**ChefUP - Connecting Culinary Enthusiasts with Expert Chefs**

Final Year Project

Project Planning Document

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# **Introduction**

With the surge in popularity of online video guides, online recipe books and more, there is a clear demand for a digital platform that enables individuals to not only watch and learn from professional chefs but also actively engage with them. Learning to cook through pure digital media is a hassle for some people.

There are people who prefer to have a much more hands on experience by having a person teach them how to cook. Most cooking applications involve keeping a database of recipes or video tutorials. This is the issue present within current day cooking applications, they do not offer physical help when learning to cook, this is the problem the project will tackle.

ChefUP serves to combat that problem by introducing direct interaction between users and certified chefs. This personalized approach to culinary education has the potential to provide valuable insights, guidance, and feedback to users, allowing them to progress on their culinary journey effectively.

Since the internet and social media has attracted a melting pot of a community, the younger generation loves to experience different cultural dishes from other countries. Not only does it provide a specialized application that caters to the culinary enthusiast who wishes to learn from experienced professionals.

# **Aim and Objectives**

## **2.1 Aim:**

The primary aim of the ChefUP project is to develop a user-friendly standalone application that provides for an interactive learning experience between aspiring home cooks and certified expert chefs. The application aims to allow users to plan, chat and discuss for a physical meet up with a culinary expert. ChefUP serves as a supplementary resource and does not replace formal culinary education.

## **2.2 Objectives:** ChefUP's objectives revolve around transforming the culinary learning experience by connecting culinary enthusiasts with certified chefs, providing hands-on cooking sessions, personalized guidance, and a platform for diverse culinary exploration. The aim is to bridge the gap between home cooks and professionals, enhance the overall user experience, and simplify the process of planning and scheduling cooking sessions.

* To improve the learning experience for culinary enthusiasts by facilitating direct interaction between users and certified chefs.
* To offer a hands-on approach to cooking education by enabling users to engage in physical cooking sessions with expert chefs.
* To provide users with personalized guidance, insights, and feedback from certified chefs, enhancing their cooking skills effectively.
* To cater to the diverse culinary interests of users by offering a platform for experiencing and learning various cultural dishes.
* To bridge the gap between home cooks and professional chefs, allowing enthusiasts to benefit from the expertise and experience of culinary experts.
* To serve as a supplementary resource for culinary education, acknowledging that ChefUP complements formal culinary training and does not seek to replace it.
* To simplify the process of planning, scheduling, and coordinating cooking sessions between users and chefs through the application.
* To enhance the overall user experience by providing a convenient and accessible platform for culinary education.
* To investigate and understand the specific requirements and needs of chefs, aiming to make their experience on ChefUP better and more efficient.

These objectives aim to achieve a higher level of engagement, interaction, and education within the culinary community. ChefUP's goal is to enhance the cooking journey for enthusiasts and professionals alike, providing a valuable platform for culinary exploration.

# **Tasks and Deliverables**

## **3.1 Planning and Project Proposal**

**Task:** Plan on the final year project concept and propose the idea to the assigned supervisor.

**Deliverable:** Approval of the project proposal to start research on the concept.

Planning and Project Proposal (Oct 9th to 14th)

## **3.2 Research**

**Task:** Research and analyse the topic, investigate existing applications, articles and academic resources to realise the idea of the project.

* Research what digital media people use to learn cooking.
* Research the popular applications being used for learning to cook.

Research the Topic (Oct 16th to 18th)

## **3.3 Project Planning Document:**

**Task:** Gather the resources in the research and begin writing the project planning document, detail each section of the project and seek feedback from supervisor on drafts.

**Deliverable:** Completed Project Planning Document.

Project Planning Document (Oct 19th to 27th)

## **3.4 Application Design**

**Task:** Draft the UI design and needed resources for starting the development of the project.

**Deliverable:** Design diagrams and documents.

Application Design (Oct 28th to Nov 15th)

**3.5 Development and Implementation:  
Tasks:**

Below are the main tasks that need to be met for the application to function:

* Create User Registration and Profile Management
* Create recipe, equipment, and ingredient management.
* Implement a way to check certification validation.
* Integrate an online chat system.
* Integrate a free geolocation API.
* Integrate secure transaction system.
* Administrator account.
* Rating system for chefs and home cooks to rate each other’s sessions.
* Reporting system for problems that occurred for administrators to monitor.

