routine tasks or if you lack consistent time commitment, as it has a steep learning curve and high maintenance needs. Simpler methods may be more practical.

Key Features & Requirements

Cognitive Overload & Analysis Paralysis

Pain Point:

Overwhelmed by choices and complex features, she keeps switching note systems and ends up not using her collected knowledge.

Feature/Insight:

- Minimal Mode: Ananya starts with a simplified interface that surfaces only core capture/review features, reducing complexity and helping her stick with one approach.
- Smart Defaults & Contextual Templates: The tool recommends relevant note structures (e.g., Cornell or Progressive Summarization) for her current task, helping her bypass decision fatigue.
- Based upon her current note-taking context, Ananya is automatically suggested related concepts that might aid her, but not intrusively.

Perfectionism & Fear of Missing Out

Pain Point:

She compulsively captures details, afraid to miss anything, and delays organizing/ reviewing notes because she wants perfection.

Feature/Insight:

- Low-pressure “Inbox” for Brain Dumps: Lets Ananya quickly jot imperfect ideas without judgment; helps her move past perfectionist paralysis.
- Progressive Summarization Nudges: Periodic prompts to review and summarize only the relevant notes without pressure, encouraging synthesis over time.
    - Various levels to a note: similar to zettels, a note can be a seed, plant or a tree. The AI can auto categorise notes and help build them up over time.

Digital Hoarding & Unprocessed Information

Pain Point:

Her notebooks and digital apps fill up with unsorted material she rarely revisits, creating mental clutter.

Feature/Insight:

- AI-Powered Clustering & Retrieval Feed: Automatically groups related notes and periodically resurfaces them by theme or project (“Here’s a cluster of marketing frameworks for your strategy workshop!”), helping Ananya discover and use her old knowledge.
- Thematic focus: bring up the themes and notes that are more often recurring in Ananya’s day to day context. But also bring up some unrelated notes time-to-time so as to bring up the sense of connection between unrelated notes.
- Ananya’s least used notes don’t have to be deleted, if that gives her comfort in knowing they still exist. They just need to be surfaced less often given her contexts.

Learning Curve & Technology Overwhelm

Pain Point:

Advanced systems feel powerful yet difficult to master; she abandons them if the barrier to entry is too high.

Feature/Insight:

- Contextual Micro-tutorials: Offer just-in-time lessons for features as Ananya uses them, helping her incrementally grow her skill with the tool.
- Gradual Feature Unlock: Lets her choose when and if to add advanced functions, so she can focus on learning at her own pace.
- The system should be bare bones note taking application that everyone is familiar with to start.

Loss of Tactility & Shallow Engagement

Pain Point:

She misses the deep engagement of handwriting; digital notes feel sterile and less memorable.

Feature/Insight:

- Handwriting & Visual Mapping Support: She can sketch, mind-map, or annotate with a stylus, and the tool keeps these features central to idea capture and review.

- The UI should feel as close to using a notebook/ file/ real paper and tactile microinteractions so the user delight is maintained.

Low AI Accuracy & Trust Issues

Pain Point:

She is skeptical of AI summaries and automations, having experienced errors and hallucinations before.

Feature/Insight:

- Editable AI Suggestions and Sources: She can quickly correct AI-generated notes, and see sources to trust level of summaries—allowing her to rely on them (or not) based on transparency.

Bias & Security Anxiety

Pain Point:

She handles sensitive project info and wants to ensure her data is secure and private.

Feature/Insight:

- End-to-End Encryption and Data Logs: Complete control with on-device encryption, plus visibility into when and how AI features access her data.
- Have an ability to have a fully offline mode, where all the notes reside in Ananya's personal system, therefore securing her IA.

Sluggish Retrieval & Utilization

Pain Point:

Her best ideas go unused because they're buried or not surfaced contextually when needed.

Feature/Insight:

- Contextual Semantic Search & Next-Best-Action Prompts: Quickly finds not just keywords but relevant concepts and actionable insights, with smart prompts to connect notes to ongoing tasks.
- Ability to interact with a set of notes and create new notes based upon them. Similar to NotebookLM except the set of source notes are contextually selected for a topic.

