



RESEARCH DOCUMENT POE PART 1

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1. Introduction

The following research is based on three timer-based applications from the Google Play Store. I will provide an overview of each application, along with a detailed descriptions of specific features I find innovative. Accompanied by screenshots, the strengths and weaknesses of each application will also be highlighted. Additionally, I will include a section highlighting all the best features that I would personally like to implement in my own timer application. The primary objective of this investigation is to utilize this knowledge to create an innovative as well as user-friendly timer application of my own. (Dutta, 2024)

Pomodoro Timer

Overview of the application:



Pomodoro Timer

Appfx.eu

4.6★
120K reviews

1M+
Downloads

Everyone

Install

Share

Add to wishlist

This app is available for your device



The main objective of this application is to ensure the user , will obtain a structured workflow , and in turn will combat procrastination thanks to the time blocking technique that this application uses , Time blocking also known as the Pomodoro method is when you allocate a short increment of time generally 25 minutes to start a task/ complete a task and you are there after rewarded by a 5 minute break , after this process is repeated the user will be rewarded with a longer break ,studies have shown that it helps to fight procrastination as well prevents multitasking , increasing motivation and prevents mental fatigue in the long run (Sheldon, No date)

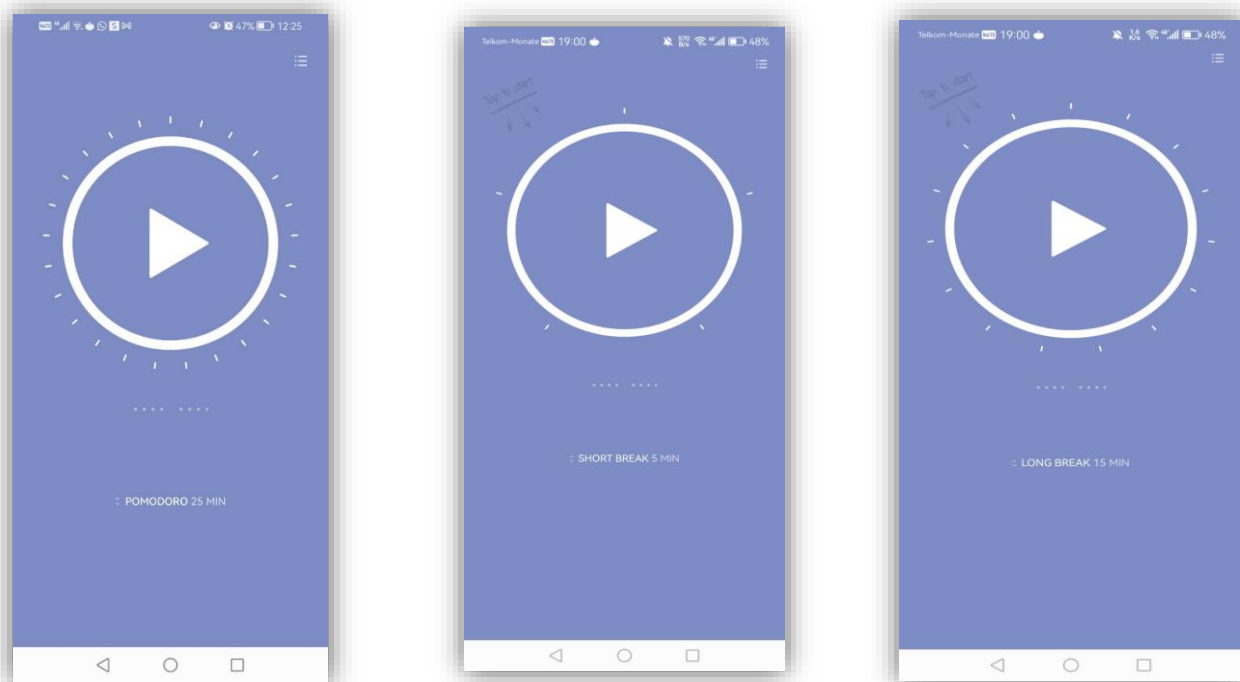


FIGURE 1 : THE TIMER WILL BEGIN WHEN THE USER, CLICKS ON THE PLAY BUTTON, BY PRESSING ON THE UP, AND DOWN ARROW, THEY CAN CHANGE THE POMODORO TIMER TO THE BREAK TIMER AS WELL AS LONG BREAK TIMER (COLLINS, 2020)

