
Team 7

**Theia
Vision**

Version 1.3

Theia	Version: 1.0
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THEIA-VISION-01	

Revision History

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07/12/2025	1.1	Added sections about product position, user and stakeholder profiles	James Abitria
07/12/2025	1.2	Added feature set, removed Quality Ranges	James Abitria
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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to collect, analyze, and define high-level needs and features of the Theia app. It focuses on the capabilities needed by the stakeholders and the target users, and why these needs exist. The details of how Theia fulfills these needs are detailed in the use-case and supplementary specifications.

1.2 Scope

This document covers the Theia app being developed by Team 7. The goal of the app's development is for blind/visually impaired individuals to utilize the app's services from their personal electronic devices. It is a new aid to navigation for these afflicted individuals, either as a replacement or in conjunction with a walking stick and/or guide dogs. Theia is designed to operate on handheld mobile devices, utilizing the phone's camera, speakers, haptics, microphone, GPS, and velocity sensors. The program is designed to work locally on each user's individual device, only communicating with other devices in the event of an emergency, or with location services when performing navigation.

1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

Theia - The name of the app that provides a navigational service for blind and visually impaired individuals. The app is designed to navigate users through indoor buildings.

1.4 References

[1] CDC. "Fast Facts: Vision Loss." CDC Vision and Eye Health.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vision-health/data-research/vision-loss-facts/index.html> (accessed Dec 7, 2025).

[2] HHS. "Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html> (accessed Dec 7, 2025).

1.5 Overview

Section 2 discusses the perspective that Theia is being developed from by the team, based on the business opportunity based on a current problem, and the product's position to solve that problem. Section 3 focuses on the stakeholders and key user groups, profiling and describing their main desires for the project. Section 4 summarizes the overall capabilities of Theia, as well as a brief discussion on overall cost, licensing, and installation. Section 5 delineates all the individual functions that Theia can perform, however simple or complex.

Sections 6 covers the constraints regarding the app. Section 7 addresses the overall priority level of each application. Section 8 covers external requirements that do not directly apply to the app's development, but are important to consider about the world the app exists in. Section 9 ends with the documentation available to users regarding the setup and usage of the Theia app.

2. Positioning

2.1 Business Opportunity

A major struggle for blind/visually impaired individuals is navigation, especially inside buildings. The layout of different establishments can vary widely in terms of the location of elevators, staircases, and hallway paths. The state of the building can also constantly change, whether there are obstacles in the path, or other individuals walking in the same area. There are physical tools such as walking sticks and guide dogs to remedy some of the problems, but neither provides significant audible communication to the user. The goal of the Theia app is to provide an electronic tool for blind/visually impaired individuals, similar to how most people utilize GPS services like Google Maps to navigate, the same functionality would be expanded to allow visually impaired individuals navigate inside of buildings.

2.2 Problem Statement

The problem of	navigating indoor buildings.
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affects	blind and visually impaired individuals.
the impact of which is	increased difficulty in attending school, work, and enjoying social venues.
a successful solution would be	a navigation app that concisely describes the necessary directions a user needs to take in order to reach a destination specified by a vocal instruction given by the user. The app would prompt the user for instructions when opened, to which the user would speak aloud the destination for the building they enter. The app would then calculate the path to reach the destination, telling the user ahead of time the actions they must take. The app would also use the camera to scan for obstacles, and if an obstacle were to cross the user's path, the app would provide instructions to avoid the path.

2.3 Product Position Statement

For	blind and visually impaired individuals.
Who	need to frequent indoor establishments for various purposes, and are willing to utilize their mobile device for assistance.
Theia	is a software product
That	efficiently and safely guides users to their desired destinations, through vocal instructions of where to move and turn, and has dynamic obstacle detection to prevent user injury.
Unlike	guide dogs that cannot communicate instructions of where to move, and cannot always warn the individual of an obstacle in their path. Walking sticks can also miss obstacles, based on how the individual is sweeping the stick.
Our product	uses a combination of data regarding the indoor building the user is located in, as well as dynamic detection systems. It orients itself through usage of AR posters located inside of buildings, which it applies to an internal map to understand where the user is located, and where they need to be. The product can also prioritize instruction importance, whether to instruct the user to continue moving to their destination, or notify them if they're about to collide with an object.

