Tracking and Analyzing Expenses Stored in a Text File

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What problem are you trying to solve?

Often times it becomes difficult for business to keep track of expenses when multiple projects are executed at once. Keeping track of expenses through other means such as online banking proves to be time consuming and difficult because of limited functionality. Often times online banking systems have limited searchoptions, preventing users from tracking previous transactions. In rare occasions,online banking systems allow for the user to download the transaction history ~~asa file~~, however ~~this proves to be less than optimal~~ due to the large amount of data given to the user, it becomes impossible for the user to process the data in a meaningful way ~~to sort through~~. Searching through large csv or excel files can be time-consuming and inefficient. In addition, other record keeping methods that involve pen and paper require that humans manually write down entries. This system of record keeping allows for human error and proves to be inefficient

Why is this an important problem?

This problem is important to address because other solutions often do not sufficiently help the user. Traditional bookkeeping methods are often too cumbersome for businesses that deal with multiple transactions at any given time. With traditional book keeping methods, there is a large margin for human error, however a software application may be able to mitigate these errors by implementing checks to ensure that the data is correct. In addition to lessening error, a software application can also increase productivity by shortening the amount of time needed to search, modify, add and delete transactions. ~~People may also make errors, but with a bookkeeping system, these errors cannot be mitigated in the same way that a software application can.~~ Some software applications may be too complicated for the user to understand or may be too expensive for the user to afford. ~~A simple software application can help the user to keep track of expenses, search the transaction history, and sort the transactions by date.~~

What is the context of the problem that you are solving?

This computer application will be targeted towards small business owners who wish to organize their expenses. It is assumed that the business owners/administrators will have a basic knowledge of computers and how to use a command line. With the use of this application, businesses will be able to not only store expense information, but also search for specific transactions pertaining to specific projects. This software will likely be used in a business or financial setting such that the user is able to add expense entries as they occur.