User Manual for Group Loop

Group Loop is an Android app that allows users to interact with members of their groups through text lists and schedules. When speaking about both text lists and schedules, they will be referred to as "Chip Items".
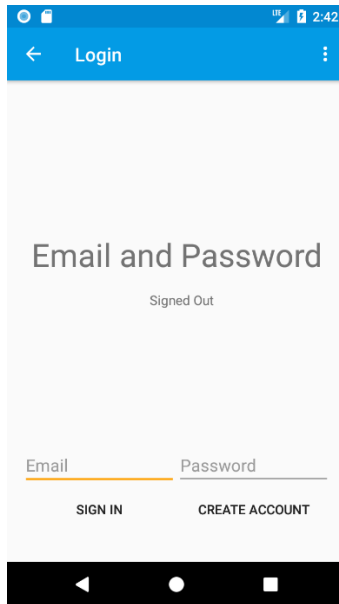

Figure 1

Sign-in/Sign-up

When the app is first opened, press the SIGN-IN/SIGN-UP button to get to the screen displayed in Figure 1. Enter your email address and desired password into the designated slots. If you do not already have an account, press the CREATE ACCOUNT button to make the account. If you do already have an account, press the SIGN IN button.

Once you sign in or create the account, you will be taken back to the main menu. Press the PREFERENCES/VERIFY EMAIL button to go to User Account Preferences seen in Figure2.

Account Preferences

When in the User Account Preferences page(Figure2), the user can see their account summary. The account summary displays the username, email address, groups, and currently selected group of the user. The VERIFY EMAIL button sends an email to the email address linked to the account. Verifying is a security measure that prevents a random person from making an account with your email address. The CHANGE GROUP button takes the user to the Group Management page which allows the user to switch the active group and join more groups. The LOGOUT button is used to log the user out of the account.
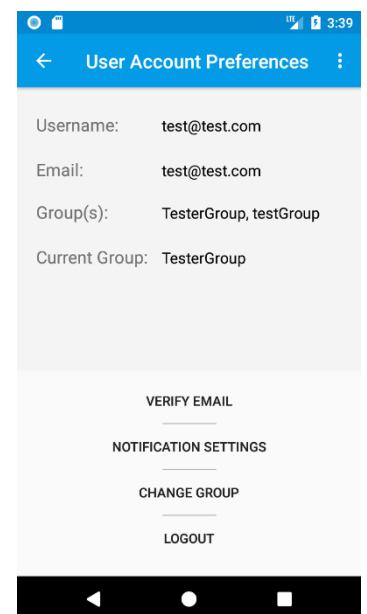

Figure 2

Group Management

After tapping on the CHANGE GROUP button in User Account Preferences, the user is taken to the Group Management page(Figure3).

If you are not currently part of any groups, you can either create a new group or join an existing one. Press the blue plus sign button to go to the Create Group menu(Figure4). To make the group, just put a unique group name into the textbox and press CREATE GROUP. It will automatically set the new group as active. To join a group that has already been made, go to the Group Management menu and type the name of the group into the textbox at the top. Then press JOIN A GROUP and you will become a member of the group.

Once a user is a member in two or more groups, they can change the active group. The purpose of changing groups is to separate the Chip Items so they are unique to each group. To choose the group whose Chip Items you want to view, you need to set it as your active group. To switch your active group, you need to go to the Group Management page(Figure3). Once there, tap on the group you wish to make active and a set of two buttons will appear. Press SET ACTIVE and the group will become your active group. To view the current active group, go to the User Account Preferences page(Figure2) where it will be displayed with the title "Current Group:".