**Deliverables:**

Below are the deliverables for the tasks above:

* Unique identification and roles for each user.
* A system enabling chefs and home cooks to identify recipes, required equipment, and ingredients for cooking lessons.
* Assurance that chefs are culinary certified.
* A platform for interaction between home cooks and chefs.
* Payment options, including credit card, debit card, and PayPal.
* Administrative oversight within the application.
* A rating system.
* A report system.

Development and Implementation (Nov 16th to Feb 15th)

## **3.5 Testing**

**Task:** Rigorously test each component and functionality of the application to ensure it works as intended and is free of bugs and issues.

**Deliverable:** Detailed testing reports, including identified issues and resolutions, and a fully operational, stable application ready for demonstration.

Testing (Feb 16th to Mar 15th)

## **3.6 Documentation**

**Task:** Write a report and document the full application. Listing the project overview, scope definition, testing and more.

**Deliverable:** A comprehensive project document.  
Documentation (Mar 16th to Mar 31st)

## **3.7 Final Demonstration**

**Task:** Prepare a comprehensive demonstration of the application's features, functionality, and benefits. This demonstration will showcase how the application fulfils its intended purpose and provides a hands-on learning experience in cooking.

**Deliverable:** Successful, engaging, and informative demo video that effectively communicates the value of the application.

Final Demonstration (April 19th)

## **3.8 Submission:**

**Task:** Prepare the finalized application for deployment and user access. Ensure all necessary components, documentation, and resources are in place for the application to be submitted.

**Deliverable:** A successfully deployed and accessible application ready for submission.  
Submission (April 19th)

## **3.9 Out-of-Scope Tasks:**

* Data Analytics and Reporting
* Multi-platform Development

# **Gantt Chart**

The Gantt chart provides a visual roadmap for ChefUP's project timeline. It offers a clear overview of key project tasks, milestones, and development process, helping to streamline project management and ensure successful implementation.

A screenshot of a computer screen

Description automatically generated

# **Resources and Sources of Information**

The development of the application will require several resources to complete, below details the resources explored to develop ChefUP.

# **5.1 Resources: Python**

Python is the primary programming language for the project, chosen for its versatility and suitability for application development. Python libraries provide a flexible development environment for the application. (talk about python libraries)

* **Personal Laptop**

A personal laptop is necessary as the development environment for coding, testing, and managing the project for convenience and efficiency.

* **Microsoft Visual Studio**

Microsoft Visual Studio provides a robust development environment, streamlining the coding and debugging process.

## **5.2 Sources of Information:**

* **Google Scholar**

Google Scholar offers access to academic research and publications, providing a foundation of scholarly knowledge relevant to the project.

* **ChefTalk Forum**

ChefTalk is a reputable platform where culinary professionals and enthusiasts share insights and expertise, offering practical advice for the project.

* **eGullet Forum**

eGullet is a community of culinary enthusiasts known for in-depth discussions. It can provide valuable perspectives and ideas for the project.

# **Risks:**

There are risks associated with the completed application, below are the possible risks and their likelihood, severity, and recommended actions.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Impact** | **Likelihood**  **(1 – 5)** | **Severity**  **(1 – 5)** | **Recommended Actions** |
| Geolocation API is unavailable | Completely halts the home cook and chefs to locate each other | 2 | 4 | The online chat feature is still available for communicating.  Message address with messaging apps.  Switch out the API used. |
| Online chat is unavailable | Prevents users from interacting to each other | 2 | 5 | Call users based on their phone number. |
| Recipes protected by copyright | Legal issues will arise with the application | 1 | 3 | Users can report the recipe.  Educate users with a written terms and conditions before using the application.  Admins can remove the recipe. |
| Data security breach | Data security breaches can result in the exposure of user’s personal information and payment details | 3 | 5 | Implement data encryption and security measures. |
| Data loss | Data loss will cause huge problems to the application and prevent users from using the application if they are existing users | 1 | 5 | Have a backup system present, uploading the source code to a repository.  Uploading user data to a backup server regularly |
| Meet up issues | Problems may arise with physical meet ups between users | 2 | 4 | A report and rating system is present to report any issues.  Accounts will be suspended or banned based on the offense |

# **Career Aspirations**

The ChefUP project allows me to have hands-on experience in developing a feasible real-world application, demonstrating my planning, designing and software development skills.

