

Inventory App User Manual

Version 1.x

Author: Marcus Deuß



Introduction.....	3
First Start of the app	4
My Inventory	5
Manage items	7
Import/Export	8
Reports	10
About Inventory App.....	14
IPad	16
Reference	17

INTRODUCTION

Inventory app is used to manage personal items/belongings in your own household. Users can create owners, categories like TV, Computer or jewelry, also brands like Apple, Ikea and so on. Also users can assign items to a certain room like the basement, office or garden.

The app is built as a universal app running on iPhones (starting iOS 11.4) and iPads as well. For some extra features of the iPad version see [here](#).

With the the app come several sample categories, brands, owners and rooms. With first use it is recommended to change that under „Manage items“. Afterwards the user can start gathering inventory items. There can be photos (user must allow camera use) and PDF files with invoice data included as well.

After gathering inventory items one can export or re import the app data under „Import/Export“. The data will be exported in csv file format (can be opened in Numbers or Microsoft Excel e.g.). Afterwards the user can transfer the data to another device like an iPad and reimport the data here.

When every item has its own photo and PDF file the internal database can get pretty big. Therefore it is not possible right now to synchronize those data with iCloud. In case a users wants to use a second device please export the data (csv file, photos and pdf files) and use it in the second device. Importing will check for and avoid duplicate data.

Users can backup the app data with iTunes or iCloud as usual with other apps.

The report area will generate a PDF based report of all entered data. One can apply filters and change the sort order. The report can be sent by email or shared as a file e.g.

The „About Inventory App“ section delivers information about the app like this user manual, the app website and privacy information.

Finally users will be able to see and manage their personal belongings inside the app so it is possible to have a report that can be sent e.g. to an insurance company in case of an emergency like water damage or burglary.

Outlook: When Apple changes iOS in a way that those apps can be ported to a Mac with little effort the developer of this app happily works on this feature. There are more ideas like biometric authentication, more languages or more reporting e.g.

Feedback to the developer can be sent through the app in the „About“ area.

Hint to technology affine people: the app has been developed using Xcode 10.2 and Swift 5. It uses CoreData for data management and uses only standard interfaces from Apple. So there are no 3rd party libraries or frameworks used. Since the app uses technologies like CoreData, file access, sharing with external apps, drag and drop and more, it might be interesting for other people as well to get ideas about developing their own apps.

