

## ISTE252 Hybrid App

### Description:

An app that keeps track of when food is going to expire and helps you plan meals better. It's a solution to a problem that I personally have and is something that I could see myself using fairly often.

### Audience:

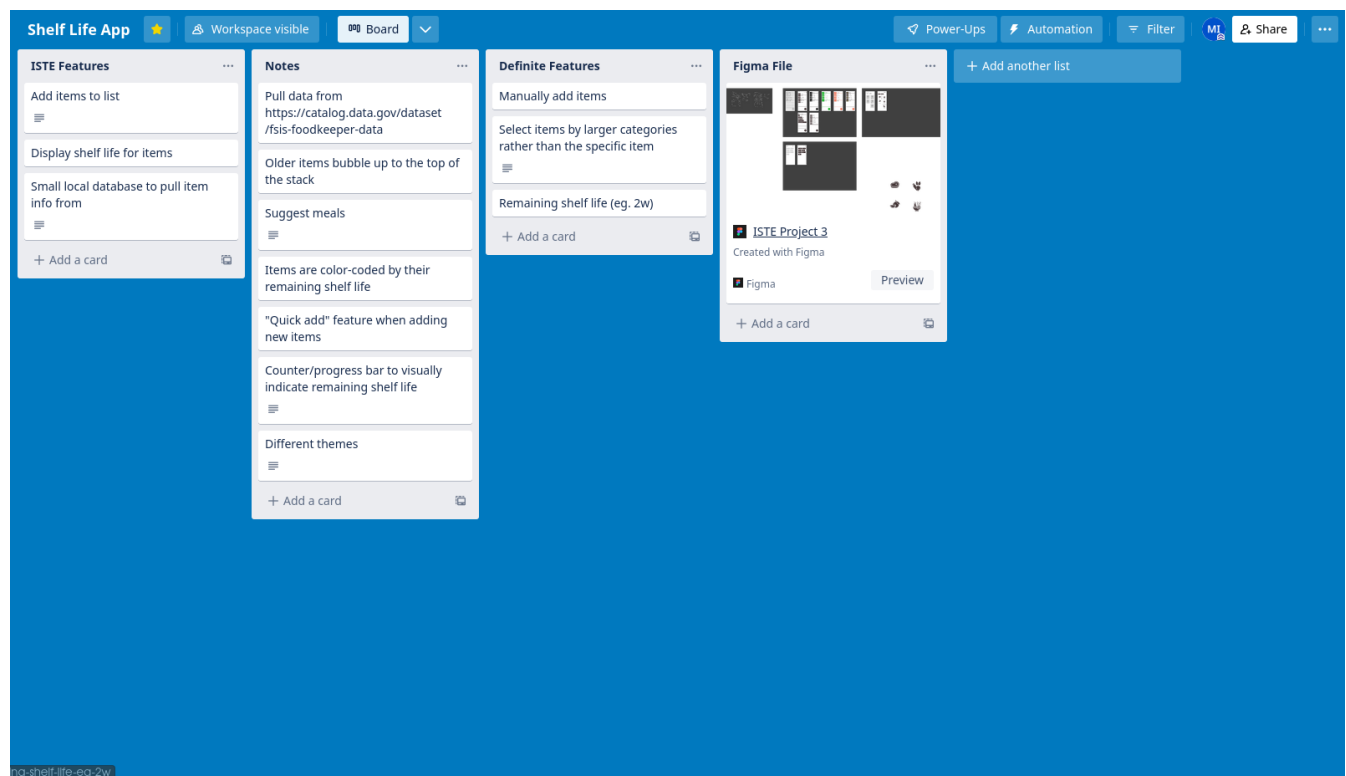
People who frequently purchase their own groceries, typically college-aged and over. As it's an app that can help save people money, it would best serve those trying to stick to a budget.

### Goals:

Gives users a visual list of shelf life and alerts them when something is nearing expiration and should be used. To make this project more doable, users will be provided a shortened list of items to choose from with associated shelf life.

