

Expense Tracker Report 1: Observing and Brainstorming

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1.0 - Project Background

As students pursuing degrees in technology-related fields, we were highly motivated to take part in a software-focused project that would not only align with our academic background but also challenge us to grow beyond the classroom. Recognizing the value of practical experience, we set out to explore a variety of software tools and application ideas that we could potentially design and implement. Through this exploratory phase, we aimed to identify a project that would be both technically engaging and educationally enriching.

Our primary goal throughout this project is to strengthen our capabilities in key areas essential to the field of software engineering. We viewed this project as an opportunity to simulate real world software design, where communication and problem-solving are critical. Ultimately, this initiative represented a step toward becoming more well-rounded, competent contributors to the tech industry.

2.0 - Understanding the Tool

Since we do not have any customers that may guide us in designing this tool that would help us understand the purpose of the expense tracker, we decided to research online for user needs in tracking expenses. As Joan from Quora suggests, “it is very crucial to handle a budget and an expense tracking app helping track receipts, keeping income records” (*What Features Would You Like to See on an Income and Expenses Tracking App?*, n.d.), It was evident that there was a need for a functionality that permits users to track income and categorize spendings.

3.0 - NorthStar and Carryover Customers

The main users for an expense tracking software would be people in debt. This is mainly because of its ability to provide users with an incentive to change their financial statuses and help them maintain a better financial situation.

There are many people in need for an expense tracking app. However, after analyzing responses from online users, it was evident that many students needed an expense tracking tool. This is primarily because many students tend to have limited incomes and varying expenses.

4.0 - Tools for Platform

To bring our project to life, we decided to utilize a combination of tools and platforms that would support both the design and development process effectively. For front-end prototyping and UI/UX planning, we chose Figma, as it allows for collaborative design work and offers a clear visual representation of our app's layout and user flow.

For building the actual application, we selected **WordPress** due to its flexibility, plugin ecosystem, and ease of content management, which makes it a suitable platform for developing a web-based expense tracking tool without the need to build everything from scratch.

Finally, to make sure our project is secure, runs well, and can grow if more people use it, we decided to use Amazon Web Services (AWS). It gives us the tools we need to store data, manage users, and handle the app's backend. AWS helps keep everything running smoothly and reliably.

References

1.0 - *What features would you like to see on an income and expenses tracking app?* (n.d.).

Quora. <https://www.quora.com/What-features-would-you-like-to-see-on-an-income-and-expenses-tracking-app>