Semester Planning Assignment

Create a document outlining what you would like to create this semester. Begin with a problem statement that encapsulates the problem you wish to solve and the high level goal of what you plan to create. Then break the problem down into affected user groups noting how you believe they will benefit from/make use of your creation. Once you've done that, spend a couple of paragraphs describing what your product will be and the features it will offer to benefit your users and resolve your problem statement. Do not exceed one page

Within the Washington University (WashU) community, students often grapple with the high costs of essential items and the challenge of effectively dealing with their used products. This financial strain and the lack of a streamlined process to resell items underscore the need for a sustainable, community-centric solution. Addressing this, our team has designed the WashU Second-hand Trading Platform, aptly named "Bear Bazaar". Exclusive to the WashU community, this digital marketplace requires users to register with their university email addresses, ensuring safety and community focus. Once verified, users can effortlessly post items with detailed descriptions, sorted into intuitive categories for easy browsing. The platform boasts a robust search engine, allowing users to swiftly find items, and even refine their searches based on specific criteria like price, condition, or proximity. Personalized recommendations appear as users navigate the platform, tailoring the shopping experience to individual tastes and needs. Communication between buyers and sellers is safeguarded through a built-in messaging system, and for any immediate assistance, a responsive chatbot powered by the GPT API (LangChain) is integrated. Championing transparency, the platform allows for user ratings and reviews, empowering users with insights for informed trading decisions. And, recognizing the diverse digital habits of our users, Bear Bazaar has been optimized for seamless access across both desktop and mobile devices. Through Bear Bazaar, we aim to revolutionize how WashU students approach second-hand trading, promoting sustainable consumption while providing an unmatched user experience.