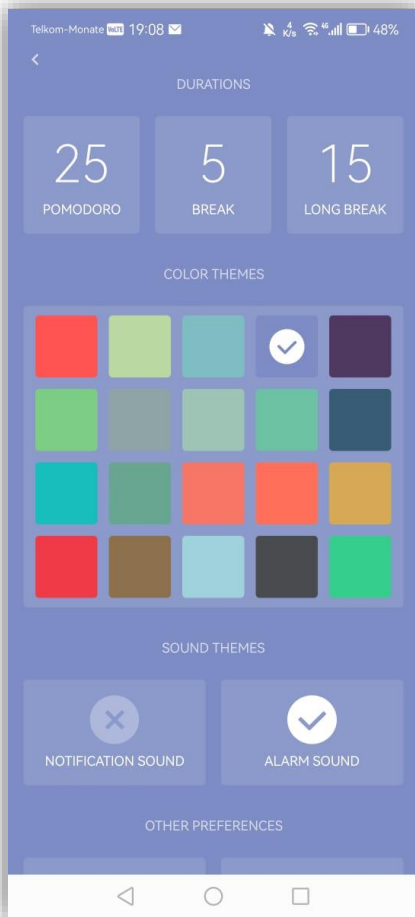


FIGURE 2: USERS CAN CHANGE THE DURATION OF EACH TIMER , AS WELL AS INDICATE A SPECIFIC COLOUR THEME OF THEIR CHOICE ,THEY CAN EVEN DETERMINE IF THEY WANT THE END OF THE TIMER SOUND TO BE THE SOUND OF ALARM TONE OR A NOTATION MESSAGE BASED TONE (COLLINS, 2020)

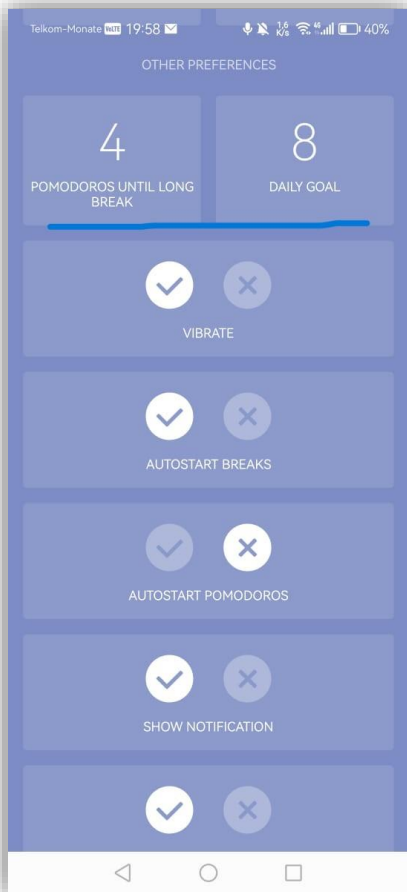


FIGURE 3 : ALLOWS THE USER TO SET THEIR DAILY POMODORO SESSION GOALS, AS WELL AS HOW MANY SESSIONS THEY SHOULD HAVE UNTIL THEY HAVE A LONG BREAK, THE REST OF THE FEATURES ARE JUST BASIC MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES THAT ALL APPS HAVE (COLLINS, 2020)

Strengths and Weakness: Pomodoro Timer

Strengths:

- Pomodoro Technique Implementation , if the user is successful with the following implemented technique , it will truly enhance their productivity as well as break up their work flow into more manageable time allocated tasks , preventing mental fatigue (Watts, 2023)
- Customizable time durations: Allow using to customise the provided timers rather than them using the general pre-set times are rather innovative allowing the user to manage their work flow using their preference time durations (Watts, 2023)
- Minimalistic user interface : the user face is pretty basic and easy to use making the app suitable for almost any age group to use , it is also really innovative that they have allowed the user to customize the colour theme of the application based on their colour preference (Watts, 2023)
- Cross- Platform Compatibility: the application is available on multiple devices , being android , iOS as well as other devices such as smart watches and tablets (Sheldon, No date)
- There are no ads , or sign up or logins required , unlike most applications

Weaknesses

- Limited features : Additional features could have been added , like a task assigner that allows the user to allocate a certain amount of Pomodoro timers to a set task , for example (Open source part 1 , 5 Pomodoro cycles) , it prevents the user from constantly having to reset the timer , which in turn can cause distractions (Watts, 2023)
- Sometimes the notification does not ring , the timer is buggy ,sometimes if the app is running in the background a session could go longer then the allocated time indicated (Watts, 2023)
- The app doesn't work if the user is running the app in their phone background (Watts, 2023)