3. Stakeholder and User Descriptions

3.1 Market Demographics

The target market is blind/visually impaired individuals that utilize a mobile device. While it would be most convenient for individuals that are already familiar with utilizing a mobile device, it can also target individuals who may not use a mobile device, but would be willing to purchase and carry one with them as a tool to aid them. There is a significant market for these individuals, as in the United States alone, 7 million individuals suffer from visual impairment [1].

3.2 Stakeholder Summary

Name	Description	Responsibilities
Project Mentor	This stakeholder monitors the	Acts as the main point of feedback for the

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Software Architect	progress of the project's development. This stakeholder primarily works with the system's development.	Requirements Specifiers and the Software Architects. They are the main individual who reviews the documentation and sits through the project presentations, giving pointers to further improve the functionality of the project. Builds off of the requirements determined by the specifiers, and creates both the backend logic for the app's navigation and obstacle detection, as well as the frontend logic to communicate with the user, and establish the GUI.
Requirements Specifier	This stakeholder works to determine the requirements the app must fulfill, based on the specifications of the project, and the problems/goals to be met.	Synthesizes and documents the functional and non-functional requirements for the Theia app, working to refine the needs the project must fulfill as clearly as possible in order to streamline the process for the software architects.

3.3 User Summary

Name	Description	Responsibilities	Stakeholder
Blind/ Visually Impaired Individual	Primary end user of the system	Provide spoken prompts for the app to navigate the user, hold the mobile device such that the camera can scan the environment, and listen to app instructions.	Self
Caretaker	End user of the system	Configure the application for the needs of the individual (volume, common routes, emergency contacts), respond to app emergency signals.	Self
Emergency Operator	End user of the system	Respond to app emergency signals, utilize app's location services to locate the user and send emergency services to assist the user.	Self

3.4 User Environment

The blind/visually impaired user will access Theia locally from their phone, having it downloaded as an application. The app will be configured initially by the caretaker, and from then on, the user will be able to utilize it independently. The app will be designed to work on both Android phones and iOS. The app can remotely access location services and emergency contacts implicitly, being activated by user input. The app only works in indoor environments, but the buildings it is used in can vary in terms of layout and number of floors.

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3.5 Stakeholder Profiles

3.5.1 Project Mentor

Representative	Dr. Bolong Zeng
Description	This is a managerial stakeholder that oversees the project.
Type	The stakeholder is an expert in the software requirements process, and in project management.
Responsibilities	Ensuring the project meets the specified criteria for the Theia app's functionality.
Success Criteria	The success is the development of a project that contains well-defined requirements that make a robust, successful product.
Involvement	Accessible via email or Zoom meetings for feedback, participates in meetings with the development team to discuss the status of the project.
Deliverables	Presentation of AS-IS/TO-BE scenarios of the project, functional prototype.
Comments / Issues	

3.5.2 Software Architect

Representative	Isaiah Doan, Evan Glasscock, Michael Hull, Nicholas Lopez
Description	A contributor to the project by creating the functional application based on the requirements.
Type	Proficient in computer programming and software design principles.
Responsibilities	Interpreting the requirements for the project to build prototypes and the overall product.
Success Criteria	The success criteria is the creation of a robust product that prioritizes the safety of users, as well as properly navigating them through a building to reach their desired destination.
Involvement	Involved in meetings to develop the software requirements, discussions with the Project Mentor to understand the requirements for the prototypes.
Deliverables	
Comments / Issues	

3.5.3 Requirements Specifier

Representative	James Abitria, Isaiah Doan, Evan Glasscock, Michael Hull, Nicholas Lopez, Osaze Ogieriakhi
Description	A contributor to the project, responsible for taking user/stakeholder needs and project specifications to develop requirements.
Type	Experience with software projects, proficient in communication between users and stakeholders.
Responsibilities	Analyzing the different needs of users and stakeholders, iterating and improving the functional and non-functional requirements of Theia.
Success Criteria	The success criteria is the development and documentation of well-defined functional and non-functional requirements, that streamline the development process of the application.

