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FOOD GUARD

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1. Introduction:

1.1 Motivation:

The World Allergy Organisation (WAO) have estimated that between 200 to 250 million people worldwide live with food allergies (Pawankar, 2014) and allergies having the potential to develop at any point throughout a person’s lifetime, with at least 15 percent of food allergies being first diagnosed in adulthood (FARE, 2018). There is little to no help for people living with them other than a simple sentence at the bottom of a product label that reads “For allergens, see ingredients in bold”.

1.2 Scope and Objectives

1.3 Coverage:

After the summer of 2018, where a young girl died of anaphylactic shock, we decided to make an app that would make allergen detection easier for people. After discovering that barcodes contain all the ingredient information of the product, we aimed at developing a system that after scanning the product’s barcode it would categorise the products via a traffic light system into a “safe”, “may contain” and “avoid” list.

This report will go over the development process we took including user testing

The app would work by allowing users to choose the ingredients they wish to avoid and by scanning the product label it would then determine whether the product contained their chosen undesired ingredients. Once scanned, the app would categorise the products via a traffic light system into a “Safe”, “May Contain” and “Avoid” list.

It has become increasingly important to know and understand what exactly our food ingredients are because an allergic reaction could kill. Recent news coverage has highlighted the flaw of many companies failing to label their products with all ingredients contained. We have designed an app which aims to make life a lot simpler for those looking to eliminate certain ingredients from their diets.

The main feature of our app is the barcode scanner, which enables the user to scan product barcodes and instantly informs them of the ingredients. There are also warning messages of any ingredients to be cautious of, based on the users allergy information they provide.

The time it takes for people to read ingredient labels will be minimised with the use of this app as users will get results within a matter of seconds once the product has been scanned.

Word Count: 10,000

# Bibliography

Pawankar, R., 2014. Allergic diseases and Asthma: A global public health concern and a call to action.. *World Allergy Organization Journal .*

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