

Paisley Davis
CS 402: Android Development
25 February 2021

Homework 2: App Description & Details

1. App Description

My app, Transcribe, is an expansion of a hackathon project I did last month. See [here](#) if you like, but mind you, this was all of ours first hackathon and the end result isn't the most impressive. Also, I changed the name slightly.

The idea is to create a health and wellness tracker that is geared towards transgender/gender non-conforming individuals, while also providing a way to "crowd-source" information about HRT and other trans-related health topics. So there will be 2 sides to the app: a private, individual profile, where users can add and track their personal information; and a community side, where users can anonymously answer questions related to certain topics, and view others answers and anecdotes. For example: a user will be able to get medication reminders and track their mood, weight, and other side effects on the individual side. Then on the community side, they will be able to see how many other users had similar side effects with a certain medication or procedure.

This sounds great. You can check out Google Fit, which helps track health data in one, unified and secure place on the device. It's great you went through prototyping since that'll help with this version.

2. Demographic

As I stated above, this app will be geared towards trans and GNC people. By this, I mean anyone who identifies as trans, non-binary, or gender nonconforming, i.e. not just for trans women or other "category". The age range is pretty broad, but will probably be mostly in the late teens to mid-twenties. Location doesn't matter much, especially since the trans community in general is predominantly based in "cyberspace." As for income and education levels, trans people are usually lower-income and less likely to be in higher education (due to various family, societal, and employment barriers).

3. Price

Transcribe is going to be free to download because, as mentioned above, trans people aren't the most wealthy group, and the purpose of this app is to help the community more than profit from it. I am thinking of having ads on the community/data-gathering side, which could help pay for database and a later web domain maintenance.

4. Mobile Technologies

The app will utilize a database (or 2, probably) to store community and individual data, including user login credentials on the individual side. I am considering integrating several web APIs that display local LGBT+ friendly clinics and other resource centers. I will also probably end up using some graphing API or library or something to help nicely display data.

I also want to have some sort of “quick exit” for the app, for those worried about privacy and secrecy. I think a good method for this would be to have the user do a quick shake that completely exits from and closes the app, which I believe would use the accelerometer. For security, I also want to try and enable fingerprint reading.

5. Market Research

Solace LGBT

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.solace_10636&hl=en_US&gl=US&showAllReviews=true

Bearable - Symptoms & Mood tracker

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bearable&hl=en_US&gl=US

Pill Reminder & Medication Tracker - MyTherapy

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=eu.smartpatient.mytherapy&hl=en_US&gl=US

First off, the first link, Solace, is a recently released app meant to help users “plot out their transition, access credible information for how to accomplish their legal, medical, and lifestyle goals, stay informed about news that may impact their goals, and track their progress.” In short, it’s a goal-setting app for trans people with additional links to resources and legal information.

Transcribe is different than this because it is more of a health and wellness tracker made for trans people, and not so much focused on accomplishing any “goals of transitioning.” I also want Transcribe to be fairly customizable, which Solace is not.

Since my app is a combination medication, symptom, mood, etc. tracker, I’ve linked 3 apps that each do some of these things.

The second app, Bearable, is the closest to my idea, and to be completely honest, is a *really good* app (I downloaded it to test out because it looked so good). Things I like about it, and therefore, probably want to implement in my own, are that

everything you're tracking is fairly customizable, it's easy to use, and it's nice to look at. There were also a whole lot of little details I liked, mostly to do with the tracking customization itself. I especially liked the ability to customize what is and isn't displayed on the home screen for you to track.

The main "improvement" between Bearable and my app would be the specificity of its intended audience and the additional benefit of the community-based knowledge. There would also be an additional level of privacy and secrecy, as mentioned above with the instant exit feature.

Another thing I want to improve on is the "quickness" and effortlessness in which users can submit entries on the app. Partly because Bearable is so customizable, it becomes kind of cumbersome to record everything for a day, and I've lost interest in using apps like this before because it can seem like so much effort.

I want to create a "main entry" screen where the user can quickly and easily enter all the information for that day, using simple buttons and icons, which they can elsewhere edit and customize.

Also, a lot of useful features on Bearable and similar apps can only be accessed through subscription. I want all my features to be available with a free download.

The third app is the most popular medication reminder app on the app store. It's a relatively self-explanatory medication tracker. What I would change from most medication apps I've used before is first, giving more options when it comes to ignoring reminders; i.e. snooze could remind you in 2 hours, remind you in a day, or just skip the medication and mark down that it's been skipped. Another thing is that I want to connect information from the community directly to the medications users have listed, while still maintaining data security. This would be like a button next to Tylenol that takes you to graphs about other's symptoms while on Tylenol. I also want to save information such as dates, amounts, and contact information for refilling prescriptions and doctor's appointments.

This app and other medication tracker apps are kind of ugly and feel like a hospital patient portal, and I want Transcribe to at least be nice to look at.

This all sounds great and since you already made a prototype, you've already seen some of the challenges and obstacles of gathering data, and what that data may look like.

You don't have to use Firebase for this, but if it already exists and you want to tie into some of that data, that'd be a great way to get an API going. Otherwise, feel free to use static JSON to pull data for displaying in the app.

You can use an embedded database for tracking certain entries from the user. You don't need to go too deeply into the implementation of this, but it'd be great to see some filtering of that data as you pull it out. For example, fetch the health and wellness tracking data from the last week/month, etc. Or fetch that data based on some attribute of the data for better display of that data to the user.

I'd like to see one more mobile technology in this project. The accelerometer is good, but sounds like it might not be fast enough and prone to error. You can try a four finger swipe down gesture on all screens or some variation of that. You can add location for tracking where the entries are recorded. Might not be needed for this kind of app, but see where you can put in one more mobile technology to make this app a great final.