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Involvement	Responsible for meeting with the Project Mentor and Software Architects to discuss the different needs that the application must fulfill.
Deliverables	
Comments / Issues	

3.6 User Profiles

3.6.1 *Blind/Visually Impaired Individual*

Representative	
Description	A private individual that will utilize the app for indoor navigation.
Type	This is a casual user, assumed to have a basic knowledge of operating a phone.
Responsibilities	Acts as the example for how the app should be built around, the main source of feedback of Theia's functionality.
Success Criteria	The success criteria of the user is that they can consistently reach their destination in indoor buildings on time, and without injury.
Involvement	When possible discussions with representative users for what they need to navigate places on a regular basis will inform the requirements process.
Deliverables	
Comments / Issues	

3.6.2 *Caretaker*

Representative	
Description	A private individual, either a family member or employed individual that cares for the blind/visually impaired user.
Type	This is a casual user, assumed to have a basic knowledge of operating a phone.
Responsibilities	Serves as an advocate for the configuration options to best aid the users they care for, what settings need to be adjusted.
Success Criteria	The success criteria is the ease of setting up the app with emergency contacts, instruction volume, and being able to instruct the users they care for on how to use the app.
Involvement	This user may be a part of discussions, to provide an extra perspective on what their patients need.
Deliverables	
Comments / Issues	

3.6.3 *Emergency Operator*

Representative	
Description	A private individual employed as part of emergency services to receive calls and

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	send emergency help.
Type	Well-trained in communication, deals with high-pressure situations often, familiar with utilizing software beyond a basic understanding.
Responsibilities	Ensures that the app contains systems that are able to contact emergency services, and provide the Emergency Operator with the proper information to send help.
Success Criteria	The success criteria is that the app is designed to reach emergency services quickly, and provide the information independent of the blind user so that help can be dispatched to them in a rapid manner.
Involvement	When possible, we will reach out to emergency operators to understand the nature of making emergency calls, and understanding how to quickly transfer data from the mobile device to these services.
Deliverables	
Comments / Issues	

3.7 Key Stakeholder or User Needs

Need	Priority	Concerns	Current Solution	Proposed Solutions
Clear navigation	High	Providing instructions that are concise and easy to understand	None	The app will calculate the route necessary for the user to arrive, and will generate a set of instructions on where the user needs to move. The app feeds instructions in small chunks, preventing information overload.
Privacy	High	Privacy of user data	None	The user's location data and personal information are only accessible by caretakers, the user themselves, and emergency services only in special cases.
Safety	High	Prevention of user injury	None	The camera will constantly scan for obstacles, and if one is detected, send a high-priority instruction to the user to avoid it. Emergency services called if a fall is detected.
Easy to customize	Moderate	Ensuring the app is configured to patient preferences	None	Having a visual GUI that is easy for caretakers to use, and a dedicated Settings tab for instruction volume, language of communication, emergency contacts, preferred routes.

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3.8 Alternatives and Competition

