Requirements Report

When: September 25, 2012 at 4:10 PM

Where: Edmunds 101

Who: Team: Robin Momii, Skyler Lipscomb, Amy Ruskin, Siyao Xie

Users being interviewed: Sasha, Ally

Open ended information gathering:

Sasha:

* wants to know more about local vegetation
* hasn’t used any other kind of plant id apps
* spends a lot of time at the farm

Ally:

* currently uses a wildflower field guide but it is not convenient to carry one around and they are expensive; uses the field guide by color and then by stem types or the number of petals but sometimes the plant she is looking for isn’t even in the field guide
* knows of other plant apps but they are difficult to use (i.e. plucking a flower and placing it against a solid black background to identify it)

New requirements that were suggested:

Sasha:

* would like to keep track of what you grow, when you started growing it, and where; also to have the ability to share that information easily with others and how easy it is to grow
* National Park information: what kind of plants you can see there during what time of year
* information on state flowers/plants and a list of endangered plants

Ally:

* a social component where if you look up a flower, it can give a map of all of the areas within the state (or country?) where different users have seen that flower/plant
* a notification that someone has answered your question about a plant you wanted to have identified
* maybe a bank of questions you’ve asked and answers that appear there to make it convenient
* the ability to enter your own level of flower knowledge or confidence
* having the ability to search for plants by their common nicknames (like “sticky monkey”)
* a “uses” section would be nice: if it is used in medicine or something; cool facts!

Significant input on previously gathered requirements:

Sasha:

* using step by step questions (similar to 20 questions game) would make the search part of the application easier to use
* be able to look up the types of plants within a particular area (a map)
* include a warning for plants that are stated as edible in the app (i.e. have a warning that says “stay away from this kind of berry” or “caution, this plant also looks like\_\_\_”)
* it would be nice to see pictures that other hikers have taken to clarify what plant you’re actually looking at
* incentive for answering questions doesn’t really matter; if you love plants and this app is popular then you’ll probably answer
* would be nice to have the photos upload automatically once you have online capabilities (after hiking)

Ally:

* use a basic silhouette of a flower so the user knows what they’re looking for when they are searching on the app
* useful facts for each plant (edible, poisonous)
* would want to keep track of plants you have seen or plants that you’ve grown/are growing
* once you have searched for a plant on this app and it’s information page pops up, it would be nice to see not just the locations in which you can see it but the time of year as well (and time of day)
* having an easy to use picture bank would be really important
* if it doesn’t look messy or troublesome then she would identify other flowers for people; maybe a page of unidentified pictures shows up and you can easily go through and identify them or skip over them
* it would be nice to see how many posts someone has done to verify their expertise (maybe some sort of rating system)
* using more laymen terms for the search part of the app, such as “sticky”, then it would be more inviting to novices

Other useful information:

Sasha:

* comfortable with uploading pictures of plants they have to seen to help other plant lovers/hikers
* wouldn’t matter if she was anonymous on this app
* doesn’t feel like the app needs to connect to Facebook (but the option would be nice)
* if a plant is particularly striking, then she would probably just google the plant instead of using the plant ID app

Ally:

* users shouldn’t rely on app to tell them whether a plant is edible (especially since some berries look very similar)
* it would be nice to interact as an anonymous user especially if you only use the social part of the app once in a while
* intuitive and easy apps are the most fun
* would like app to be free and/or cheap because flower guides are expensive
* setting goals and checking off lists is satisfying and would make a user go back