Innovative features of the application

The fact that users have the ability, to select their own colour scheme , enhancing the customisation of the app is rather innovative because many users could have different preferences as well as be sensitive to certain colours , this features overall adds to a positive user experience (Forbes, 2021)

Timebox Timer

Overview of the application:

Timebox Timer

Timebox App

Contains ads · In-app purchases

4.5★
3.06K reviews

100K+
Downloads

Everyone

Install

Share

Add to wishlist

This app is available for your device



Timebox Timer is a user friendly application that allows you to track the time you spent working on various tasks , it keeps you accountable as well as allows you to manage your time efficiently , it also allows you to see past tasks , so you can track your time if needed , it is customizable a timer which allows you to change the colour theme of the application as well as the watch face which allows for a pleasant user experience , it also allows for shortcuts , to help you save even more time ! , as well as it being compatible on various devices. (twoproject Blog, 2020)

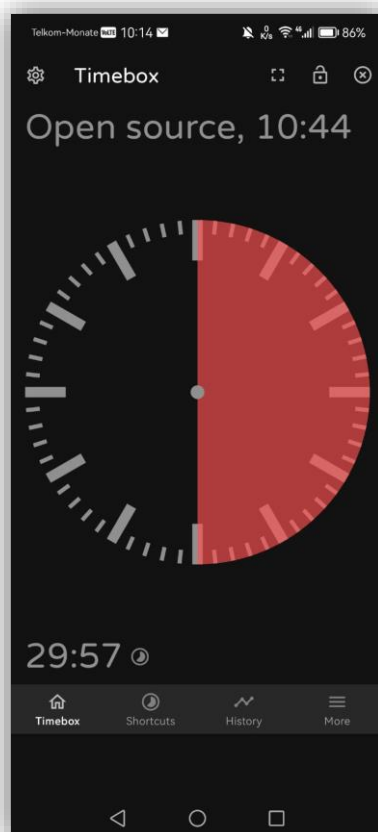


FIGURE 4: SHOW CASES THE TASK AT HAND (OPEN SOURCE) AND THE TIME AT WHICH THE TASK WILL FINISH (10:44AM), IT IS A 30 MINUTE TIMER, THE USER IS ALLOWED TO ADD A TASK UP TO THREE HOURS USING THE TIMER FEATURE, IT ALSO HAS THE LOCK FEATURE TO PREVENT THE SCREEN FROM DIMMING IF YOU WANT TO STAY ON THE APPLICATION (TWOPROJECT BLOG, 2020)

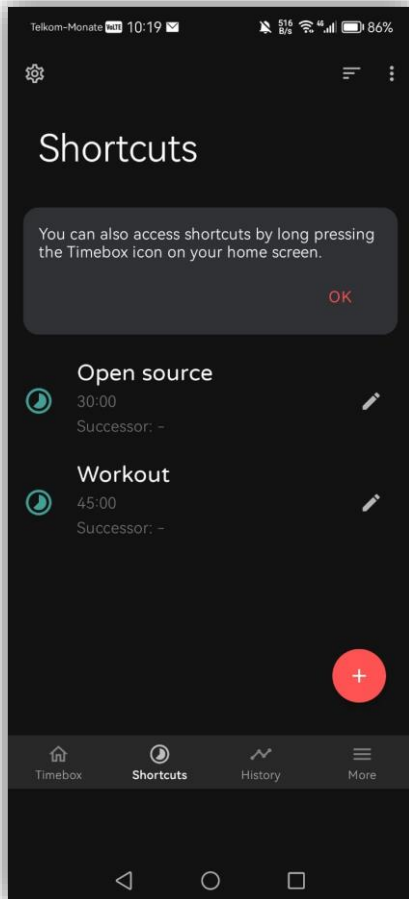


FIGURE 5: THE USER CAN INCLUDE SHORTCUTS, THIS FEATURE IS GENERALLY IMPLEMENTED FOR REPEATING TASKS A USER DOES EVERY DAY, FOR EASY ACCESS THEY CAN HAVE THEM SAVED HERE, AND WHEN A SHORTCUT IS CLICKED ON THE TIMER WILL BEGIN (TWOPROJECT BLOG, 2020)



FIGURE 6: IF THE USER WANTS TO TRACK THEIR TIME SPENT ON TASK THEY CAN ACCESS THE INFORMATION BY USING THE HISTORY FEATURE (TWOPROJECT BLOG, 2020)