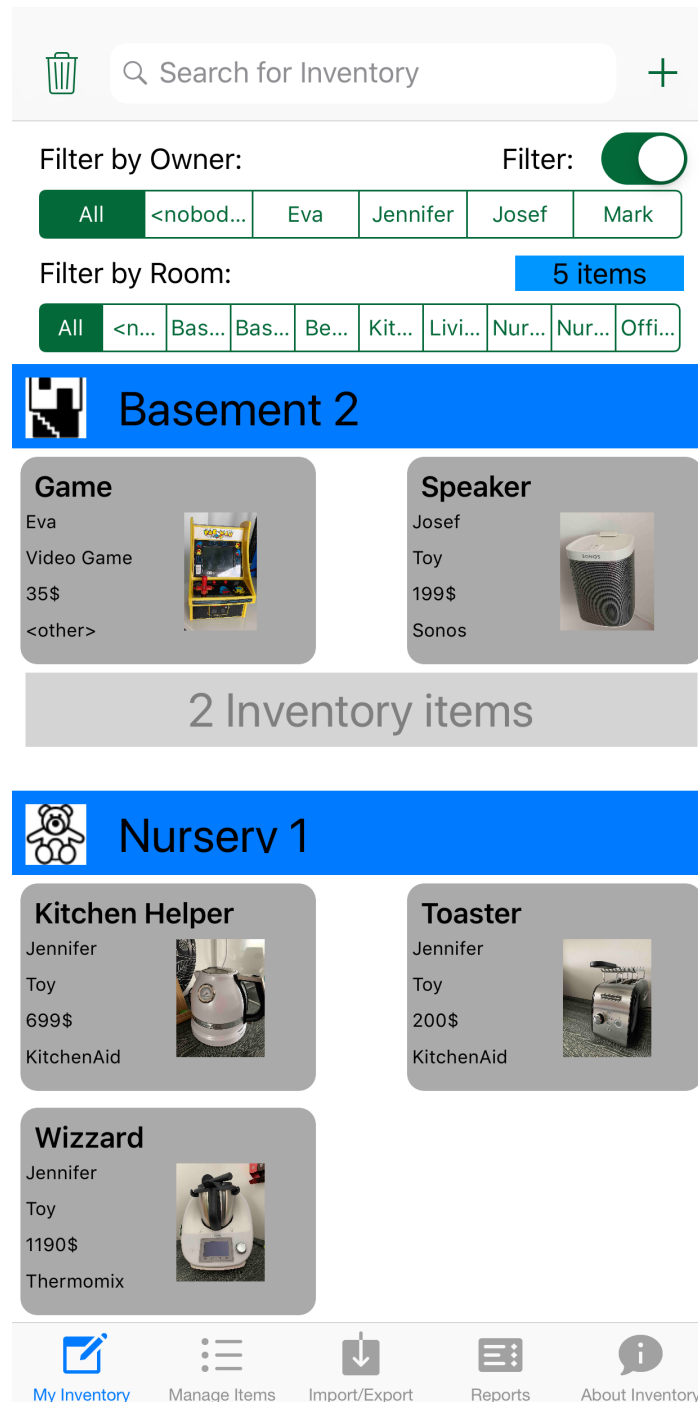
github.com/Marcus1068/Inventory manages the source code, which can be downloaded for any interested people. If somebody would like to support developing this app please send a mail to mdeuss@gmail.com. The app homepage is <http://inventoryapp.marcus-deuss.de>.

First Start of the App

The app asks for camera usage permission, this allows for adding newly captured photos to inventory objects. In case the users denies this it can be changed later in the „About Inventory app“ view with „App Settings“.

MY INVENTORY

„My inventory“ is the central part of the app where users can manage their items/personal belongings in a house hold. It is possible to gather the name, a price, who owns the item, or to what room the items belongs to.



Overview of all items

The filters for owners and rooms allows to restrict the item view in case that many items are being managed. Tipping on one of the items opens the edit view for changing any data in the item. With the + symbol new items can be created and the trash symbol allows for selecting one or more items to be deleted. The search bar allows for searching for an item.

