



Group 4: Trading Card Game (TCG) Manager
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Background

For this deliverable, our group members sat down with potential users of the TCG Manager application, and asked them the following questions in order to judge their interest in the product:

1. Do you currently own more than one TCG? How many?
2. If so, would you say that you own a lot of cards for the games you have?
3. How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?
4. What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?
5. Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?
6. If so, could you tell me more about it? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?
7. Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?
8. How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?
9. Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?
10. What's your favorite thing about TCGs?
11. What's your least favorite thing about TCGs?

With these questions, we hope to develop a strong picture of each participant, as well as receive valuable feedback which will help steer our project in the right direction. Information considered valuable, or unknown to the group is **bolded** in order to mark the information for future use.

Interview #1

Conducted by Tanner Brelje and Josh Gutman

Location: Samurai Comics, Flagstaff

Do you currently own more than one TCG? How many?

- He owns 1 TCG -- Yugioh

If so, would you say that you own a lot of cards for the games you have?

- He said he had a lot of cards. From the looks of it, he had hundreds with him.

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- He uses a binder with plastic sleeves for each card

What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- He has a hard time keeping all of his cards organized, especially with the binder. He made a point of saying that he basically **doesn't organize the cards that he's not currently using** at all.

Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?

- He's heard of tappedout, but he's never used it, nor any other virtual card manager

If so, could you tell me more about it? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?

- We asked him what features he would like to see if he were to use a virtual card manager. He said that he would like to see **related or linked cards when he is viewing a card**. He also would like to see links to forum posts or discussions about strategies or decks involving that card.

Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?

- He said that he does spend a lot of time organizing cards, and sometimes he just doesn't do it because it takes so long.

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- He said that he gets new cards in three ways: trading them with fellow TCG players at certain places and times, like the comic book store we were at, buying them from stores, like Bookman's, and finally buying them from websites. He said that he tries to trade with people before resorting to buying them online, but he (and many other people according to him) **usually end up using the internet**.

Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?

- He said that he usually will visit two or three websites when looking for a card, usually to compare and find the best prices. I asked him a follow up question: "Would you find it

useful to be able to view prices for a card from multiple different websites in a single place?” to which he responded yes.

What’s your favorite thing about TCGs?

- His favorite thing about TCGs is the community aspect -- hanging out with friends and people with similar interests, enjoying the social aspect of the game.

What’s your least favorite thing about TCGs?

- His least favorite thing is how hard it is to keep up with the changing meta of the games. He also mentioned how hard it is to stay organized.

Interview #2

Conducted by Tanner Brelje

Location: Voice Call

Do you currently own more than one TCG? How many?

- He has played 3 TCGs -- Yugioh, Card Wars, Star Wars Miniatures

If so, would you say that you own a lot of cards for the games you have?

- He said he owns quite a lot of cards for Yugioh, not as many for the others.

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- He admits that they're all in a shoebox, with no organization whatsoever.

What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- He says he has trouble determining where to put "excess" cards, like commons or unneeded cards.

Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?

- He had never heard of tappedout.net.

If so, could you tell me more about it? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?

- He he was to use an online sorting program, he would like to see organization by archetype, similarly to the man above. He would also enjoy seeing **in depth search features**.

Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?

- He only organizes his when he feels compelled to do so, and doing so takes up to an hour.

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- In order to purchase cards generally, he purchases packs or boosters; to get specific cards, he uses tcgplayer.com.

Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?

- He only uses the one site when looking for cards.

What's your favorite thing about TCGs?

- He likes card games because the landscape of the game always changes.

What's your least favorite thing about TCGs?

- He does not like "getting his ass beat."

Interview #3

Conducted by Tanner Brelje

Location: Voice Call

Do you currently own more than one TCG? How many?

- Plays Yugioh, owns Pokemon and Magic as well.

If so, would you say that you own a lot of cards for the games you have?

- Compared to others that are really into the game, he owns an average amount.

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- Uses a trade binder for rare cards, but his unpopular cards go to tins.

What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- Too much physically to work with, can be overwhelming. It's also hard to judge what the cards should be organized by.

Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?

- DevPro, YuGo Builder

If so, could you tell me more about it? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?

- Price ranges were nice, also appreciates knowing the tournament status, rarity, set of the card.
 - When approached about the archetype idea mentioned in other interviews: **he liked it and thought the idea would be very useful.**

Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?

- Not really, but he used to however. He would spend a couple hours every month, but now has a simple, yet less organized solution (as discussed in q3).

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- Generally bought packs, learned it wasn't the best way to go. Special offer boxes were deemed worthwhile, as he knew what he could get. Used those rare cards for trading when he didn't need them. For the most part, uses online sources; tcgplayer, ebay less so to get individual cards.

Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?

- Yes, as mentioned earlier.

What's your favorite thing about TCGs?

- Appreciates being able to battle people in person, sometimes online is nice, but he **enjoys the personal experience.**

What's your least favorite thing about TCGs?

- It's a double edge sword, as it's good to learn in person, but it leaves you open to **people who are willing to take advantage of you.**

Interview #4

Conducted by Shannon Washburn

Location: Unknown

Do you currently own more than one TCG? How many?

- I currently own cards from Cardfight Vanguard, Pokemon, and Card Wars.

If so, would you say that you own a lot of cards for the games you have?