3.8.1 Walking Stick

3.8.2 Guide Dog

4. Product Overview

4.1 Product Perspective

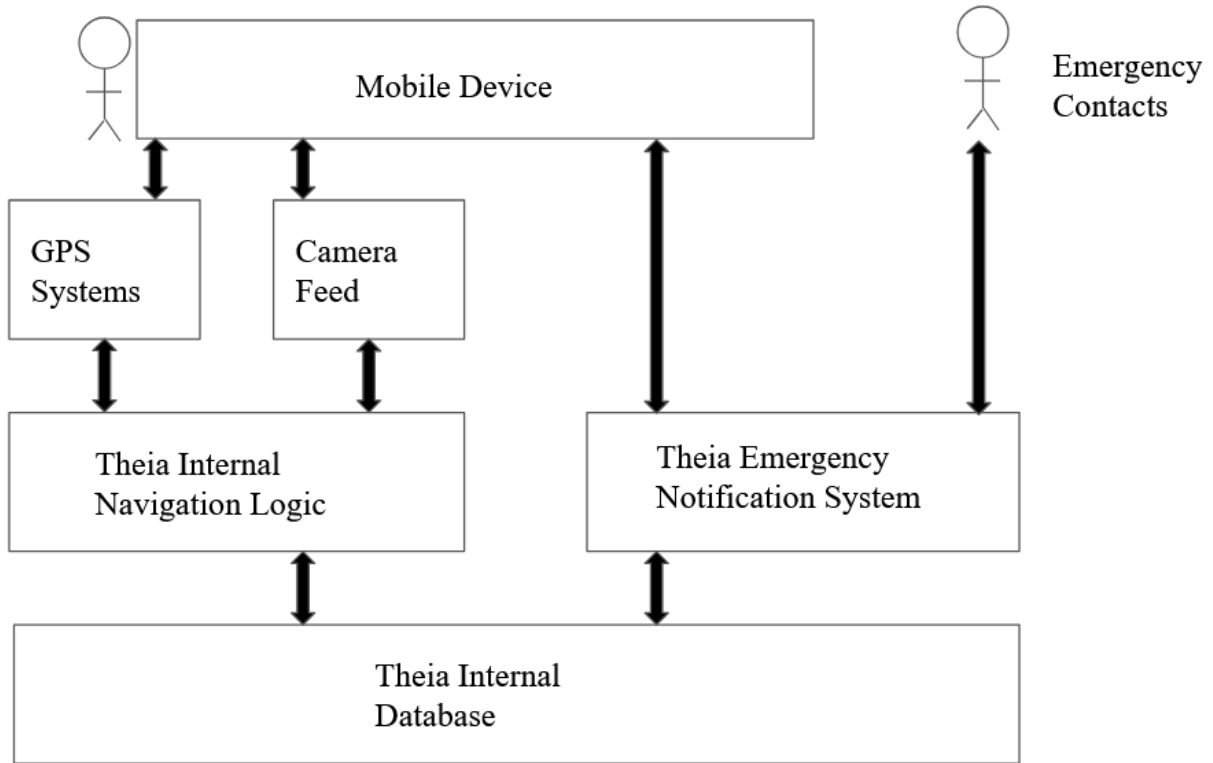


Figure 1 Overview of Theia Architecture

4.2 Summary of Capabilities

Table 4-1 Theia Navigation System

Customer Benefit	Supporting Features
Easily accessible.	Local access, performs wireless communication.
Intuitive to utilize.	The app will prompt with audible instructions for a destination upon being opened. The app will provide constant and clear instructions during navigation.
The system is responsive.	Instructions are concise, the system is constantly running as long as the app is open and actively navigating the user.

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The system prevents users from running into obstacles.	<p>Upon initializing a navigation session, the user will be prompted to hold the phone up in front of them, such that the camera can view the environment in front of them.</p> <p>The camera feed is passed to the system, for it to identify any possible obstacles. If an obstacle is detected in the area, it is recorded. If the path of the user is predicted to collide with this obstacle, the user receives an urgent notification that there is an obstacle, and to not progress further.</p> <p>The system will provide dynamic instructions to help the user avoid the obstacle, before progressing the navigation as normal.</p>
The app is configurable to the visually impaired individual's liking.	<p>The GUI is intuitive to utilize, with a minimalistic, clear design for caretakers to quickly navigate to the Settings menu.</p> <p>The caretaker can then discuss features with the visually impaired individual, setting the overall volume of instructions for the user, the language that the user understands, and the common routes that the user will need to take on a daily basis.</p> <p>There are also additional options that the caretaker can enable on the app, such as sharing location services of the user with the caretaker, as well as setting emergency contacts, which the app will call if the emergency feature on the app is initiated. Caretakers can always edit the configuration on the mobile device at any time.</p>

4.3 Assumptions and Dependencies

The system's capabilities are based upon the requirements gathered for the Theia app. Currently, there is only a working prototype of the app, and it has not been tested on representative users, so these benefits are mainly as a reference for what the app should cover. Theia's prototype is currently built in WinForms, programmed in C# using the .NET framework.

