**1. Develop a Task List.** Working with the rest of your team, develop a set of test tasks with good coverage of the content and interactions in your prototype. Make sure your task instructions are specific. Include a few debriefing questions at the end as well.

**Audience:** restaurant chefs, food startups, amateur cookers

**Task:**

* enable the users to explore variety of dishes available from selected ingredients (What I can cook from the stuff in my fridge? Which new varieties of pasta with tomato can I provide to the client? How can we enrich our Italian menu?)
* enables users to explore the most common ingredients combinations for selected ingredients (what do you use oregano or basil with?)

The prototype is available at <http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~veronika/italian3/>

**2. Schedule Participants:** Arrange to meet with your test subjects either in real life or virtually. (If using a paper prototype, this must be in real life.) Plan for approximately 30 minutes per session.

The meeting to review the visualization was scheduled with elementaree.ru, major food startup in Russia.

**3. Record the Session:** Make an audio or audio/video recording of each session. Remember to focus on observing rather than interviewing. You want to see what the user can do without your help, not ask them how they would design the visualization. Limit yourself to making brief, if any, notes during the testing session.

**4. Write Up Notes:** Make more complete notes after reviewing the recordings (best to do within 24 hours of a test). Your notes should reflect what you observed about the user’s behavior with the prototype. Where did they make errors? Where did they go off track? What do you believe caused them to do so?

**Overall observation:**

The user quickly understood the bubble structure and its usage mechanism:

* that you get the connected bubbles once you click
* the bigger the bubble size, the more frequently the ingredient is used in the Italian cuisine

**Major challenges:**

* The user struggled to understand that these bubbles are actually calculated based on recipes. So, once your click the particular ingredient, not only your narrow the bubbles (ingredients) space but also you narrow the recipes list based on selected bubbles
* Contrary to what I expected, the user failed to identify potential recipes from the selected bubbles. For her, these were ~20 somehow connected bubbles, but not 5 recipe options
* Once we got to only one recipe, the user continued to click the bubbles and didn’t understand why it doesn’t happen
* The user searched for Return option which was not available at the time
* When the user inserted “pasta” into Search field, there were multiple bubbles popped up which contained “pasta”, the user was confused on which one to choose for further investigation
* Contrary to my expectation, the user didn’t look at the text list of ingredients appeared below the bubbles, as alternative representation of ingredients. The user used either Search if they wanted the specific ingredient, or mouse over if she wanted to explore instead of looking through the list. She asked me if Search would work on the selection as well.

**5. Make a Prioritized List:** From your notes, make a prioritized list of issues to be addressed, along with suggested solutions. Use MoSCoW prioritization.

Turn in a list of your group’s test tasks and questions, your notes on the tests, and your prioritized list of issues and changes. We will be looking for appropriateness of test tasks and debriefing questions, thoroughness, attention to what each user does, accurate prioritization, and strong correlation between observations and suggestions for improvement.

**Must have**

* When the choice is narrowed to ~10-15 associated recipes, provide at least a simple list of these recipes, or a visualization (after the meeting it was added as a simple list, but would be developed into more a convenient form)
* Add “Return” and “Forward” buttons (were not available at the time)

**Should have**

* Install filters for vegetarian and healthy food based on agreed lists
* Allow the user add own filter for particular products, eg if the user have an allergy or doesn’t like a particular product
* Introductory page on which cuisine the user should explore given the selected ingredients (under development)

**Could have**

* Install filter to exclude complicated dishes (eg those with more than 12 ingredients or containing very uncommon ingredients)

**Won't have (this time)**

* The repetitive ingredients in the dataset is a an issue. For example, when you put “chicken” into Search box, you get "chicken", "chicken halves", "boneless chicken breast" and ~10 more types of chicken meat. The option for the user to deal with this is to provide the “combine” option for similar ingredients found upon Search into one, and then treat it as one ingredient upon further visualization. This task, however, requires a lot of manual work (for example, you have to separate “chicken” from “chiken broth”) and is not addressed within the timeframe of a project. However, if we were developing an end product for sale, we would definitely had to address it.