**BookKeeper Vision**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Description** | **Author** |
| Inception Draft | July 19, 2018 | First draft. To be refined primarily during elaboration phase. | Katy Atchison |
| Elaboration 1 Draft | July 29, 2018 | Second draft. This draft goes into greater detail on several aspects and adds some noteworthy details that were not present in the previous draft. | Cody Dowell |
| Elaboration 2 Draft | August 1, 2018 | Third draft. This draft adds some minor details that were not present in the elaboration 1 draft. | Cody Dowell |

**Introduction**

We envision a user-friendly book-logging application in which one may record the books one has read and rated, is currently reading, and wants to read in the future. This book-logging application will boast many robust features such as rating and reviewing books, creating categories that books can be separated into, and will allow for the editing and deletion of books from categories or from one's library altogether.

**Positioning**

***Business Opportunity***

As of today, the only application on the market used for keeping track of books is Goodreads. While many people currently use Goodreads, there are many qualities about it that imply the app is not well-designed, and there are many features that should be added or improved. As the current Goodreads users are loyal simply because Goodreads is the only major app designed for this purpose, by demonstrating another book-logging app with an easier to manipulate user interface and more reliable controls, another application could easily take its place and win the loyalty of many current users and others that also wish to keep track of reading habits.

***Problem Statement***

The current most commonly used book-keeping app is unreliable, hard to navigate, and unintuitive. It limits you to the main three categories of Read, Currently-Reading, and To-Read, and categorizing books into more categories is unintuitive. On top of this, users of the software do not have a wide variety of alternatives to choose from, and are stuck using poorly designed applications.

***Product Position Statement***

The *BookKeeper* application will provide an intuitive user interface for everyday people to keep track of what books they are reading, want to read, and have read. It will more clearly organize the books into lists and allow for sub-lists within a list that details all of the books a user reads. These categories will allow a user to maintain a high level of customization when organizing their books, while also offering a wide variety of tools to talk about the book, such as ratings and reviews.

***Alternatives and Competition***

The main alternative and therefore competition to us is Goodreads, a software that is widely used by avid book readers all over the globe. Goodreads is a massive company that has a large amount of users, but many of its users are looking for an alternative as they are not satisfied with Goodreads interface and other features. Outside of this, there is not any other major alternatives or forms of competition that would directly compete with our interests. This market is relatively untapped and there is a lot of potential for us to succeed.

**Stakeholder Descriptions**

***Market Demographics***

Overall the market has a low level of competition, as the major book keeping website, Goodreads, is widely used by the large majority of people interested in this type of software. There is a large potential amount of profit to be made if we are able to attract users away from the main competition to our platform, as it seems that many would be interested in an alternative.

***User Summary***

The most common type of users we would have are people who own a large amount of books and are looking for a way to catalogue them. Other users that could be interested in our system are people that often check out books from a library, and want a place to remember what books they have read. Because of this, promoting our application in public libraries could be a smart move.

The majority of users will be younger people, ranging from the ages of 13-35 (This is a rough estimate, further research needed). Senior citizens could be interested in the application as well, so it is crucial that we do not ignore this market as well.

***Key High-Level Goals and Problems of the Stakeholders***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| High-Level Goal | Priority | Problem/Concern | Current Solutions |
| Fast, robust book keeping | High | There is a need to keep the amount of clicks needed to do certain actions at a minimal | BookKeeper is designed and will implement a user interface to keep number of clicks to a minimum |
| Persistent database documenting all information | Medium | The failure of the database could result in the information of multiple users being erased. | BookKeeper will be designed to ensure that in the case of system failure, all information is kept and the application is restored to a safe state. |
| Large amount of customization for users | Low | Other book keeping software is rigid in categorizing books and provides a low level of freedom for users. | BookKeeper core identity is to allow users to categorize books by any way they wish, and places little restriction on this ability. |

***User-Level Goals***

The users need a system to fulfill these goals:

* Add books to the app to have a place to store all books they have already read or potentially want to read
* Create categories to organize books by how the user wants to categorize them, whether it be by genre, theme, author, etc.
* Give ratings to books that are already read
* Keep notes/review on books they have already read
* Update progress for books currently reading (i.e. in a page number)
* Edit or delete books already logged

***User Environment***

The large majority of users will access this software on a computer or a mobile device, and will be able to access this software on any device anywhere. There is no specific user environment that is necessarily required for this application to be relevant.

The environment of the software itself will present a clean and easy to read user interface that will allow users to accomplish what they need in a minimum amount of mouse clicks. The color palette will be primarily colors that are light and will not pose a problem for people with poor eyesight to see, and all buttons and features will be large enough to be visible in all circumstances.

**Product Overview**

The BookKeeper application will be available in the Android app store for Mobile devices. The application will also be available to access on a website via a personal computer, laptop, tablet, and phone.

***Summary of Benefits***

* The system will provide all the basic needs of book keeping and will allow users to catalogue their books in any way they wish.
* Automatic detection of failures, in which case a safe state is loaded.
* Real-time updates with any information that is created, edited, or deleted by a user.
* Large amount of customization for adding ratings and reviews for any book they wish.
* Secure account protection for all users that will protect private information from hackers or any other parties.

***Assumptions and Dependencies***

For this application to be useful to a user, it is assumed that the user has multiple books that they wish to catalogue. It is also assumed that the hardware a user would want to use our application on was hardware that is not too outdated or archaic that our software will be able to run on.

***Cost and Pricing***

The cost of the application will be absolutely free. No users will be charged to use the software, as this application is not being made for profit.

The cost to develop this software will be extremely low as well, as the cost for any software is taken care of thanks to Baylor's labs being equipped with many software options we can use to create diagrams and write code.

***Licensing and Installation***

Our software will not require a license to install. Installing our software will be done in an extremely standard process, that will be similar to installing other commonly used software on computers. For mobile devices, our application will be available on the device's app store, and we will let the operating system of the device handle installation.

**Summary of System Features**

* User accounts with log in security and validation
* Categories for organizing books
* The ability to add books to any category
* The ability to add more categories to further divide and organize books
* Personal progress for currently-reading books
* Personal ratings for books already read
* Personal reviews and notes for each book

**Other Requirements and Constraints**

Including design constraints, usability, reliability, intuitiveness, performance, supportability.