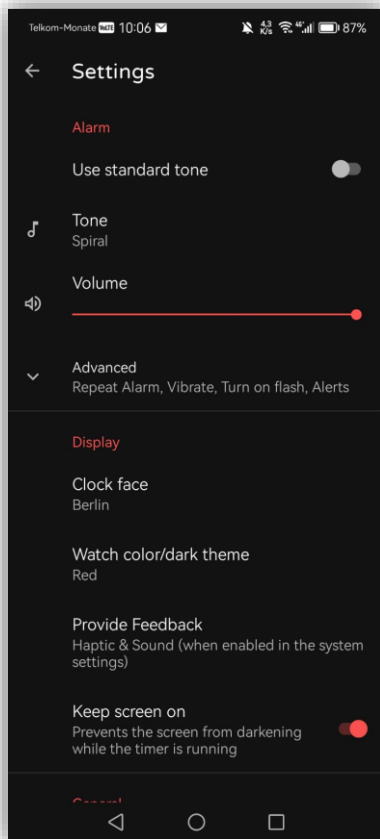


FIGURE 7: USER CUSTOMIZABILITY THE USER CAN SELECT THE DESIRED WATCHED FACE THEY WANT FOR THEIR **TIMER**, YOU CAN ALSO CHANGE THE ALARM TONE AND CUSTOMISE THAT FURTHER (TWOPROJECT BLOG, 2020)

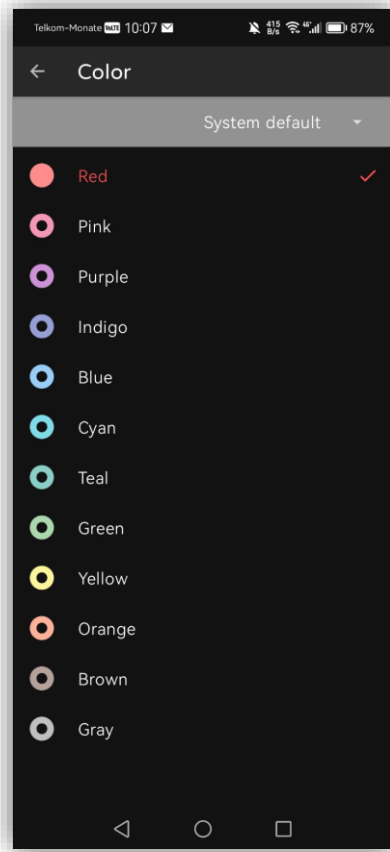


FIGURE 8 : THE USER ALSO HAS THE OPTION TO CHANGE THE COLOUR THEME OF THE APPLICATION (TWOPROJECT BLOG, 2020)

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths:

- Application allows for the user to customise the main features of the application that allows for a good user experience , being the watch face design , colour theme , as well as notification tone (Martins, 2024)
- The user can indicate the task they want to work on , and the allocated time they want to work on it for (twoproject Blog, 2020)
- The user face is pretty user friendly ,it also processes short cut prompts that guides the user on how to use the application (Martins, 2024)
- The short cut feature is a nice implementation , for daily tasks a user might do on a day to day bases (Martins, 2024)
- The history , feature is great for time tracking , if they user wants to see how much work they did for a particular week or a particular week (Forbes, 2021)

Weaknesses

- The timer can only go up to three hour intervals , it would be nice if they could implement a 24 hour clock (twoproject Blog, 2020)
- Progress should be store in a analysis report , it would be easier for the user to track their time rather than just the history tab (Martins, 2024)
- The user should be able to implement task in advanced , a colander feature should be implemented , and the total number of hours worked for today should be implemented
- Lack of security , if there is a premium version of the app , the user should have to be logged into the application 1st
- Implementation of a digital time clock , for greater user experience
- Payment feature for the premium version does not work

Innovative features of the application

The shortcut feature is really innovative for it allows the users easy access to tasks they may do on a daily bases , which I find really convenient , as well as the watch face customization feature , it's always great to take into considerations the users personal preference . (Martins, 2024)

Forest – Focus for productivity

Overview of the application:

Forest: Focus for Productivity

Seekrtech

Contains ads · In-app purchases

4.7★
658K reviews

10M+
Downloads

Editors' Choice

Everyone

Install on more devices

Share



The objective of the following application is to ensure productivity of the user, through gamification, by creating virtual trees, Forest aims to persuade people to put down their phones and concentrate on their work. A virtual tree is planted when you begin a task or set a timer in the app, and it grows as long as you maintain concentrate and don't use your phone. The tree dies if you close the app to check your phone .Furthermore, Forest frequently collaborates with actual tree-planting organizations, allowing users to use the app to support reforestation initiatives, thus helping the environment in the same process if you upgrade to the premium version (Ania, 2021)