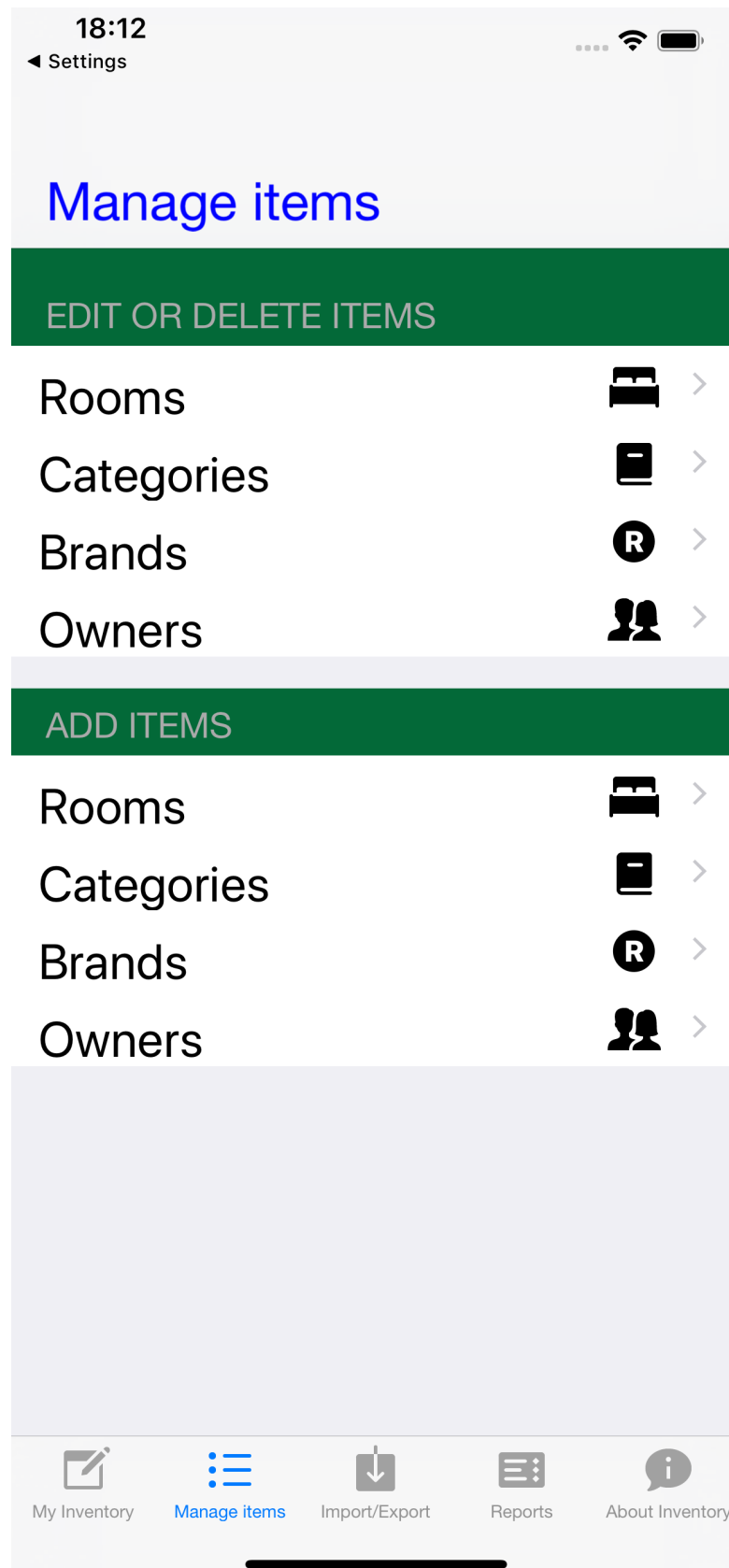
The edit view demands only for entering an item name, all other data is optional. Internally a unique identifier will be generated in case that more than one item has the same name. This avoids problems with importing data.

Users can select a photo from the iPhone library or take a new one (this new one will not be saved I the iPhone library, only inside the app data). PDF documents (e.g. a scanned invoice) can be added as well. Tipping the PDF or image will open a full screen view allowing for zooming in.

The bottom area finally lets a user select rooms, categories, brands and owners related to the item.

MANAGE ITEMS

After the first app start it is recommended to change the provided rooms, categories, brands



Manage items

and owners.