4.4 Cost and Pricing

Team 7 is not currently working with a marketing team at this time, so the cost of developing Theia, and the price it will be distributed at is currently undecided.

4.5 Licensing and Installation

As the app will be a mobile application, the installation process will simply be through installing the app on either the App Store, or the Google Play Store depending on the device.

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5. Product Features

5.1 Opening the application

5.2 Closing the application

5.3 Viewing the current system settings

5.4 Adjusting the volume slider

5.5 Changing the language spoken and displayed by the app

5.6 Adding an emergency contact

5.7 Removing an emergency contact

5.8 Editing an emergency contact

5.9 Adding a common route

5.10 Removing a common route

5.11 Editing a common route

5.12 Turn on constant location sharing with external device

5.13 Turn off constant location sharing with external device

5.14 Resetting settings to default

5.15 Starting a navigation session

5.16 Ending a navigation session

5.17 Set destination

5.18 Change destination

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- 5.19 Provide navigation instruction**
- 5.20 Repeat navigation instruction**
- 5.21 Provide all navigation instructions**
- 5.22 Detect & store new obstacle**
- 5.23 Remove obstacle from storage**
- 5.24 Notify user about obstacle in path**
- 5.25 Provide obstacle avoidance instruction**
- 5.26 Repeat obstacle avoidance instruction**
- 5.27 Provide all obstacle avoidance instructions**
- 5.28 Start emergency signal**
- 5.29 Cancel emergency signal**
- 5.30 Instruct user to remain where they are**
- 5.31 Notify user that emergency contacts were called**
- 5.32 Notify user that emergency services were called**
- 5.33 Connect emergency contacts to user**
- 5.34 Connect emergency services to user**
- 5.35 Notify emergency contacts**
- 5.36 Notify emergency services**
- 5.37 Share location with emergency contacts**
- 5.38 Share location with emergency services**
- 5.39 Share personal information with emergency services**

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6. Constraints

While utilizing the app, the extent of its navigation capabilities only applies to indoor structures. It also requires usage of the phone's GPS and camera. To enforce HIPAA regulations, ensuring patient privacy, navigation data should not persist between sessions, with the only allowed recipient of the information on the individual's location being the caretaker, if the location tracking is turned on in settings. In emergency situations, the operator should receive personal information about the individual who initiated the emergency call, including their medical history and current location. This transmission of information to caretakers and emergency services should always be encrypted.

Emergency services should not need to receive verbal communication from the user in an emergency, in case the user has gone unconscious. The information that the app transmits to emergency services should be sufficient so that help can be dispatched almost immediately.

The app is designed to only navigate 1 user at a time. It is not intended to be shared among multiple blind/visually impaired individuals. The user should hold the phone such that the camera faces away from them, with the phone being relatively close in front of them for the camera to capture AR posters and detect obstacles.

Each individual instruction that the app gives should only last 5 seconds to communicate to the user. Users should be provided with the current and next instruction at each step, unless they request all instructions at once. Users must be allowed to hear the current instruction as many times as necessary.

7. Precedence and Priority

The most important features for this project involve the navigational system and the emergency calling features of the app. As such, features that deal with navigational instructions, such as features 5.15 and 5.19-5.21 are key for the success of the application, as they define its core functionality. Features secondary to navigation with obstacle detection are next on the list, as they ensure the user's safety during normal navigation, if anything on the path is abnormal and could cause harm, thus features 5.22, 5.24, and 5.25 create that key feature.