FIGURE 9 : POMODORO BASED TIME WHICH ALLOWS THE USER TO SET A SESSION RANGING FROM 10 MINUTES TO 2 HOURS (GALLUCCI, 2019)

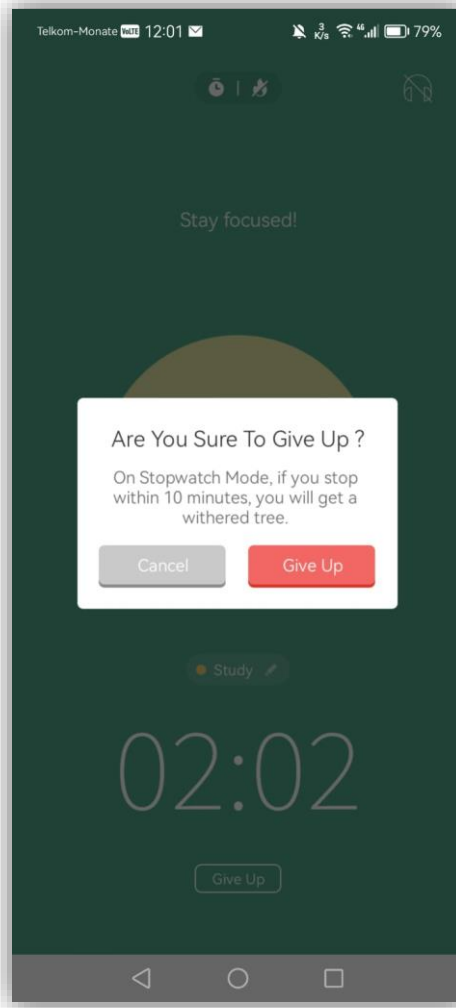


FIGURE 10 : STOP WATCH MODE , THIS MODE CAN BE USED IF YOU WANT TO TIME YOURSELF AND SEE HOW LONG YOU TAKE TO COMPLETE A TASK , IF YOU STOP THE STOPWATCH BEFORE 10 MINUTES YOUR TREE WILL WITHER (GALLUCCI, 2019)

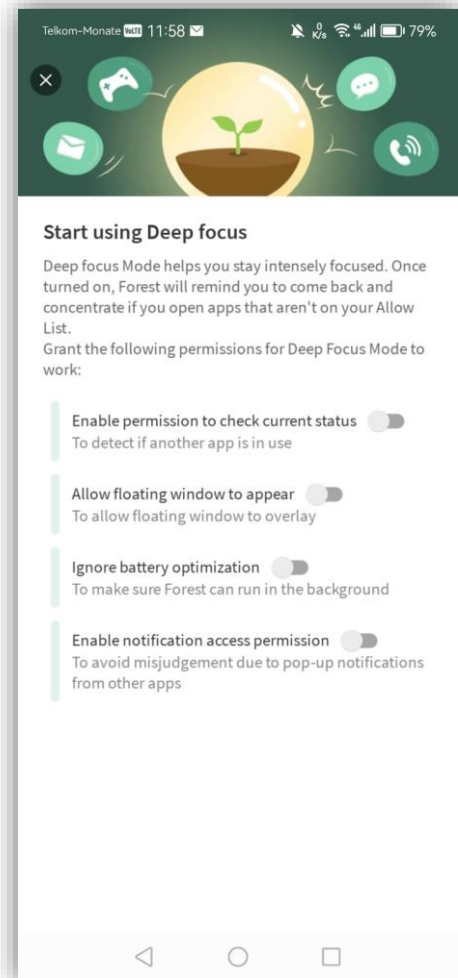
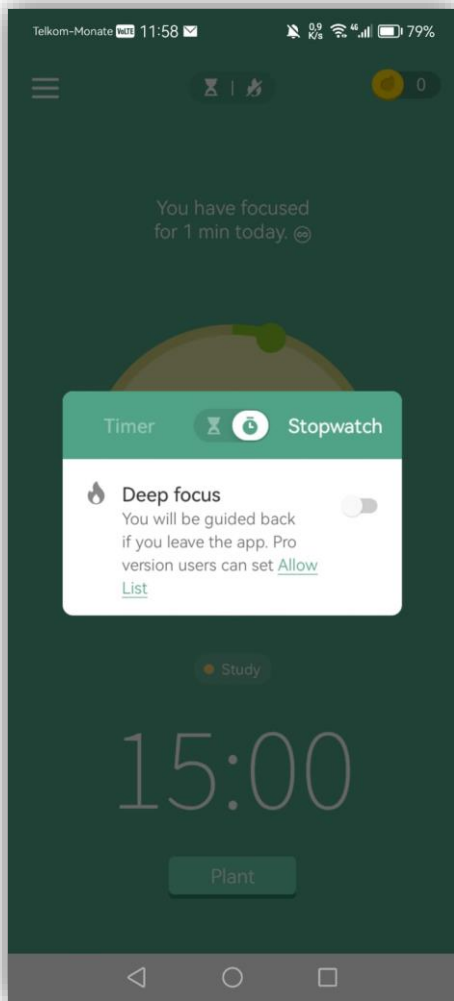