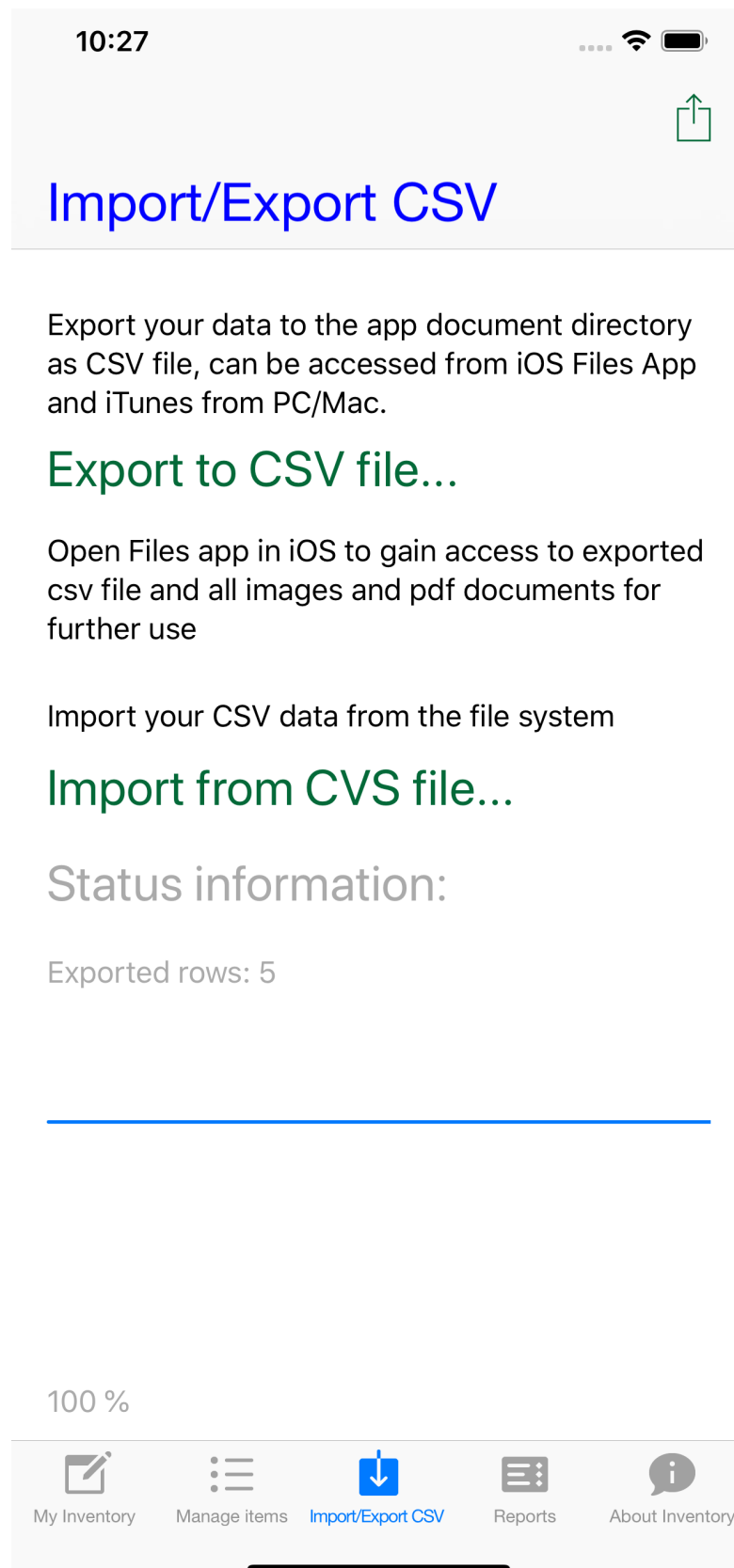
For the room data an added feature is to assign a symbol to a room..

IMPORT/EXPORT

This area allows for exporting users data and importing it back again.

Export as CSV file:

All entered items in „My inventory“ can be exported into a csv (comma separated value) file named „inventoryAppExport.csv“. This is a standard file format for exchanging data between different systems. The csv file and also all PDF and image files will be stored inside the apps documents folder. This folder can be accessed via the files app.



Import and Export your items

After tapping the „On my phone“ area in the files app look for Inventory App where you can find the documents folder. On an PC or Mac those files also can be accessed with iTunes.

Import from CSV file:

Using iTunes on a PC or Mac also enables the user to import the data back into the app. This also works well with the iOS files app. The import function checks for duplicate data.

Hint: the app can only work with its own csv file, it is not supported to import any other kind of cvs data.

Tip: It is possible to get started with the app on an iPhone but with exporting the data into an iPad the user can continue with all data and utilize special features of the iPad version like drag and drop. After using the iPad app exporting that data back into the iPhone version is possible as well.

