Kitchentory

Kitchentory (name subject to change) is an app designed to help users manage their kitchen inventory. It also recommends recipes based on what you already have and fills in a grocery list for the remaining items needed to complete the recipes. It is designed to reduce the time and effort that goes in to shopping and cooking.

Pre-Test

Today you will be testing a very low fidelity prototype of the app. I will be reading from this script to keep the test on track. The purpose of this test is to help identify any usability issues that a user may experience while using the app. Your responses will be anonymous. Because this is a voluntary study, you are not obligated to answer all questions and may leave at any time.

The test should take no more than 5 minutes. We'll be working through a single task, and I will be taking notes based on my observations. If you have any problems, it is helpful for you to be honest about them. We are testing the design, not your abilities. Please do your best to work through the task before asking for help so that we can learn about how users will solve the problems they encounter on their own.

At the end, we will work through a response sheet to talk about the overall experience.

Just as important to the test as what you do while completing the task, is what you are thinking. For that reason, it is helpful if you think aloud. Just say any thoughts or reactions to what you are seeing out loud, without any further explanation.

Any questions about the test?

Test

This test will be fairly straightforward. There is not much complexity involved with the app as of now. Your task this evening will be to mimic the entire process of using the app on a given day, from start to finish. You will start on the inventory screen, and move through screens from there to the point in which you would start cooking. Your goal is to update your inventory, specify dietary preferences, choose recipes, check out the grocery list, and then chose a recipe from the ones you selected. It may be difficult to understand what you are looking at because the app is in such an early phase. Your goal on each screen is simply to answer questions about it, and then figure out how to progress to the next screen.

Inventory (home)

What are your initial thoughts about the page?

1) It could use more flair. Very excel document
2) I don't have any really. It's fine. I'm assuming there would be more color. What does Mark Complete mean?
3) Wow, how cool to know all in one place what ingredients I have and what is spoiling first. Unit of Measure, dope, maybe could be used for metric cooking too?

Are you confident you would be able to adjust the quantities of a particular item?

1) Yes, with the little arrows
2) Yes
3) Yes, I can see arrows that I would assume to adjust amounts and probably insert amounts too.

What about adding a new item?

1) Yeah, the plus
2) The plus button
3) That plus sign. I'd select that and be prompted for the next step of adding an ingredient I have on hand at home.

Your next screen is where you will update dietary preferences. How will you navigate to it?

1) Restrictions, I assume
2) Restrictions. Makes sense
3) Select from the bottom task bar, the restrictions button.

Dietary

How would you go about changing the preferences?

1) Checkboxes
2) What do any of these words mean? I guess I'd check them if they were restrictions
3) Click as many checkmarks about different allergens (or diets) that I or household members or dinner guests have.

What would you click if you are not ready to proceed to recipes, and want to go back to the inventory?

1) The x
2) The x box
3) x button

How would you progress to the recipe screen?

1) Recipes button
2) To recipes I think
3) I would select "To recipes"

Recipes

How might you go about selecting the recipes you want?

1) checkboxes
2) The checkboxes again
3) I would select the checkbox

Is it clear what would go in each space on this screen, despite it being low fidelity?

1) Looks like a spot for a photo and description
2) Picture of meal, name of meal, and description is what it looks like
3) I am curious what the top tabs would be for.

Is there anything you are confused about so far?

1) so far so good
2) Should the checkboxes be labeled like that? I think it is obvious they are checkboxes
3) No, I am assuming, I'm choosing what recipes look good and then I will get a grocery list.

How would you go back to the last screen if you needed to?

1) Arrow buttons
2) The arrows
3) There is an arrow on the bottom that I could use to go to previous page.

The next screen is your grocery list. How would you get there?

1) Make list button I guess
2) Make list
3) I would select "make list"

Grocery List

Any confusion about what you are seeing here?

1) No, pretty standard grocery list
2) None right now
3) Category is like a recipe? or is it type of product? For example, frozen, shelf stable, produce, meat, etc.

How would you go about marking an item off the list?

1) Check boxes
2) The boxes
3) I would select the checkmark.

