

Flashcard MacOS Application:

Exploratory Research

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Primer/Introductory Reader

About our Project:

Our group was tasked with exploring current MacOS applications and then creating our own functional application designed for MacOS (with a potential for cross platform support) that will be available in the apple store for anyone to download and use. We wanted an idea that would be fun yet very beneficial to users and would set the Mac apart from other devices. We started to brainstorm reasons why people open their Mac which led us to the category of education. We wanted to create something that focused on making the study process simpler. So, we decided to create a Flashcard Application that will be a practical learning tool for all Mac users. Our app will bring simplicity and customizability to the flashcard community.

About our Client: Users

We don't really have a Client in the way you guys may have but our clients are students/users. We want them to be able to make flashcards in the fastest and most efficient way possible along with being able to have the ability to custom it to their liking.

Inspiration/Sources

Features:

- Live Text works with typed and handwritten text, understands English, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Portuguese, French, Italian, German, and Spanish. It's available on any iPhone (or iPad) released in 2018 and later.

The Ideation:

- Why do people use a Mac over a Phone or Ipad?
 - Starting from scratch can be a challenge. Our team didn't want to make an app that no one would use. Which is why we spent several days brainstorming ideas and thinking through why people use a MacOS App over an Iphone App.
- Why do people use the Mac?
 - Physical Benefits: Bigger screen, more precise trackpad, more computing power
 - Tasks that are done on a Mac > Phone
 - Education: research with multiple windows and multimedia, studying, taking notes
 - Planning: budgeting, travel, health
 - Online Shopping
 - Creative processes: editing, coding, etc, making music, 3D work
 - Entertainment: Youtube, netflix / other streaming, music (sometimes like making playlists)
 - Multitasking

Competition

- ★ Our ideas started out broad, but as we brainstormed we narrowed in on an underutilized feature of Live Text. With this in mind we discovered that there are very few study apps that have live text integrated. After coming up with the idea for a flashcard app that uses LiveText to help you quickly make flashcards we set out to research the alternative apps in this space.

1. Quizlet

Pros: personalized study modes, personalized learn modes, easy to use, can make/share/and find study sets from other users, web app, multi-platform availability, easy UI

Cons: technological features restricted to plus members, app not available for mac/does not run on MacOS, not a native app.

2. Anki

Pros: change color scheme, customizable studying interface, ability to download pre-set flashcards from other platforms, cloud sync and access, completely free

Cons: not intuitive, minimal view on progress, complex

3. Flashcard Hero

Pros: can customize text and stuff, remote control option to use your phone to flip cards on mac, simple design, multiple study modes

Cons: free version limited, does not allow flashcard downloads

4. Studies

Pros: professional interface, easy management of cards, import/export options, detailed study interface

Cons: lacks better grading options, UI isn't that great

5. Flashcard Max

Pros: custom colors, auto play, sync to web/PC, quiz mode

Cons: text to speech on android app only

6. Study Cards

Pros: automatically syncs between all devices, customizable with markdown and images

Cons: aesthetic is bland

Other Sources/Links

- <https://techwiser.com/flashcard-apps-for-mac/>
- <https://alternativeto.net/software/flash-cards-max/about/>
- <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/deck-flashcard-learning-app/id1545176753>
- <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/studycards/id1534325530?see-all=reviews>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/guides/tech/iphone-live-text>