FIGURE 11: DEEP FOCUS MODE IS ACCESSIBLE ON THE STOPWATCH MODE, WHERE YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE FOREST APPLICATION (GALLUCCI, 2019)

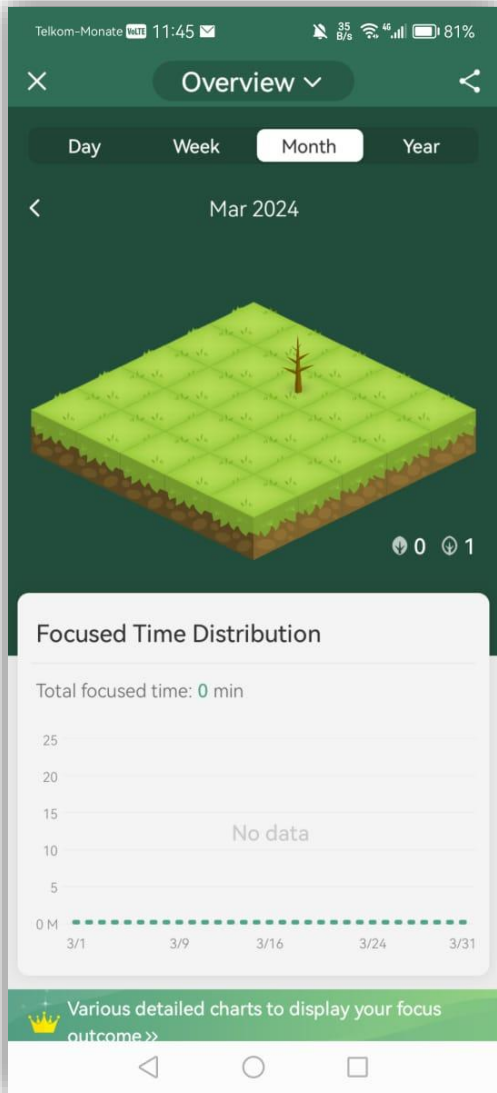


FIGURE 12: ALLOWS YOU TO TRACK YOUR TIME, AND GIVES YOU A PROGRESS CHART, FOR THAT PARTICULAR DAY, WEEK, MONTH AS WELL AS YEAR (ANIA, 2021)

