What’s Low? – Documentation

Overview

**"What’s Low?"** is a family-oriented app designed to help households manage their everyday items and track what is running low or out of stock. This app provides an easy and organized way for members of a household to communicate about the status of essential items, ensuring that nothing important is forgotten and no unnecessary purchases are made.

The app allows users to form teams with their family or housemates, making it simple to assign tasks, track who is responsible for replenishing items, and ensure that everything in the household runs smoothly.

Main Problem

In many households, communication about essential items such as groceries, cleaning supplies, and other common goods is often inconsistent. This can lead to frustration when someone realizes too late that something is out of stock. Miscommunication about who is responsible for buying items often results in duplicate purchases or last-minute trips to the store.

**"What’s Low?"** solves this problem by allowing users to:

* Track the availability of household items in real-time.
* Assign and accept responsibility for purchasing needed items.
* Notify the team when items are running low or out of stock.
* See who has accepted the task of buying specific items.

Core Features

1. **Create a Team**:
   * Users can create a new team to manage their household’s items. This feature allows the team creator to invite other members (e.g., family or housemates) to join, so everyone can collaborate.
   * Once the team is created, members can contribute to managing items.
2. **Join a Team**:
   * Users can join an existing team by invitation. Upon joining, they can see the status of household items and participate in managing them.
3. **Exit a Team**:
   * A user can exit a team if they no longer wish to be part of it. **However, a team admin cannot leave the team** unless they assign someone else as the admin.
4. **Item Management**:
   * **Add New Items**: Users can add new items that need tracking (e.g., groceries, cleaning supplies, etc.).
   * **Update Item Status**: Users can update the status of any item to reflect whether it’s in stock, running low, or out of stock. Status options can include "In Stock," "Nearly Finished," and "Need to Buy."
   * **Mark as Purchased**: When someone buys an item, they can mark it as purchased, notifying the team.
5. **Task Assignment**:
   * Users can claim responsibility for restocking an item. Once someone accepts a task, it will notify the rest of the team, reducing the risk of duplicate purchases.
6. **Notifications**:
   * Notifications will inform users when items are running low or when a task is accepted.
7. **Shopping List**:
   * Items marked as “Need to Buy” are automatically added to a shopping list that team members can access. This shopping list helps the team stay organized and reduces unnecessary trips to the store.
8. **Item Categories**:
   * Items can be sorted into categories (e.g., groceries, cleaning supplies, etc.), making it easier to manage and track household needs.
9. **History Log**:
   * The app keeps a log of previously purchased or removed items. This helps users track what has been bought and when.

Future Features (Planned)

* **Dark/Light Mode**: In the future, the app will include an option to switch between dark and light themes for a more customized user experience.
* **Multi-Team Management**: Currently, users cannot join multiple teams simultaneously. In future updates, the app may include a feature to allow users to manage more than one team (e.g., for managing multiple homes or groups).
* **Push Notifications**: Future versions may introduce push notifications for better user engagement.
* **Geolocation Integration**: Future updates could include geolocation-based reminders to notify users when they are near a store that carries an item on their list.

Target Audience

**"What’s Low?"** is designed for:

* Families living together who want to manage household supplies efficiently.
* Housemates sharing living spaces and responsibilities.
* Anyone managing shared household inventory, from groceries to cleaning supplies.

User Experience (UX) and Design

1. **Simple and Intuitive Layout**:
   * The app is designed with ease of use in mind, catering to all age groups. The layout is clean, with minimal distractions, making it easy to navigate between the main features (e.g., team management, item tracking, task assignments).
2. **Colour Scheme**:
   * The app features a modern and cool colour scheme, using **Navy Blue** (#001F3F) for the primary background, **Teal** (#008080) for buttons and highlights, and **Gray** (#808080) for secondary elements. This colour scheme provides a sleek, calming look while maintaining readability.
3. **Icons and Visuals**:
   * Clear icons represent items and actions to ensure quick recognition and improve usability. Subtle animations may be used for adding items, assigning tasks, or updating statuses, providing a smooth, responsive experience.

Technology Stack

1. **Frontend**:
   * The app is built using **React Native**, ensuring cross-platform support on both iOS and Android devices.
   * **NativeWind** will be used for styling to provide a responsive and consistent look across devices.
2. **Backend**:
   * The backend is currently undecided and will be determined as the app development progresses.
3. **Push Notifications**:
   * Push notifications are not finalized for this version but may be added in future updates.

Conclusion

**"What’s Low?"** is a practical, easy-to-use solution for managing household inventory. By allowing users to track, share, and manage items within their home, it reduces confusion and helps ensure that no essential items are forgotten. The future potential for dark/light mode and push notifications means the app will continue to evolve based on user feedback.