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**Interview**

*Answers are roughly translated Russian --> English*

**--- Application Related ---**

What are you looking for in a personal budget software?

To be able to have one, maybe two, income sources and then

enter expenses throughout the month. Each expense has a

date, category, and a title. Then display a months total

with graphs and such.

Are the income sources constant?

No, you enter them every month.

And if you get paid at the end of the month then during the

whole month everything is negative?

Well, yes. I mean you don't usually show the current month's

statistics, other than like current balance so its okay.

Okay, and is there some planning feature?

Yeah, sure, you enter how much you plan on spending for

each category of expense, and then it displays whether you

are on track or not.

So with the planning feature, what is shown to the user?

Just how far off they are from the plan and whether they

will probably make it based off expense over time. So if

they keep up their current spending, whether hey will

stick with their plan or not.

Can you modify your plan?

Sure.

And are there set categories or can you make your own?

You can have some base categories like Housing, Entertainment,

Transportation, Utilities, Food, and the user can modify the

existing ones or add new ones.

So planning is for expenses that will most likely happen,

but what about saving up for a car?

There should be savings goals that the user can specify and

the program will display how many months it will probably

take to complete it based on past savings. Maybe even be

able to prioritize the different items.

What is displayed to the user?

General page is just current balance, and below that just

per month breakdown of the past several months and maybe

a total or past year of the same thing. You can also go to

a month breakdown where theres a list of transactions,

category breakdown, and that month's savings.

I need to have sorting and searching functionality, so what is

something I could sort by and search for?

For search, you can search for category, name, or date of

transaction and for sorting you can sort transactions by

date and display it as such because users might enter

expenses for dates in the past. The sorting is done behind

the scenes before you display transactions.

So what about saving when the program exits? Should the program

auto-save after every transaction or have the user save/load files

or both?

Only auto-save, its like an online database in a bank.

**--- Programming Related ---**

Okay, so I think I understand the requirements, I've just got

some questions about programming this. So how would I get the

current date for showing month breakdowns, since nobody will

actually use this for months at a time to test.

I mean, you wouldn't. You just store the transaction date and

display transaction that occurred within the same month.

The current month is just the latest transaction's month.

That makes sense. Should I store any of the displayed calculations

in memory or in the file?

You can just store a list of all the transactions and recalculate

everything every time you show it.