User Scenarios and Workflow Diagrams

Workflow- scenario 1

Scenario 1 - Capture

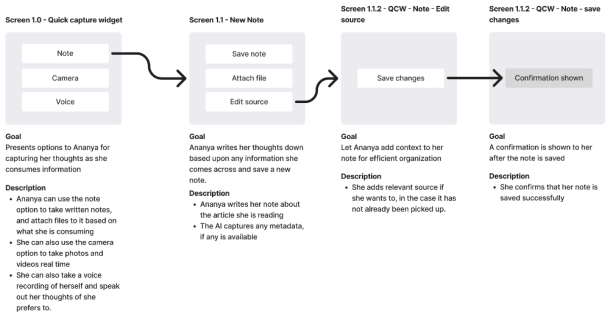
Ananya, using the product "Glint," seamlessly gathers insights and knowledge fragments from daily activities. As she reads articles, listens to productivity podcasts, learns new gardening methods, and watches cooking videos, she captures each inspiration or idea directly into the application.

The capture system allows her to:

- Snap pictures of book highlights.
- Share video or audio clips from YouTube and podcasts, which the system transcribes and saves.
- Record voice notes or type out inspirations after consuming content.

Every snippet, captures metadata like source if available, and, is automatically tagged and grouped into themes such as "Productivity," "Gardening," "Cooking," or "Time Management."

This intelligent tagging system makes later retrieval and organization effortless.



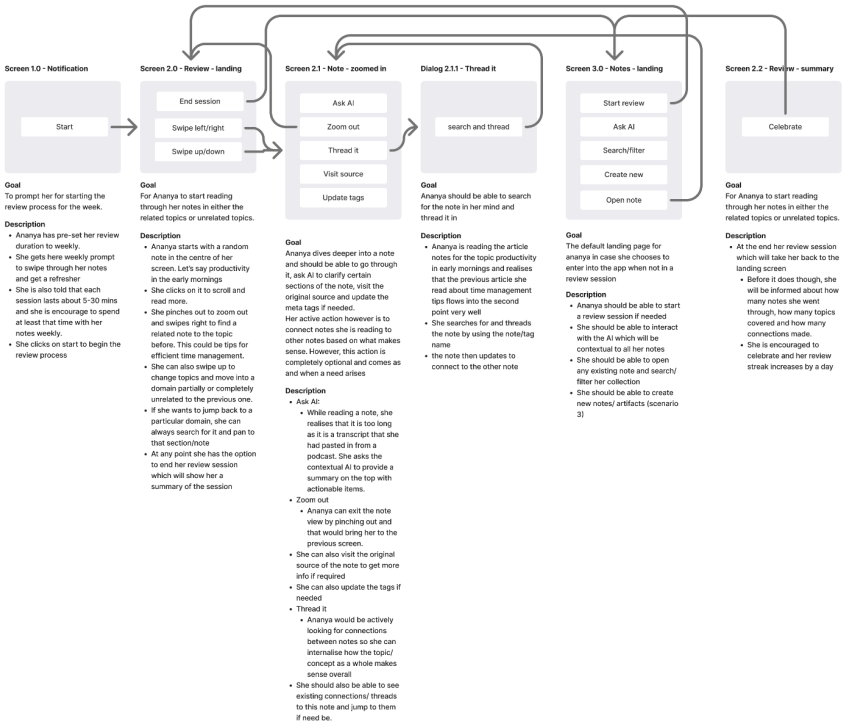
Workflow- scenario 2

Scenario 2 - Make connections

As the repository of ideas grows, Glint prompts the user at regular intervals (e.g., weekly) to review and make connections between notes, emulating spaced repetition to reinforce learning and encourage discovery.

During these sessions:

- The app surfaces related notes (such as productivity, time management, deep work) and prompts the user to reflect and link overlapping concepts.
- The system encourages connections not only within similar domains but also across unrelated ones, like linking "Productivity" with "Gardening" or "Cooking."
- These cross-disciplinary insights allow her to see, for example, how the patience learned from gardening can foster the focus needed for deep work. New notes forged from these connections are assigned relevant tags and integrated back into the knowledge base for future review and expansion.



Workflow- scenario 3

Scenario 3 - Creating a Pitch Deck

When the user embarks on a project—such as building a pitch deck about "Nurturing Focus Mode"—she initiates a new project in the app and provides a brief description.