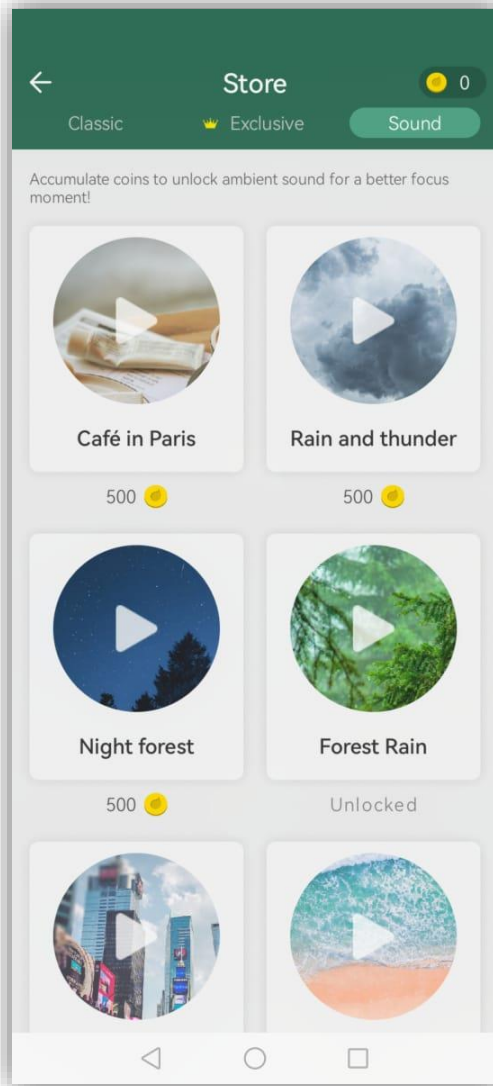
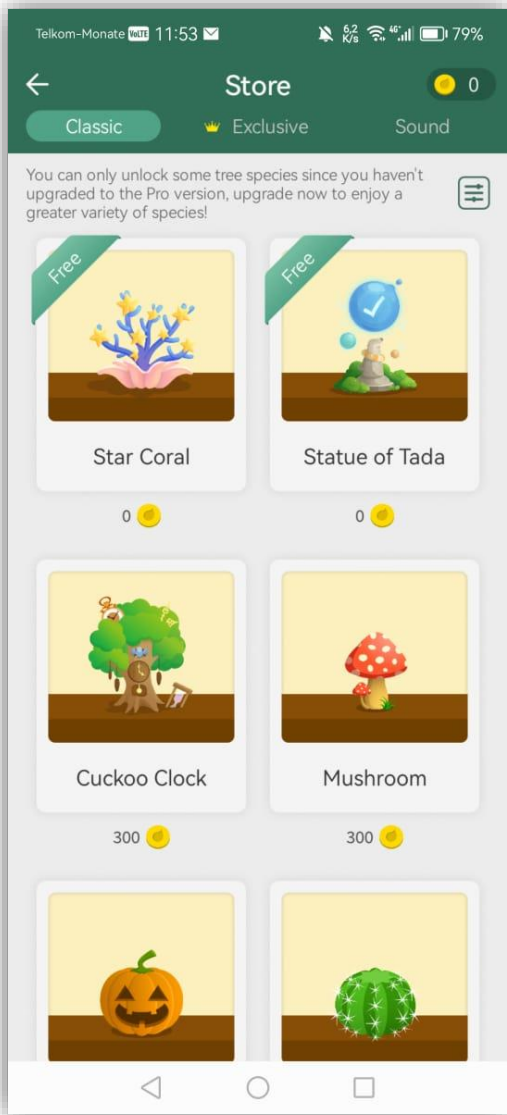


FIGURE 13: EVERY TIME YOU PLANT A SUCCESSFUL TREE ON YOUR POMODORO TIMER OR STOP WATCH YOU GAIN COINS WHICH YOU CAN COLLECT AND USE TO BUY MORE TREES OR SOUNDS TO PLAY IN THE BACKGROUND (GALLUCCI, 2019)

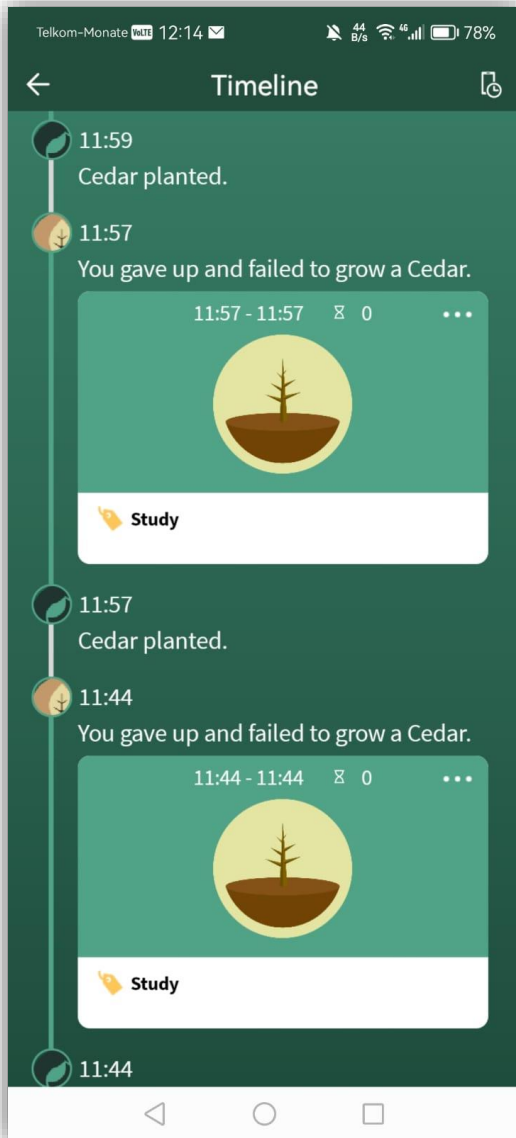


FIGURE 14 : A TIME LINE OF YOUR ACTIVITY ON THE APPLICATION (ANIA, 2021)