What will you do when you are finished with the list, or otherwise want to progress to the chosen recipes screen?

1) Done shopping
2) Done Shopping
3) When I am finished with the list, (like did I shop the ingredients at this part?) and want to check on my recipes I would go to the next selection, "done shopping" but if I hadn't finished checking of items and wanted to refer back to my recipes I would select the back button and go back to recipes I selected I would hope I could select the back button and then move forward again and all my checks marks would stay.

Weekly Recipes

Do you understand the purpose of this screen?

1) Yeah, this is where the ones I chose should be I think
2) Yes, it shows this week's recipes. They were chosen from my inventory. Wait, no. I chose these. The first list was from my inventory.
3) These are the recipes that work with what I have chosen with my ingredients that I have on hand and what I plan to shop for or already shopped for.

Are you confident you could get to all other parts of the app from this screen if needed?

1) from this screen, sure
2) Yes
3) Yes

How would you choose a recipe to make?

1) Click on it
2) Click on one
3) Select whatever one looks most delicious and check out the recipe.

Cook It!

How do you like the layout of this page?

1) It is okay, looks like I could find everything. I am curious if it really needs tabs for ingredients and procedure though
2) Would this bottom part scroll if there were more items? Otherwise, yes
3) I love that it does not have a whole life story of some random lady I am not all in invested in like those stupid food blogs. Basic to the point and easy without a ton of scrolling

Do you understand what information would be available to you?

1) Yes, seems adequate
2) Yes. Although are these the quantities from my inventory or are they the ones needed for the recipe?
3) Yes, ingredients, and instructions on how to cook the food.

How did you feel about the time and effort it took to get to this final screen?

1) It seemed like a lot of steps, but I suppose in use it would not be all at once. The navigation could be a little straightforward, maybe inventory should not be the home page
2) If I am able to get to this last page right away without progressing through all those steps, this was fine Easy enough
3) I feel like it follows all the steps of preparing a meal and very straightforward

After the test

Great. We completed the task. Just a few final questions.

Do you feel that this is the simplest way to navigate through the app?

1) As I said, I think it could be better, but is simple enough as is
2) Yes. Although the "make list" button on the recipe screen could imply that you are making lists of recipes, not generating a grocery list.
3) Yes, I enjoyed have the list of all the ingredients I have on hand with the spoilage date. This app really can help prevent food waste.

1-10, 1 being most difficult, how easy was this app to use and understand?

1) 8
2) 10
3) 9

Was there anything missing that may have improved your experience?

1) I would have liked to see some coupon features
2) It needed units of measure on the quantities for the recipes
3) I mean in version 2, an option to use foods closest to their spoil date would be cool

How likely would you be to use the final version of this app (1-10)?

1) 10
2) 10
3) 9

Thank you again for your time. Please keep an eye out for future testing opportunities, we'd love to have you again.

End

Findings

Issue	Screen	Severity Rating	Recommendations
The inventory page may not be the best starting place	Inventory	Severe	Make a homepage that enables the user to navigate to the area of the app that they need to without progressing through each page.
It is not immediately obvious which pages scroll and which are static	All	Low	Add scroll bars to each page as needed
There are no units of measure on the recipe page, and it is unclear whether the quantities are based on the inventory or based on the recipe	Cook It	Low	Make it more obvious what the user is looking at. The quantities should be clearly labelled with UOM and there should be some indicator that those quantities are for the recipe
"Make list" button may be confusing. The user may not know what kind of list they are making	Recipes	Moderate	The wording of the button could be changed to "generate grocery list" or something similar, so the user knows what list they're making.
There is not a clear difference between the screen in which recipes are selected for generation of a grocery list, and the one for weekly recipes which the user chose.	Weekly Recipes	Moderate	Make the layout for each page different, or clearly indicate in the title that those recipes are the ones chosen by the user, and not the ones suggested from the inventory.

Summary

The app could use some changes to the layout and navigation. The users seemed to like the functionality that was there, but they were confused about some of the buttons, and were not always immediately sure what page they were looking at. With some tweaks and refining, I think most of the usability issues are fairly fixable.