REPORTS

The reporting area automatically generates a PDF based report with all items. Selecting a filter and changing the sort order will immediately generate an updated report.

10:27

Reports

Paper format:

DIN A4

US Letter

Sort by:

Item

Category

Owner

Room

Filter by owner:

All

All

<nobod...

Eva

Jennifer

Josef

Mark

Filter by room:

All

All

<no...

Bas...

Bas...

Be...

Kitc...

Livi...

Nur...

Nur...

Offi...

Current generated report:

Inventory Report

User: User Name, Address: Address

Item	Owner	Room	Category	Price
Game	Eva	Basement 2	Video Game	35\$
Kitchen Helper	Jennifer	Nursery 1	Toy	699\$
Speaker	Josef	Basement 2	Toy	199\$
Toaster	Jennifer	Nursery 1	Toy	200\$
Wizzard	Jennifer	Nursery 1	Toy	1190\$

My Inventory

Manage items

Import/Export CSV

Reports

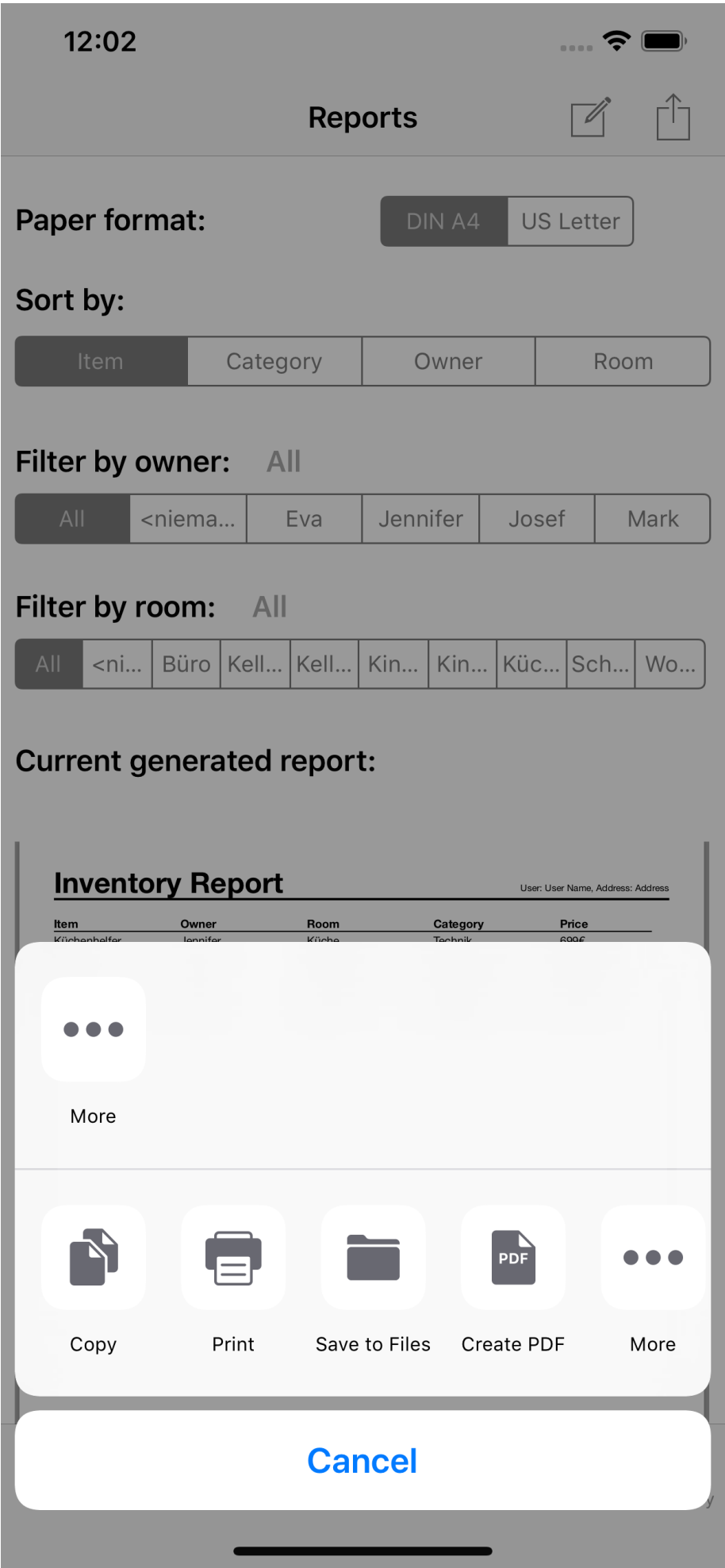
About Inventory

Report with filter options

Tipping on the report opens a bigger fullscreen view, which can also be zoomed into. The share icon (top right) opens the iOS standard share menu to send the report as email or save it to some cloud service or print it to an AirPrint compatible printer in reach.

Share menu:

The functions showing up on an actual iPhone might be different due to other installed apps that support working with the data.



Sharing via iOS system menu

The email symbol next to share menu directly opens an email dialog.

ABOUT INVENTORY APP

The following features will be provided:

17:55



Inventory App 1.0

Running on iOS 12.2

(c) 2019 by Marcus Deuß



[App Settings](#)

User and household information will be used
when printing PDF

User name:

Address:

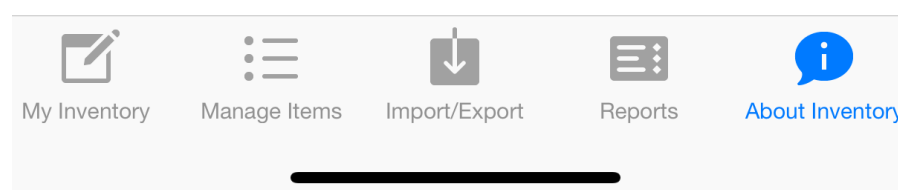
[App Information](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Privacy Information](#)

[User Manual](#)

This app is free of charge. The source code is
available on the Information link where you can get
further infos



App Settings

The settings button allows to change the camera access right within iOS. If it has been revoked by the user this can be reversed here.

Information

This button open the Inventory App home page. New information about the app might appear here.

Feedback

The feedback button lets the user send an email to the developer of the app to give some feedback or report bugs.

Privacy Information

This button opens a new view with privacy information about the app.

