**Goals**

Inventory apps can be used for many different purposes. Businesses will use them for items in stock vs. items that need to be ordered. Individual people can even use them to organize their personal lives. An example of how these applications can be helpful is how I use them daily. I will use an inventory app to display what I currently have in my pantry and fridge. Sometimes, they can get overburdened with items, and I can’t see everything in them without wasting time digging and pulling everything out. An inventory application saves time when it comes to this. When used correctly, it can also be used to know what is needed for the household on the next shopping trip. They do this by having a function that can increase or decrease the number attached to individual items.

While designing the application, user needs are essential to consider. The first is the application's primary function, which is to track a number of individual items and their quantity for a user. Another thing to think about is who is using the application and how it knows it is the person using it. To answer that, a login screen must be implemented with a unique login and password. This will not only allow a user to personalize the application, but if the user utilizes it for something personal, it will help to keep it secure. The login screen will also be used to create accounts if one does not already exist. For organization and to make items easy to see, the application will be built with a grid-like structure to display the items and how many items there are to the user. Buttons will be used to adjust numbers simplistically in the inventory app. A simple click of a button will also remove items no longer needed from the user's list of items. Another added feature will be a notification of when an item is done to a quantity of zero. A pop-up on the top of the application containing a string will signal to a user whenever something hits the zero threshold. The app's features will be very user-friendly and will cover all the user needs. With the simplistic design, it will be easy for a user to organize items in their everyday life.

**Compare/Contrast to another app**

Many different applications out there have similar qualities. One of these apps is named Portable Inventory by Chengdu Wangqi03 Technology Ltd. The user interface of this application if very simple. It has a few options on the app's top and a search bar. The main goal of the application is to hold items and their counts. A plus sign symbol button is clicked for the application to add an item. The first field is used to name the item. While adding items, this application has a nice feature at the bottom of this screen that allows users to import them via a CSV file. To increase the quantity of an item, there is a tiny bubble next to each item with three dots. If that is pressed, a pop-up that allows a user to increase or decrease the amount. Another nice feature of this application is the simple decrease. If you just tap the item, it will auto-decrease the quantity by one. This application also has a useful feature that is unnecessary for most users. One of the options at the top of the application is a statistical outlook button. If a user goes to that screen, it will provide information about top increased quantities, top decreased quantities, top added items, and top reduced items. Verses what I plan to execute for an inventory application, this application seems a bit more advanced. With the statistical information, I am sure it would be great in a business setting to make more profitable decisions, while I prefer, as a user, something more simplistic.

A second competitor application is BoxOrganizer- Inventory by Felix Peter Moser. This application is quite a bit more confusing but does have a helpful feature that strikes some appeal. The user interface doesn’t make much sense when someone opens the app. There is a search bar at the top, and under that, the first thing you see is a small section that says box 1, and under that, as a subheading, it says project 1(assuming the app was already used). Under all that, it has a main heading that says projects and a project labeled Project One if a project was created. The user interface is not very appealing. If project one is selected, it will bring you to another page that will bring the user to a boxes page. Once box one is selected, the user will finally be brought to the inventory portion of the application. This application has a plus sign button for adding items to the inventory. If that is clicked, a user can add the item's name, increase the item amount, write notes about the item, add tags, and add an image of the item. The items added to the box will show in a list format, showing the picture, the name, and the quantity. To adjust the amount, the user must go into the item and then increase or decrease the item. The visuals of the items have some appeal, but using the application can have a bit of a learning curve. This makes the application more than what is needed for a normal user, but some can find this a helpful application. One user specific that could use it would be someone moving. This application allows for more than one box. Taking that into a literal sense, someone can use the app to label what items are packed in specific boxes for easy finding later.

**Discuss users**

* Needs served:

Within a basic inventory app, keeping track of an item's quantity is the primary user need. The first thing in the application's functionality would be adding and removing items from the inventory list. It mainly needs to be able to increase and decrease simply. Another need this app will help serve is to notify a user when any items within the inventory reach zero. The app must have a login screen to connect to a user profile to serve an individual. Both a unique login and password will be needed. If an account isn’t present, the screen prompts you to create one to save inventory data.

* Why this app:

This application will be crafted simplistically. Its usability will allow it to function well for various users. One user who may find this a helpful application is someone who wants to be organized. An Example would be someone who utilizes the application for food and ingredients in their pantry. The app will let them know what they need and don’t need for their next meal. Another user would be the owner of a convenience store. They could use this app to keep track of the store's inventory. Not only will this let them know when things need to be ordered for the business, but it will also keep track of inventory for shrink reasons. An unconventional way this app could be used is to keep track of school assignments. This would make the user a student. They could use classes as their items and the quantity as how many assignments that class has left to complete.

* Lifestyle connection:

An application like this can help make a difference in someone’s life. Someone using this app for pantry organization will start to find they are saving money. From personal experience, while at the grocery store, I mistakenly bought items that were not needed just because I didn’t know if I had them at home. The application can be taken out and read to avoid this. When money is saved, it can be used in other ways to help improve someone’s lifestyle. Just like a personal app, if a small business uses it, it will also allow them to save money. The difference is when it comes to a small business, funds mean everything. If they are not careful, they could go out of business. Using this app will keep everything on track to help uphold everything needed for stock in their business.

* Plan for engagement:

The engagement part of this application is based on how user-friendly it is. Not being complicated will make a user more likely to use the application and choose this one over others. The user will enjoy the ease of organization and how the application will notify them when an item hits zero. This feature allows the user to know when actions should be taken, and they don’t have to continuously look for when these actions must be taken.

**Summary**

Overall, this application is an excellent fit for many individuals, whether for personal or business use. It can add and remove items in the inventory and increase and decrease the quantity of items. It is easy to use and can help simplify someone's life. All of this while feeling the data is safe within a secured profile. Compared to other applications, these qualities will help this one stand out.