

Interação Pessoa-Máquina
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Notii

Stage 2: User and task analysis



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Problem

Currently many note-taking apps only focus on the goal of storing and listing notes. Numerous apps like these are used mostly for temporary notes like, to-do lists and random thoughts collection. A huge build up of notes can become quite tedious and hard to manage for many people. There lacks a solution for the scalability and centralization of information.

There should be an app whose mission is to help and teach users how to store and organize information, with the aim to aid users deepen their knowledge and find connections between information.

This is Notii's mission. Based on the Zettelkasten theory, Notii helps users keep track of all the notes they create, organizing them according to the "slip-box" theory with the use of tags and help instigate that further wish for learning. By making their notes public, users can share their knowledge with everyone else on the app, thus fighting the decentralization of information.

User analysis

Where are they?

The target market can be anywhere in the world, although there might be a bigger affluence in developed countries, specifically countries that have a higher rate of academic pursuit.

Who are they?

Can be anyone of any age group. There can be a higher preference amongst students, teachers, scientific community, researchers, but also any person with a desire to learn and deepen their knowledge.

User Classes

1. **Young people** – probably students, in either high school or university, eager to learn more about their areas of specialty, that wish to have a place where they can easily organize and store all new information; (ages 15-25)
2. **Young adults** – people that already have some expertise on certain areas, and can really benefit from having all that information on an app like Notii, allowing them to even deepen their wisdom; (ages 26-35)
3. **Adults** – active members of the community. Will probably be the ones that can really take advantage of the app to its fullest, due to the probability that they already have a massive collection of notes; (ages 36-65)

Task analysis

This analysis will omit common tasks like sign in, sign up, delete account, among others, since every app needs these operations to function probably.

Create a new note

Perhaps the most used function on the app. User is able to create a new note. Possibility to write anything they wish. May have a title or not, it's not mandatory. User needs to write at least one character in order to create a note.

Edit a note

There needs to be at least one note created previously by the user in order to be able to edit one. User can delete, edit, add anything they wish. Shortcuts for many operations are also available above the keyboard to help the user experience.

Read a note

There needs to be at least one note in the account for the user to be able to consult it. User is able to read a note's content after clicking on it and opening it.

Remove a note

There needs to be at least one note in the account for the user to be able to remove it. User can remove it two ways. Either on the note itself, or from the listing.

Make a note public/private

There needs to be at least one note created previously by the user. User can change the visibility of a note, making it public to all users, or private, hiding it.

Search from tags

There needs to be at least one note, with a tag, in the account for the user to be able to search for it. User can search for notes by selecting the tags they wish to filter the search. If there are any matches, the notes with the selected tags will appear below.

Advanced search

There needs to be at least one note in the account for the user to be able to search. User can do a full text search, meaning they can search for any word, phrase or expression, and the result will show one or more notes containing the text searched for. The result can also return no results in case it does not find any.

Connection graph

There needs to be at least one note, with a tag, in the account for the user to be able to visualize a graph.

User can consult the graph page all will be also the see all the tags they created, interconnected with all the notes that contain those tags.

Discover notes

There need to be public notes on the app. User can search for other notes in the app, made by other users.

Fork a note

User can fork, i.e. copy and add, a note from another user to their account.

Follow another user

User can follow or unfollow another user on the app.

Star a note

User can start, i.e. give a like, to another user's note.

*The following tasks **might** be part of the final product, but it's not a sure thing yet.

Analytics

There needs to be at least one note in the account for the user to be able to consult analytics. User can consult how many notes they created, how many notes per tag, the most viewed note, time spent write/reading, etc.

Hub creation

When a user reaches a certain amount of notes that contain a specific tag the user will be prompted to create a hub for that tag. A hub is a table of contents, where the user can organize and link all the notes from just one document, giving brief descriptions about each note.

Open random note on daily sign in

There needs to be at least one note created by the user to enjoy this function. This task could be enabled or disabled, depending on the user preference. The idea is that when the user signs in, the app will prompt the user with a random note. This event would occur once per day.

Scenario design

Create new note

By clicking on the floating action button, presented on many of the main tabs, a new page opens, where the user is able to write a new note. User can write anything they wish. After that, by clicking on the back button presented in the toolbar, the user returns to the previous page where they will find the newly created note.

Search from tags

After selecting the correct tab, the user is prompted with a new page that has a search bar on top and a few of the most common tags below. User can select multiple tags from the ones shown below, or search for more on the search bar. Below will be shown all the results depending on the tags that were selected.

Connection graph

User can consult the connection graph by accessing it from the profile page (might be a different route or not, TBD). A new page will show up with all the tags the user has created and all the notes that connect to each tag. User may also consult such notes by clicking on their nodes.

Discover notes

After entering on the Discover page a user can search for notes in the app either by full-text search or by tags. If the app discovered any results, notes that fulfilled the requirements input by the user will show up below. A user can then consult a specific note, star it and even fork it.

Interview

First subject

22, male, familiar with the Zettelkasten theory

This person uses an equivalent of the Zettelkasten theory as their own personal note-taking app. Upon presenting the idea of an app that offers such a thing, they received the idea well, and mentioned that an app like this could go even further beyond by giving users the ability to use an API.

Second subject

37, male, unfamiliar with the Zettelkasten theory

This subject does not have the habit of taking notes, except for basic ones like to-do lists, and random quotes or thoughts collection. Although the lack of use for such a thing, an app like Notii does actually presents itself as a revolutionary way to obtain knowledge. Upon receiving a comment like this one, I can perceive that this person would probably use the app more as a way to search for information, and not for creating notes.

Third subject

60, female, unfamiliar with the Zettelkasten theory

This particular subject likes to write and is known for taking a lot of notes, but all in paper. When questioned about the potential usage of an app for such tasks, the subject enjoyed the idea of having a place where they can quickly filter and access their notes.