App Research Report

A note taking app is used to gather, store and review information in digital forms such as files, media content or recordings. These applications can offer the same aspects similarly to studying with pen and paper. However, the advantage of these applications is that you can store and organise information digitally. Note apps can offer cloud storage and auto-backups without the physical clutter of notes. They have unique features where the user is capable of sharing notes, give access for collaboration and more than what traditional studying can offer.

These applications have varying limits or effectiveness since it depends on who uses it. For example, a biology student would need an app that offers features to draw diagrams, annotate notes or transform files into flashcards or other formats. Whereas an employee taking notes during meetings wouldn't use these features as often. Though, from my references, I noticed that the common advantage of note taking apps is that they can be used in everyday life either in education, workforce, or just lifestyle as we have access to information everywhere.

Current Mobile Apps

Most often note taking apps are a part of life for individuals who need to track their information or tasks consistently. Examples of note taking apps that currently exist today are as follows:

- OneNote: an app capable of having your notes handwritten and manage several types of files. It offers cloud storage and real time syncing as well as notebooks, sections, and favourites for organisation. Can create notes in the form of audio or images and provides a multi-window mode for multitasking. It's usually used for educational purposes as it offers features for educators to present their notes live in classes and for collaboration.

- Google Keep: a basic note taking app that allow users to make plain-text notes and provide customisation to these files. It includes an effortless way to share notes and offers the receiver access to edit the note and save changes. It can also manage reminders and sync them to calendars to keep track of tasks or events.

- Notability: another app that supports handwritten notes. Provides cloud storage, auto backups and real time syncing of files. Can support different forms of information such as audio recordings, and math equations to text. It especially has templates for customisation and hidden notes the user can view for presentations.

Key Features on my proposed App (NoteWorm)

I believe that note taking apps follow the same procedure as traditional note taking, which is gathering information from sources, storing information into a file, and reviewing the information in any way. Below is the list of features I would have on my proposed app that could help each aspect of studying.

Gathering information:

- Manage multiple forms of information.
- Multi window mode for multitasking.
- Creating checklists for research.
- Citation tools to store sources.

Having these features would ease the user's researching process. For example, a STEM students can have the ability to enrich their notes with images, diagrams, or audio recordings. Giving their notes a multi-sensory approach to their learning. Multi-window mode can smoothen the workflow for users especially for essay writers or professional researchers compiling data. This feature helps eliminate the action of switching between tabs and maintain focus while minimizing distractions. In a collaborative setting, this can help meetings become more interactive and goal driven. Having a simple checklist can offer users time management and progress tracking, especially for those handling busy schedules. For example, a team of designers would need this feature to stay on track with development. Simple tools like this feature can create an environment that ensures transparency and accountability within a team. Providing citation tools can help professionals who rely heavily on sources like journalists and publishers. Having access to this tool can generate consistent and correct citations, avoiding plagiarism and improper crediting.

Storing information:

- Cloud storage/ Auto-backups
- File formatting options.
- Creating offline files

Incorporating cloud storage/ auto-backup functions can provide users easy access to data across devices, and for those who have diverse work environments or lifestyles. Individuals like article writers would use this functionality to securely store their work, research materials and project files in the cloud. Facilitating access, synced updates, and prevent risk of data loss. File formatting options give users the ability to customize and present their documents in a polish, clear format. For example, individuals who work in marketing sectors would need this feature to highlight their ideas and expertise. Simple adjustments can turn plain text into a comprehensive document that align with their goals. It's a common feature but it ensures readability for the intended audience. Option to create offline files is a benefit for those who have limited internet connection or availability. Individuals who travel for work would receive help from this feature as it gives them access to important documents, materials, or presentations without the need to worry about accessibility. Similarly, for students living in rural areas, can complete assignments and continue their studies without interruption. Including this functionality can offer users flexibility and access regardless of their location or internet availability.

Reviewing information:

- Freedom to share notes.
- Granting access for collaboration.
- Proof reading tools.

Having freedom to share notes and grant access certainly enhances collaboration and sharing knowledge among individuals and teams. Teams like a group of researchers collaborating on a project would need an app's sharing functionality. Granting access to files can improve the pace of the research and guarantees the whole team to be on the same page. In educational situations, students working on group assignments or projects can use this feature to effectively communicate and share ideas among each other, encouraging peer learning regardless of whether the meeting is in person or not. This sharing feature breaks down the limitations of what in person meetings have and ensure that feedback and deliverables are improved no matter where your team members are. Adding proofreading tools can improve the quality and professionalism of a user's content. Focusing on educational situations, students who work with essays would use these tools to gain feedback. They can provide support on refining their writing styles, improving clarity and show effective ways to engage their audience. As well as industries like marketing or publishing can benefit from these tools for enhancing credibility and audience engagement. By providing this feature to users, the app can help users produce confident, clean content, saving time and effort in the editing process of their document.