- I feel like I do own quite a bit of the cards from the TCGs I play. Although after being out of the loop for a while now the collection is not as vast as it could be.

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- I use deck boxes, card binders, and storage cases to organize my collection.

What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- There are way **too many crappy commons that take up too much space.**

Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?

- No I do not use any virtual card managers.

If so, could you tell me more about it? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?

- N/A

Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?

- I used to spend a good amount of time organizing my cards.

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- I either purchase more packs/boxes or buy singles online from websites like ideal808.com.

Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?

- I primarily use ideal808.com however eBay and amiami.com

What's your favorite thing about TCGs?

- I really enjoyed the strategy or sometimes no strategy when it came to playing. It was also fun to absolutely destroy someone by just screwing around or getting ridiculously lucky. **The time it took to build a deck tailored specifically to your own play style made for an enjoyable experience.**

What's your least favorite thing about TCGs?

- Getting wrecked by someone with insane amounts of luck. The people too were a random toss up. The odds of running into an asshole in cards games is about 70% of the time.

Interview #5

Conducted by Keith Lara

Location: Online

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- Depends on the cards. Most I have stored in boxes or sleeves depending on rarity for trading cards. Magic I use a site called tapped out to catalog some decks

Could you tell me more about tapped out? What features do you like, what features don't you like, what features do you wish it had?

- I like that I can post my decks and have others comment or recommend cards. I can also simulate how the decks would work in play. I think it is tricky initially to get it started and the tutorial isn't too helpful. It is heavily labor intensive to get it working if I wanted to put in a lot of cards as I would need to type them in.

If it were compatible with other card games, would you be more inclined to use it?

- Not currently. I did play the wow tcg but that was discontinued for Hearthstone.

Okay. What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- If I had more time and played very regularly be more inclined to use tappedout. There's lots of features I haven't used or explored. Challenges include storage/space and remembering exactly where my duplicate cards are. The duplication is more relevant for the same cards that come out in multiple sets or years or have alternate artwork as that is a quick indication what the card is.

What do you think would make it easier to manage duplicate cards?

- Entry of cards onto your personal database. If adding was as easy as scanning such as you do with a bar code it can add regardless of duplications. Additionally if the database had thumbnails such as on gatherer you can pick out some duplications at a glance.

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- To find more cards I check on gatherer or find cards that work in a theme since that's how I build a deck

What are some features about gatherer?

- I like gatherer since it has every card, all artwork, and any rule adjustments. It's easy to use too.

What do you like and dislike about TCGs?

- I like the artwork and community aspect in tcg. Dislike the cost to be current. I also like figuring out lore and combos with cards.

Okay, thanks. I think I got what I need. Any more features you think a card manager should have?

- The biggest thing is a simple way to "import" your collection. If you can use the camera to do a reverse image lookup it would be easy to find cards. One you select it from the "scan" it would be helpful to have things like: how many, deck name, etc... most of which could be a drop down menu or + - buttons. It still will take time...

Interview #6

Conducted by Keith Lara

Location: Online

Do you currently own more than one tcg?

- No. I only currently have magic. In the past I played others.

How are you currently storing/organizing your card collection?

- Outside of decks I use a binder for Rares and a cardboard box for Commons. My only current deck is kept in sleeves in a deck box.

Okay. What are some challenges you face in organizing your physical collection?

- Tracking the Commons and uncommons for use in other decks

Okay. Do you use a virtual card manager, such as tappedout.net?

- No, I started my collection a while ago and it seems like a hassle to log each of them

Yeah. Do you spend a lot of time organizing your cards?

- Not really. I try to organize by type in my Commons but not too much. I keep my Rares organized nicely within the binder

How do you find more cards or get specific cards for your collection?

- Ordering online. I search just to find the cheapest price with a decent quality

Do you go on multiple different websites when you are looking for new cards?

- Yes. I generally don't go to the same site too often when ordering.

Would you use a site or app that can check prices on many popular card sites (like slugbooks with textbooks?)

- As long as it doesn't charge me for the service and is nicely organized

Would you use a collection manager site or app if it was easy and quick to input cards (like scanning them or taking pictures of many at a time)?

- Most likely

Okay. Is it essential for such a collection manager to include playtesting? If you can build a deck and then use it in a virtual match to see how it works out.

- It would be beneficial but not mandatory

What about deckbuilding? Is that an essential feature?

- Yeah. As long as it helps keep track of things like mana.

What do you like and dislike about TCGs?

- I like the variability. Nothing is unbeatable and even with a good deck, one still needs luck and skill to win. I dislike the cost of some cards. If I think a combo works nicely and I want a playset, I would like to not have to drop a ton of money for cardboard.

So if you could use a virtual deck instead and play with it like a real deck, would that interest you?

- As long as I don't need to pay too much.

Okay. I think I got enough information. Thanks for the interview!

- Cool. No problem. I do think that a nice feature would be a recommended deck build with the cards you have and what format you want. Just an idea.

Group Participation

Tanner Brelje: Assisted Joshua Gutman in the initial interview. Interview took place at the local comics shop, Cab Comics. Proceeded to do two additional interviews over Discord chat service. Helped format the document.

Joshua Gutman: Came up with a few questions to ask. Interviewed one TCG player at Cab Comics and recorded his answers.

Shannon Washburn: Interviewed a TCG player, contributed questions to the group's pool.

Keith Lara: Conducted 2 Interviews for the document.