In emergencies, the app must be able to quickly and efficiently reach the user's support system, so having a robust emergency system comes third on the list, requiring features 5.6, 5.28, and 5.33-5.39 must be completed to ensure that help is always accessible for the user if they need it.

Any of the features that were not mentioned fall into the customization and quality of life categories. While all of the features are important for the success of its initial release, the aforementioned features define the minimum success requirements to consider the application functional. The goal is to have all 39 listed features completed by release, but the key features listed will help streamline the process of developing the other features.

8. Other Product Requirements

8.1 Applicable Standards

Theia must comply with HIPAA regulations, as it is intended to be a medical aid for blind or visually impaired individuals. HIPAA states that patient data must be kept private, only being shared with individuals or groups that have a relevant need to access that information, such as caretakers or medical professionals [2].

The app must also comply with the regulations for apps posted on the App Store and Google Play Store, in order to be accessible to the target audience.

8.2 System Requirements

The Theia app will be designed to work on most modern iPhones and Androids, intended to be utilized on iOS versions 15 or later, and Android 9 or later. This should cover phones that are relatively old compared to the newest versions, while still allowing for a reasonable level of capability for the app.

8.3 Performance Requirements

The main metric of performance will be route calculation when navigating inside a building. Given that these navigation sessions are confined to a single structure, it should be expected that the computation time to find the best

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possible route for any given destination in the building should be completed in a minute or less, given optimal network conditions to communicate with GPS services.

The app should also be able to quickly process voice commands given by the user, with speech recognition that only takes a few seconds to parse, and determine if the command was valid, or prompt the user a second time. The voice recognition software should be reliable, and the user should rarely have to repeat themselves to initiate commands.

8.4 Environmental Requirements

Because the app is utilized indoors, environment is not a major factor. The requirements simply mirror whatever operations are necessary for a phone to function properly. This includes a relatively dry area, within temperatures that the phone can operate efficiently on, and the area must be quiet enough that a user can either hear their phone on speaker, or be able to use headphones.

9. Documentation Requirements

9.1 User Manual

The user manual will be a brief guide that caretakers read to their patients regarding the usage of the Theia app for navigation, including how to start a navigation session, ask for instructions, and call for help in an emergency. The user manual also contains information regarding the configuration options the caretaker can set up for their patient. The document will contain descriptions of each setting implemented in the app, what it represents, and the different possible values the caretaker can set the value to. It also has information about the location services sharing, and describes how to link the Theia app's location tracking with the caretaker's device to monitor the location of their patient.

This manual will be posted on the Theia app's website, accessible through the home page, so that first-time users can easily navigate to it. Each section of the user manual, including basic navigation usage and configuration settings, will be its own mini article, with brief explanations and reference images for what to look for on the app as a caretaker.

9.2 Online Help

As described in section 9.1, the user manual will be located on the Theia app's website. The manual should be sufficient for the majority of questions that caretakers and users may have regarding the app's functionality. But to be safe, the Theia app's website will also include a customer support section, if the manual alone does not describe a scenario the user/caretaker ran into, as well as a means for bug reports.

9.3 Installation Guides, Configuration, and Read Me File

The README file of the project's repository will be more for other developers who may be interested in Theia as a project, rather than representative users. Given that the project is a mobile app, the installation of the app will not include a README as a guide for how to install it, as the installation is simply clicking a few buttons. The README would contain a high-level description of the key features, and planned features for future releases, serving as a record both for developers working on Theia, prospective developers for the team, or any other individuals familiar with software projects that want to learn more about the app.

9.4 Labeling and Packaging

The design and look of the Theia app will be minimalistic. The app is not going to be visually seen by the target demographic, so there is not a huge need to have the GUI be extremely detailed, it should simply be clear for caretakers to navigate the UI. The GUI of the app should have large buttons with clear, sans serif fonts for a clean and modern look, as well as being easy to differentiate with contrasting colors in a cool color palette. The same goes for the app's logo, which will simply be an icon with the app's name against a plain color background for the same reasons that the GUI will be minimalistic. The design should be efficient to navigate, not flamboyant.