The user can also remove themselves from a group if they no longer wish to be a part of it. To do this, go to the Group Management page(Figure3). Tap on the group you want to be removed from to bring up a set of buttons. Press the REMOVE GROUP button and you will no longer be shown as part of the group, or be able to see the group. If you wish to join the group again after removing yourself from it, you can do so the same way as joining a new group.
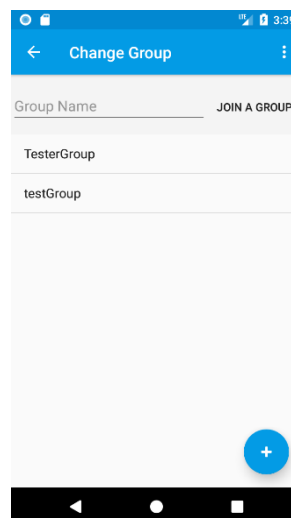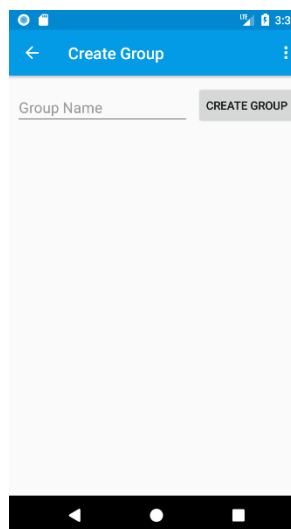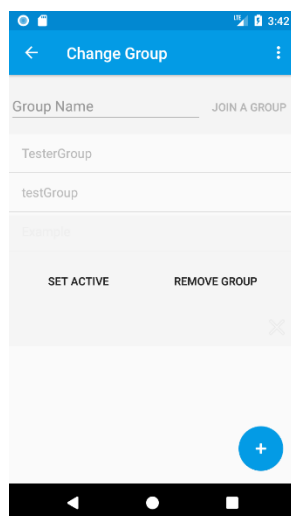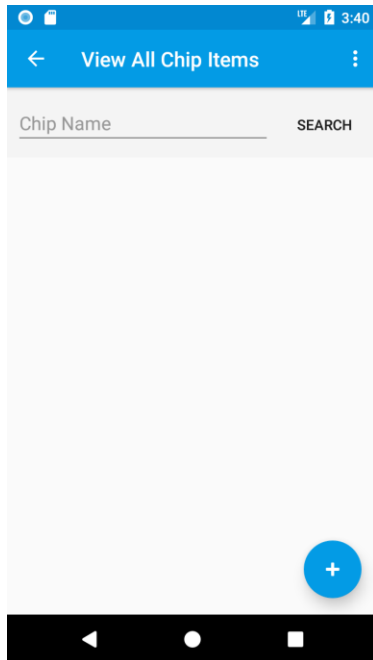
Figure 3

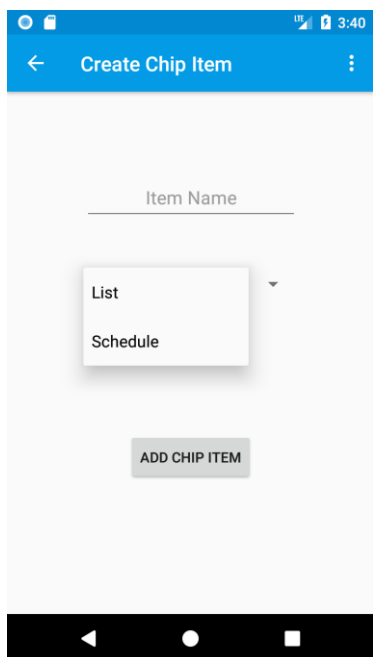*Figure 4*

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Chip Items

Chip Items are the text lists and schedules that are associated with a group. They are unique to each group, so to view the Chip Items for a group you must make it your active group. Once the desired group is active, go back to the home screen. From the home screen, press the CHIP ITEMS button and you will be taken to the View All Chip Items page(Figure6).

If the group you are viewing has Chip Items, they will be displayed, but Figure6 is a new group and is empty. To create a new Chip Item, press the blue plus sign button. You will then be taken to the Create Chip Item page(Figure7). To make the Chip Item, first enter the name of the object. Then, using the drop-down menu, select if you want the Chip Item to be a List or a Schedule. Finally, press the ADD CHIP ITEM button to create it and to be automatically taken to the new Chip Item.

When the group has a few Chip Items it will look like Figure8. The Chip Items are displayed based on when they were added to the group. It also says what type the Chip Item is underneath the name. To access the list or schedule, just tap on the box of the desired item.
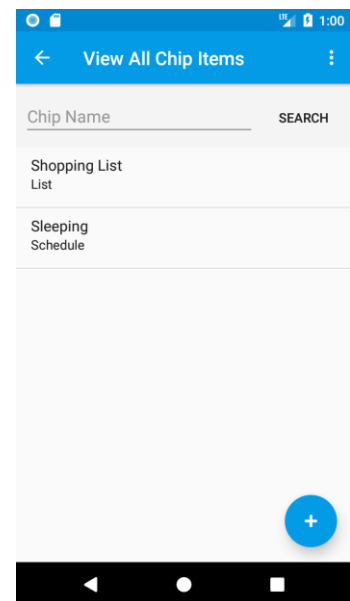

Figure 8

Lists

After tapping on a list on the Chip Items page, you will be taken to the View List Item page(Figure9). Lists can be used for all sorts of things, but for an example we will make a shopping list. If the list is new, it will be empty like in Figure9.

To add an item to the list, press the blue plus sign button. The Add New Item menu will then pop up. If you wish to go back to the list, just press the back-arrow button on the top left and nothing will be added to the list. If you still want to add an item, put the name of the item or task you want in the text box and press the ADD NEW ITEM button. You will then be taken back to the list and the item will be added(Figure11). It is also added to the list in real time for other members in the group looking at the list.