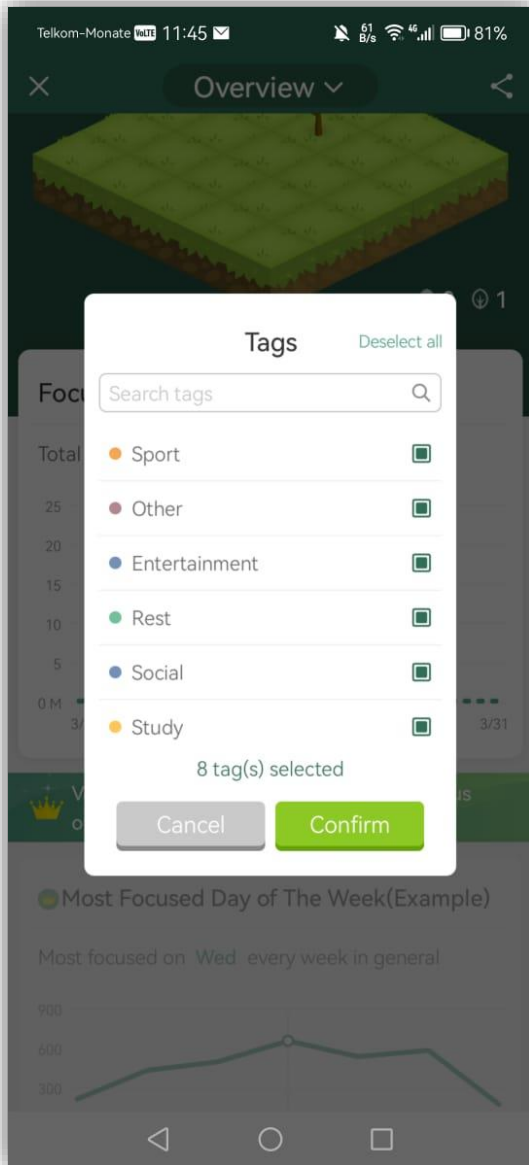


FIGURE 15 : YOU CAN INDICATE A SPECIFIC TAG ON YOUR POMODORO OR STOP WATCH TIMER TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF TASK YOU ARE WORKING WITH (ANIA, 2021)

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Enhances the users productivity levels , by encouraging them to stay of their phones to target their procrastination , by doing so and completing a Pomodoro session they will gain coins and grow virtual trees , this is seen as a visual representation of the users productivity (Brandon, 2020)
- Gamification , through the concept of growing trees it is seen as a fun way for users to stay productive (Ania, 2021)
- Customization , users have the freedom to determine the duration of their Pomodoro sessions as well as the types of tress they can grow virtually by complete the Pomodoro tasks , which aids in a good user experience (Brandon, 2020)
- UI , the user interface is rather simple and easy to use
- Report analytics , the users can see their progress , per day , week , month and even a year , which is seen as a huge motivation , seen their past progress (Gallucci, 2019)

Weaknesses

- Forest is only compatibly on smart phone devices , can is not accessible through desktops , laptops etc, due to this limitation , it may be rather restrictive on users who would prefer to work on multiple devices (Ania, 2021)
- Cost , the free version comes with great features but a lot of the features requires the user to upgrade to the premium version of the application (Brandon, 2020)

List of best features I want to include in my app

(Watts, 2023)

- Colour theme , customization (Pomodoro timer) , no two individual are the same , this allows the user to customize the application to their liking , they may be sensitive to certain colours as well as , the main objective is to ensure the user has a great user experience
- Dark mode implementation (TimeBox Timer) , allows the user to adapt the application to their personal liking again ensuring a great user experience for them
- Gamification , forest has a queue and creative way of ensuring their users stay productive and motivated , I would like to implement a similar reward system , where once the Pomodoro session is completed they will gain a virtual reward
- Report analytics , just like TimeBox Timer and forest , the user is allowed to track their time spent on the app , seeing their past progress can be a great boost of motivation , to ensure they stay motivated to continue to study
- Short cut accessibility (TimeBox Timer) , to prevent time wasting users can create pre-made Pomodoro sessions for daily activities , they can set the task as well as the time duration it may take for them to complete it , for example exercising, so they can just press on the shortcut and the Pomodoro session will begin

Conclusion

In conclusion, from the above study by researching these three applications, I have gained sufficient knowledge. I have observed common mistakes made by these app developers, as well as gained inspiration from their creations. It is evident that their attention to detail and emphasis on providing a great user experience are important factors in ensuring an app stands out from others. As well as the importance of scalability, as it ensures the application can accommodate growth as well as the evolving needs of the apps users I now clearly see the features I should focus in my own application as a result of this research. I'm better able to create a product that not only meets user wants but also provides creative ways to improve time management and productivity (Dutta, 2024)

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