Learning to work with a project that involves cloud infrastructure will greatly benefit my career as most applications that exist have some form of cloud environment to make data management more efficient.

The project also involves both front and back-end development, it is crucial to have knowledge in full-stack development. This can diversify my skills in software development and allow me to be versatile in all aspects of developing an application.

Having a good understanding of the entrepreneurial angle of this project will benefit me when working with the industry. While the project does not focus on said aspect that heavily, having a start in the thought process will allow me to grasp and design real-world applications easier.

This application will help expand on my career and give a good foundation for my future as a software engineer. It provides hands-on experience, expertise in cloud infrastructure, full-stack development skills, and entrepreneurial insight.

# **8. Legal, Social, Ethical, and Professional Issues (LSEPIs)**

## **8.1 Legal Issues:**

One of the most critical legal aspects of the project is data protection, in alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This regulation governs the collection, processing, and storage of user information, including personal and payment data. To ensure compliance, we will implement strong encryption methods and access controls to safeguard user information. Additionally, we will adhere to all relevant computing-related legislation, such as the Data Protection Act and Computer Misuse Act, to protect user data and maintain trust in the platform.

## **8.2 Social Issues:**

This project contributes positively to both home and workplace environments, as it encourages skill development and creative cooking in the comfort of one's home. It aligns with societal trends by promoting a sense of community and shared knowledge. Moreover, the project aims to uphold standards of welfare and safety by conducting thorough risk assessments to ensure the well-being of users participating in cooking sessions.

There is a concern with the safety of the users as scheduling a cooking session involves meeting up physically, several safety measures will be implemented such as:

* User reviews and ratings to allow users to make informed decisions about their participation.
* Background checks on chefs and certification validation, users will be investigated if ratings are poor.
* Community guidelines will be established, outlining expected behaviour and safety protocols during meet ups.
* Emergency support options for users that need immediate assistance, it is advised to call the emergency hotline in the respective country first before seeking support.
* User education on the safety precautions and best practices for meet ups.
* Continuous monitoring of the platform by administrators so no suspicious or unsafe activities take place.

## **8.3 Ethical Issues:**

Ethical considerations play a pivotal role in safeguarding the interests of both users and chefs on the ChefUP platform. It is important to implement thorough safeguards for user and chef interactions, including background checks and the secure management of user data, particularly when dealing with payment information. To maintain a high level of integrity and professionalism, the project will adhere to the BCS Code of Conduct, which includes principles related to competence, integrity, and privacy, ensuring that all actions are within the ethical boundaries of the computing profession.

In addition to data privacy, ethical concerns encompass the safety of users during their interactions with chefs. The application acknowledges its responsibility to provide a secure environment for all users participating in physical meetups. Background checks on chefs and a robust system for validating certifications are integral components of the app's ethical strategy. These measures not only mitigate potential risks but also fortify the platform's reputation and ethical standing with the users.

Aligning with the principles outlined in the BCS Code of Conduct. These principles revolve around competence, integrity, and privacy, ensuring that every facet of the application's operation remains firmly within the ethical boundaries of the computing profession.

## **8.4 Professional Issues:**

The project places a strong emphasis on observing professional competence and integrity. Adhering to the BCS Code of Conduct is of paramount importance. Working diligently and exercising caution will ensure that the platform meets the high standards and conventions of the computing profession, providing a reliable and secure environment for users and chefs. This includes developing and maintaining a safe and functional platform and offering professional-grade support to all users. Moreover, observing professional competence and integrity ensures that the platform's recommendations and features are designed to benefit users and chefs, thereby enhancing the overall experience.

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