If you no longer want an item or task in the list, you can delete it. For instance, if you are at the grocery store and just picked up some eggs and no longer need it on the grocery list, it should be deleted. To delete the item, press and hold it from the View List Item page and it will remove it. It will also be removed from the list in real time for anyone else in the group looking at it.
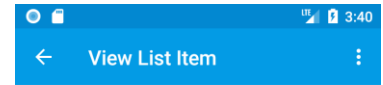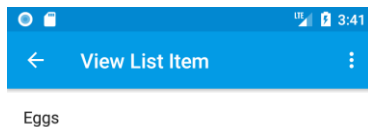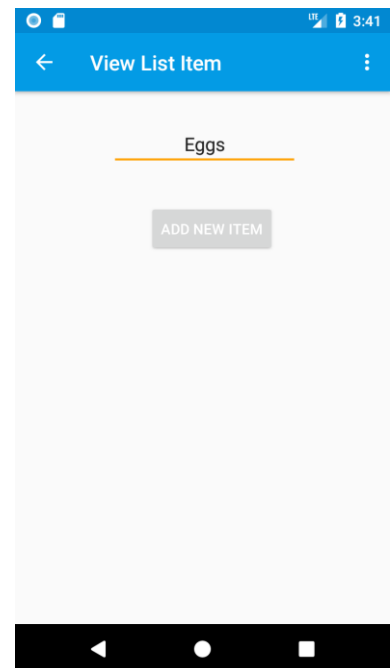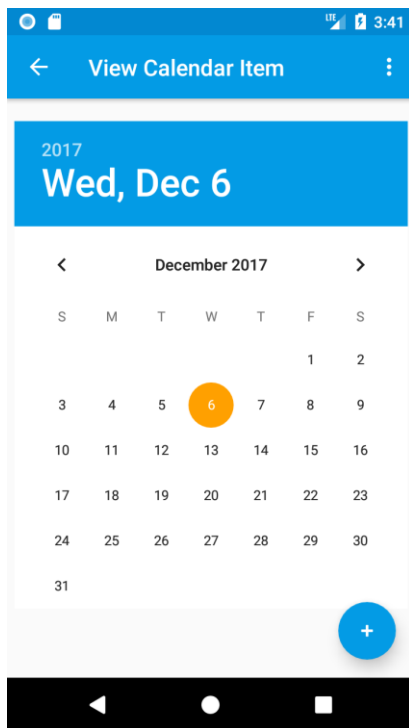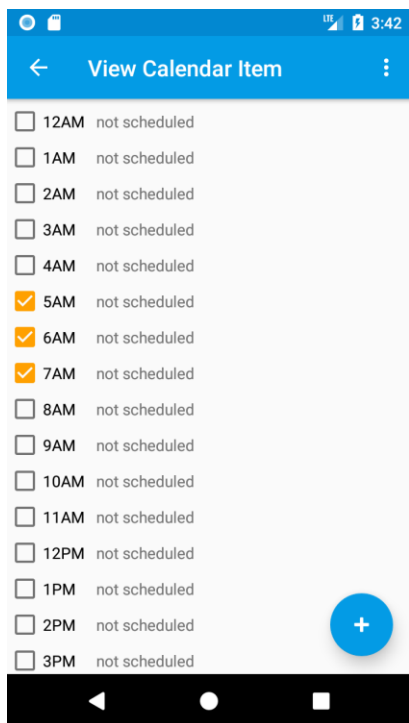
Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

Schedule Item

After tapping on a schedule on the Chip Items page, you will be taken to the View Calendar Item page(Figure12). Schedules are used to reserve something like a car, or they are used to let other people in the group know something is happening at a certain time. For this example, we made a sleeping schedule.

When you first view the Calendar Item, you will see a monthly calendar. To change month, press the forward or back arrow next to the currently displayed month. To see the schedule for a specific day, press the day you want. When it is highlighted with the orange circle, press the blue plus sign button. You will then be on a screen that looks like Figure13.

If someone is signed up for a time slot, it will be greyed out and their user name will replace "not scheduled". To reserve a time slot, check the desired slots and press the blue plus sign button. Your user name will then replace "not scheduled" (Figure14). If you no longer want the time slot reserved, uncheck the boxes and update it by pressing the blue plus sign button again. Only the user that reserves the slot can remove themselves from it. Other people in the group cannot also sign up for the same time slot.
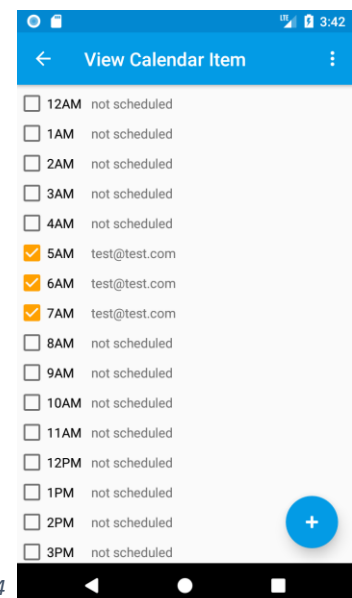
Figure 12

Figure 13

Figure 14