Team 21 Project 3: Retrospective Report

**Project Performance**

1. Accomplishments:

We were able to meet all of our goals. The website can successfully search for a set of recipes based on the given ingredient(s). The user can login and save their favorite recipes for future reference. The UI is user friendly, and the final product is hosted in a specific domain. However, there are several changes to our implementation and API choices. Instead of using YouTube and Recipal APIs as planned, we decided to use Yummly and food2fork since these APIs are more closely matched with our application purposes. Yummly provides an excellent database for recipe searches and food2fork has a rating system for trending foods.

As regard to our stretch goals, we did not have enough time to incorporate a calendar for the users to keep track of what they will make daily. We also did not implement the recommendation feature in which our application will recommend the recipes based off what the users have already looked up/created.

1. Problems encountered:

User database: Initially, we wished to implement our own user database using MongoDB, but due to time and technical constraints, we decided to switch to Google login.

Deployment: We had some difficulties while trying to deploy user authorization to Heroku but we were able to resolve the problem eventually.

UI: We planned to implement the expansion feature (with popup) for our ingredient lists, but the feature drastically affected the loading time of our application. Since we could not find a satisfactory solution to this problem, we decided to forfeit the feature.

1. User Evaluation Effectiveness: The user study was conducted on 6 individuals and was extremely beneficial to the team. We learned from the user study that our website had some crucial graphical bugs along with an erroneous recipe checking API. Hence, we fixed the bugs and API to the user’s pleasing and to the best interest of the team’s. The website was drastically improved after the user study, both in layout and functionality. Having conducted a user study was crucial for the completion of our website.
2. Team Workload Distribution:
   1. My:

Front end: created the website framework and created the initial user interface

Backend: incorporated API for the trending section and deployed an initial prototype in Heroku

* 1. Jasmin:

Front end: designed logo and improved user interface

Backend: incorporated APIs for the search functionality and user authorization, deployed the final product in Heroku

* 1. Nilay: Project Manager, in charge of keeping track of task activity, in charge of user study management/design (creation of necessary surveys, documents, etc), and front-end work on website.

**Multipliers**

The team has agreed upon a 1:1:1 (even) distribution for the multiplier.

**Website Instructions**

Website link: <https://gentle-crag-86597.herokuapp.com/>

Instruction: In the search bar, simply type in the ingredient(s) that you have (or willing to get) and the website will recommend the recipes that could be made from those ingredients. Use your gmail account to login if you wished to save your searches and favorites.

**Contact Information**

Team Member: Jasmin Cho

Email: jasmincho@email.tamu.edu

Available till Thursday May 11 for any in-person questions