

## **SI 543- The Pantry Planner**

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### **- What is it about?**

The Pantry Planner provides users with cooking options based on ingredients on hand. Users are welcome to post meal plan questions and respond to those online posts. System functions include: tracking of groceries on hand and meal planning based on existing ingredients, meal recommendations from other users, system-generated recipes from a variety of world cuisines, and a user profile that gains points / status based upon frequency and quality of collaboration and user reviews.

### **- Who are the user groups?**

Our users include anybody who is interested in food, and hates allowing food to expire. From college students and single professionals to working families and foodies, this application focuses on men and women in their 20s and 30s, but will benefit a wide range of people. Whether you're a kitchen novice or a culinary expert, The Pantry Planner is the right app for your appetite.

### **- Why is it important?**

This app can help: plan that special meal or save a trip to the store by cooking with ingredients available; build user's comfort around the kitchen, while saving money and reducing food waste (cooking with what you have on hand); facilitate business for restaurants and specialty stores who advertise or offer coupons. The Pantry Planner also provides a potential venue for aspiring chefs who want to start their own restaurants or build name recognition.

### **- What are the competitors?**

- 1) Direct Competitors are existing meal planning apps. Some of the examples are: Food Planner, an app that only has system-generated recipes and doesn't facilitate interactions between users. AllRecipes, another app that allows users to rate uploaded meals as well as leave comments on recipes. However, users do not have the ability to retrieve meals based on the ingredients they have on hand.
- 2) Indirect Competitors includes local restaurants who offer takeout /delivery, cooking blogs and culinary books, and social media that can share cooking experiences.

### **- Why is your idea better?**

Based on research about existing food planner apps, our app -"The Pantry planner" combines both system-level suggestions (menus given by system) and user activities, which will greatly encourage collaboration across the virtual community.

## Sketches