She has the option to:

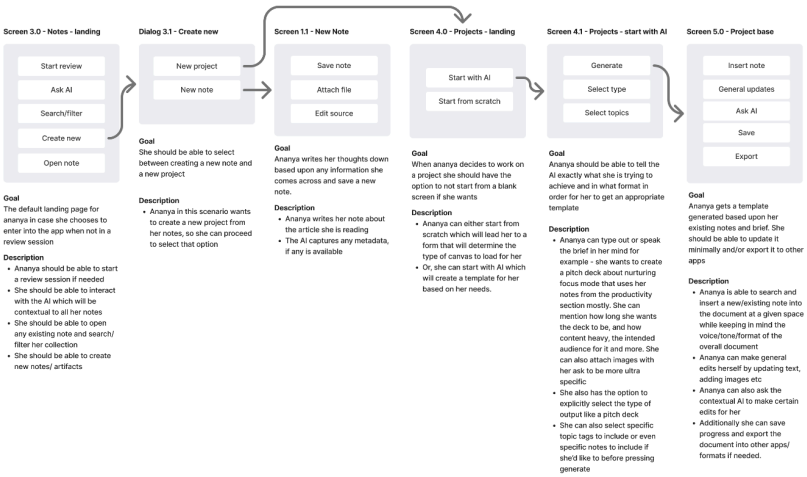
- Pre-select topics or tags for the project, or let the AI suggest additional related themes based on her existing notes and connections.
- Choose the desired output format (pitch deck, article, infographic, etc.), and optionally upload preferred templates or design references.

With a click, Glint's AI pulls together her most-connected notes, intelligently weaving together examples from productivity, gardening, and cooking (reflecting her unique interdisciplinary insights). The system generates a first draft of her pitch deck, with clear citations showing source notes and auto-populated content blocks.

She can further customize the pitch deck by:

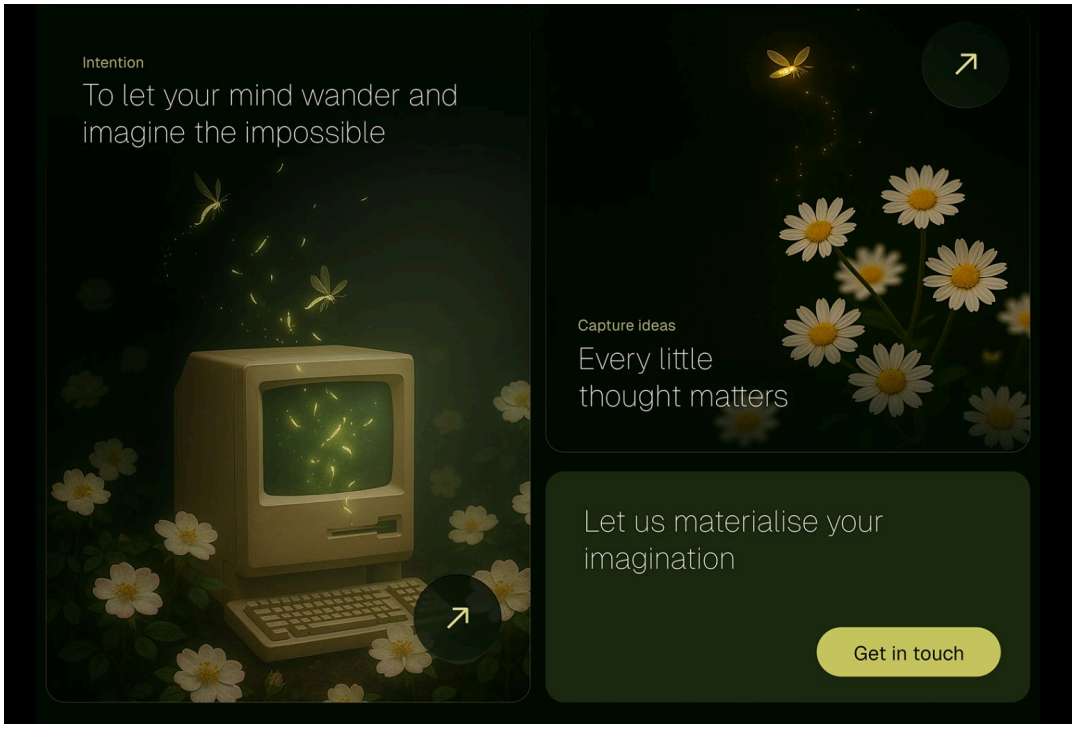
- Modifying text, voice, and tone.
- Inserting or editing references and examples.
- Using AI suggestions for slide content or visual aids.

When satisfied, she downloads and shares the pitch deck with others, confident that her work leverages the deep well of knowledge and connections curated within Glint.



Detail Constraints & Dependencies

- Should be an application that is mobile first for capture but also scales to the web seamlessly.
- The visual language should be similar to the moodboard below:


Intention
To let your mind wander and imagine the impossible
Capture ideas
Every little thought matters
Let us materialise your imagination
Get in touch