

M2 / PART I: Understanding the Problem

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Overview

Time Garden is a time-management app that lets you plant and grow flowers by not using your phone during a set timer. With a wide array of flowers to plant seeds from, alongside various time requirements- the user could grow their own personal garden from the efforts of not using their phone. With features such as whitelisting apps specifically for productivity, planning by planting multiple seeds, but only focusing on growing one, and a storage space for finished plants. Time Garden aims to curb the people's compulsive need to use their cellphones by setting small but realistic goals with tangible rewards of a flourishing garden.

Solving the Problem

Time Garden's primary aim is to mitigate screen time concerns among students. The specific problems it addresses include the need for personalized study plans aligned with diverse learning styles, the challenge of maintaining focus and productivity, and the lack of detailed insights into study habits. To ensure relevance, our initial approach involves directly surveying students on our campus. Time Garden stands as a pivotal tool in fostering healthier screen habits while enhancing learning experiences.

The Application

- **Application Name:** Time Garden
- **What it is:** Time Garden is a time-management app that lets you plant and grow flowers by not using your phone during a set timer.
- **Features:**
 - **Time Tracking and Rewards**
 - **Focus Timer:** Uses a Pomodoro timer to encourage focus, growing a virtual tree during sessions.
 - **Streaks & Badges:** Rewards consecutive study days with badges and visual growth of a virtual forest.
 - **Custom Rewards:** Lets users set personal rewards for achieving study milestones.
 - **Comprehensive Study Time Report**
 - **Detailed Analytics:** Tracks study time, focus durations, and breaks with detailed reports.
 - **Progress Visualization:** Displays progress over time with graphs and charts.
 - **Exportable Reports:** Allows export of study data for sharing or personal use.
- **Question about the applications:**

1. Who are the potential users?

This summary discusses the groups and individuals seeking effective time management tools for various purposes. High school students, college students, educators, parents, professionals, remote workers, individuals with focus or attention challenges, productivity enthusiasts, and general smartphone users are all interested in these tools. Teachers and tutors are seeking tools to improve time management and study efficiency, while parents are concerned about their children's screen time and seeking healthier habits. The app also appeals to those seeking digital detox and balance between digital and offline lives.

2. What tasks do they seek to perform?

Time Garden is a tool designed to help students manage study sessions, reduce distractions, and track progress. It helps students create personalized study plans, earn rewards for consistent habits, and analyze study data. Teachers can recommend effective time-management tools, tutors can assist students in establishing good study habits, parents can encourage children to reduce screen time, professionals can manage work-related tasks efficiently, and productivity enthusiasts can integrate Time Garden with other productivity tools. It also helps general smartphone users reduce screen time, develop healthier digital habits, and balance digital and offline activities.

3. What functionality should any system provide to these users?

The app offers customizable timers, break intervals, gamification, rewards, personalized study plans, detailed analytics, and customizable widgets. It allows users to set specific time intervals, schedule breaks, and whitelist apps that won't interrupt the focus timer. Users can also earn badges and achievements for reaching specific milestones. The app also provides detailed analytics, including study time tracking, progress visualization, and exportable reports. The user-friendly interface includes an intuitive dashboard, customizable widgets, and mobile and web access. The app supports integration with other productivity tools and platforms and provides APIs for seamless integration with external systems. Users can set and track personal goals, customize notifications, and customize the app's appearance. The app also provides support resources, community support, and privacy controls.

4. What constraints will be placed on your eventual design?

The Time Garden app is designed to be compatible with both iOS and Android devices, with a web-based version for desktop users. It aims to optimize performance, scalability, and security by implementing robust APIs and strong authentication mechanisms. The user interface is designed to be intuitive and accessible, with clear icons, buttons, and instructions. The app provides immediate feedback and is responsive, adhering to accessibility standards. The app must comply with data protection regulations, educational standards, and legal and ethical considerations. The development time is prioritized, and resources are allocated effectively. The team's expertise is utilised efficiently, and training and resources are provided to address skill gaps.

5. What criteria should be used to judge if your design is a success or not?

The app has received positive user feedback and high retention rates, with high usability scores and usability tests. It is also known for its app stability, efficiency, and user engagement. The app has achieved high daily and monthly active user counts, with users reporting improvements in their study habits and screen time management. It also adheres to data privacy and security regulations and has received positive feedback from users with disabilities. The app has also been successful in improving learning outcomes and productivity, with high usage of customization features. The app's business metrics include market penetration, revenue generation, and addressing skill gaps among team members.