Sketches

Here are my five UI designs for my note taking app, NoteWorm. Hopefully, each screen gives a clear, visual presentation of the general layout and the features my app provides.

First screen:

- A simple splash screen to present the name of the app, NoteWorm.

Second screen:

- Simple layout and location of files
- Search bar and settings, along with buttons that function as sections.
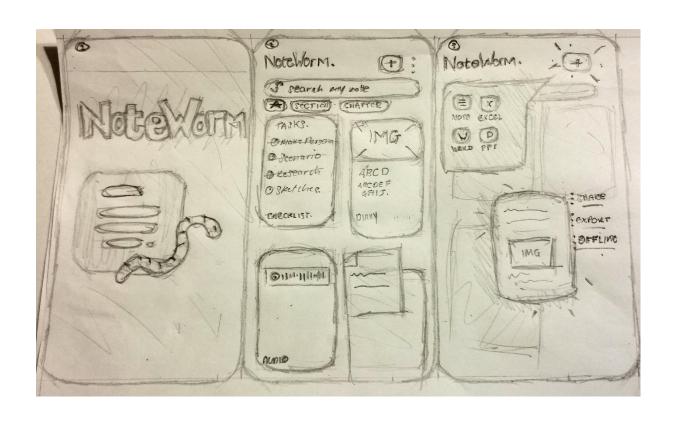- File can be in forms of images, audio, checklists, or sticky notes.

Third screen:

- Click the plus button and it gives the user file formatting options.
- Hold onto a note until it hovers, give options to share, export or convert to offline files.
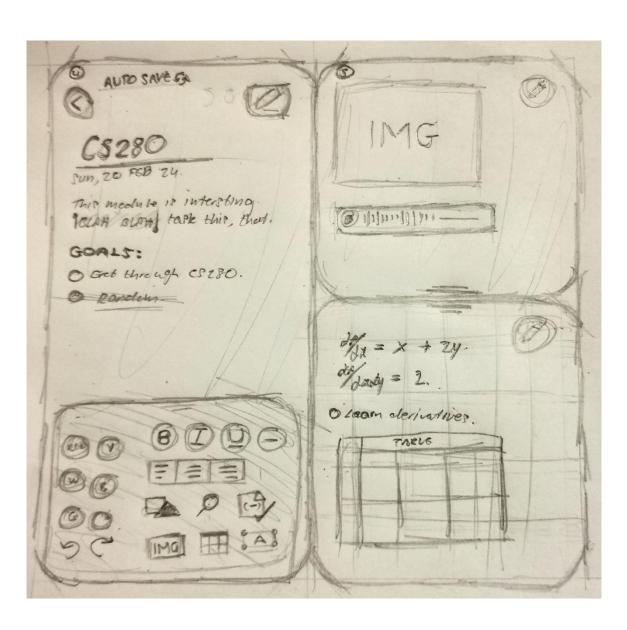
Fourth screen:

- Displays what the UI design of the note looks like.
- Many options for the user to use on the mini toolbar, including citation and proof-reading tools.

Fifth screen:

- Presents what the screen would look like using multi-window mode for multitasking.
- Also shows NoteWorm can manage different forms of information simultaneously.

NoteWorm

NoteWorm. (+) :
search my note
(A) (SECTION) (CHAPTER)

TASKS.
- Make Persona
- Scenario
- Research
- Sketches

CHECKLIST.

IMG
ABCD
ABCDEF
GHIJ.

DIARY

AUDIO

NoteWorm. (+)
NOTE EXCEL
WORD PPT

- SHARE
- EXPORT
- OFFLINE

IMG

AUTO SAVE

(<)

CS280
Sun, 20 FEB '24.

This module is interesting.
[BLAH BLAH] task this, that.

GOALS:
- Get through CS280.
- Random

B I U —

RED V
W E
G C

IMG

IMG

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = x + 2y.$$
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2.$$

- Learn derivatives.

TABLE

References

Research part:

- https://niftypm.com/blog/best-note-taking-apps/#:~:text=A%20note%20taking%20app%20is,other%20techniques%20for%20note%20taking.
- https://academictechnologies.it.miami.edu/explore-technologies/technology-summaries/note-taking-applications/index.html

Examples of note taking apps:

OneNote:

- https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/key-features-of-onenote-for-android-f81711c7-12a8-4a90-8fb2-63445b83fa1e

Google Keep:

- https://9to5google.com/2023/01/31/what-you-can-do-google-keep/

Notability:

- https://toolfinder.co/tools/notability

Other websites:

- https://fortelabs.com/blog/the-essential-requirements-for-choosing-a-notes-app-as-your-second-brain/