cashflow Design

# Purpose

The reasons I keep a budget are:

* To ensure that 10% is given to Charity
* To save money for big purchases or goals
* Maintain an appropriate emergency fund
* Monitor account transactions for fraud
* To implement the 10% rule

# System Concepts

## Concept 1

* Enter only the following transactions:
  + Charity
  + Marann’s spending on the Southwest Card
* Compare to a budget. Don’t budget all money

## Concept 2

* Make an incremental change and just stop recording a couple of the biggest categories
* For example, stop distinguishing Spending from Living, and make a separate Goal category for gifts and big spending. So I’d be putting day-to-day spending in with Living and keeping more occasional spending separate.
* Gifts is already a fund, add some % distribution to it for now

Process

* Record all transactions except the Living category.
* When I balance my accounts, calculate the difference between the account balances and the budget balances
* Enter a transaction for Living equal to the difference calculated.

Future:

* Create tools to read in exported files from Chase, Widget, and AmEx and compare those transactions to the ones entered by hand, using the account, amount, and date (+/- 3 days) information. Line up transactions from bank with transactions entered, and identify any differences.

# Requirements

## Concept 1

### Display Information

Display the monthly budget.

Display goals I’m saving for.

Display total of checking accounts, and target for this pay period, so that I know how much I have available for spending.

Display balance of Charity account.

### Information Entry

Record transactions in the Charity or Goals categories.

# Design

## Concept 1

List of budgets to record transactions for

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Budget | Starting Balance | Distribution from Income |
| Card | Card | 0% |
| Charity | Charity | 10%-12% |
|  |  |  |

Goals are handled the same as budgets, but they are temporary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Starting Balance | Distribution from Income |
| New Car | Car Exp | 2% |
| 10% Rule | Ten Percent |  |
| Emergency Fund | Emergency Fund | 2% |

Transactions to still record

* Income
* Card
* Charity
* Goal Money spent

Budget