User Manual

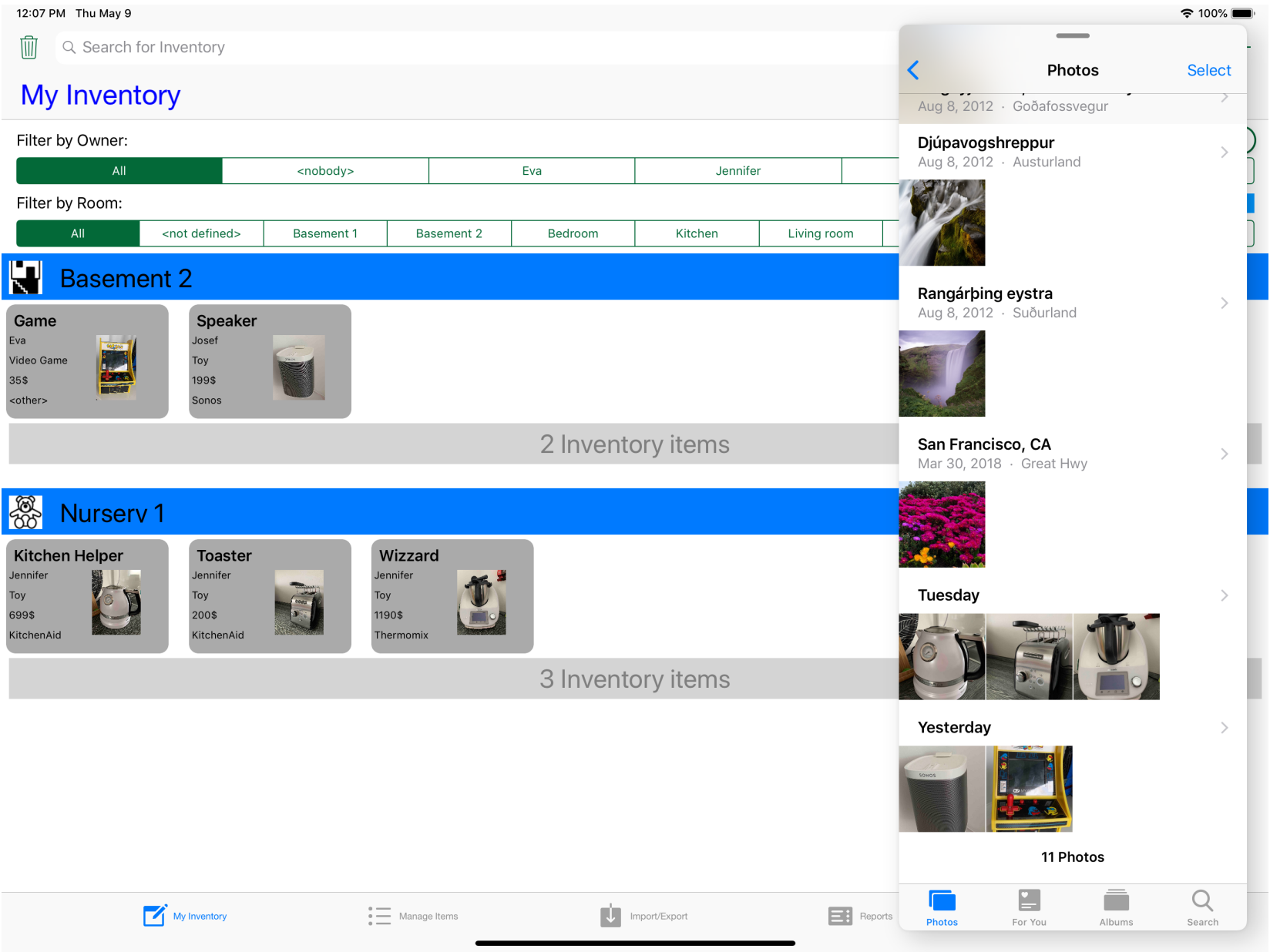
This user manual can be found here.

User name and address

Entering a user name and an address provides this information in the reports section - every generated report will be personalized. This data will be synchronized with other users iOS devices in case the user has an iCloud account..

IPAD

On the iPad running to apps side by side is supported. Inventory App uses this feature to enable drag and drop of pictures and PDF files into the app. Just start the photos app or the files app and drag a photo into an item. The change will be saved automatically. When editing an item drag and drop is also possible.



iPad showing Photos app and drag and drop

REFERENCE

List of data items stored per item

- Item name
- Purchase price
- Warranty in months
- Item serial no.
- Remark
- Room name
- Category name
- Owner name
- Brand name
- Timestamp for entering the data
- Picture
- PDF file of scanned invoices
- UUID - (Unique Identifier), an internally generated identifier to avoid duplicates when importing from cvs files

List of data items per room, brand, category and owner

- The name will be stored only, except for room items, which also allow for a symbol to be associated.

More data

The „About Inventory App“ section provides a way to store a user name and an address. This information will be used in the reports section and will be synchronized between any iOS devices the user owns if iCloud is enabled.

Hint

This user manual describes version 1.0 of the app. In case there are mistakes the user can send feedback to the developer via the „About Inventory“ section.

Hint

The app uses some icons from <https://icons8.de/> in their 96px variant.