### Initial Ideas:

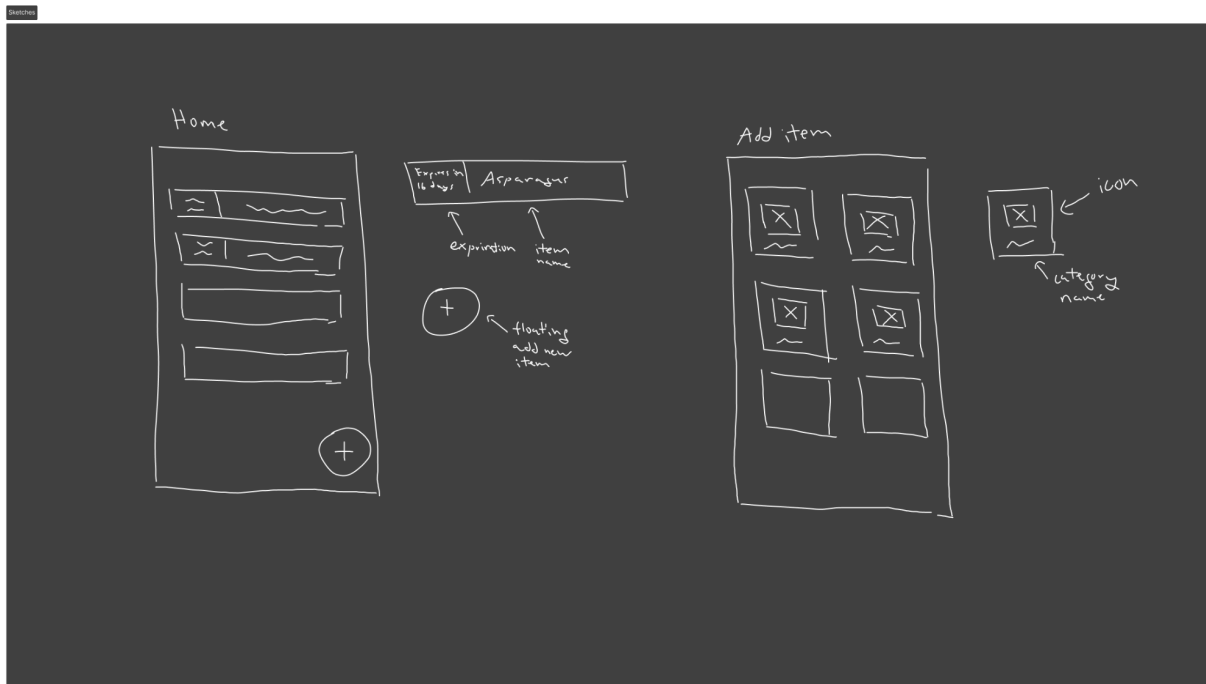
Some of the first ideas included basic features such as adding items to a person's grocery list, displaying shelf life for items, and pulling data from some kind of local database or file. Extra potential features beyond the scope of the project included having older items bubble up to the top of the list, color-coding the remaining shelf life depending on how long was left, having a progress bar to visually indicate this timer, and pulling data from an open .gov database.



## Media Resources:

<https://thenounproject.com/icon/dairy-3569309/>  
<https://thenounproject.com/icon/vegetables-5264031/>  
<https://thenounproject.com/icon/meat-3954123/>  
<https://thenounproject.com/icon/fruit-2995895/>  
<https://thenounproject.com/icon/soup-1969605/>  
<https://thenounproject.com/icon/list-5282173/>

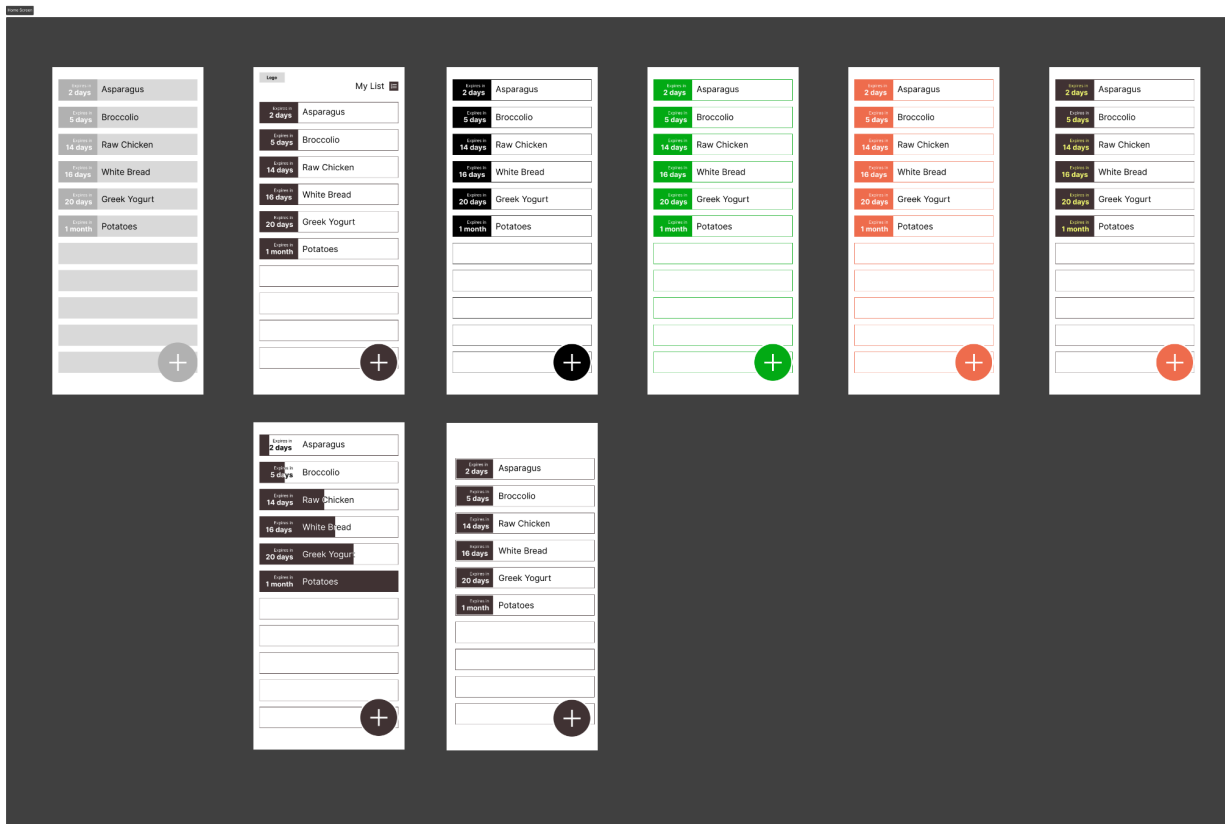
## Sketches:



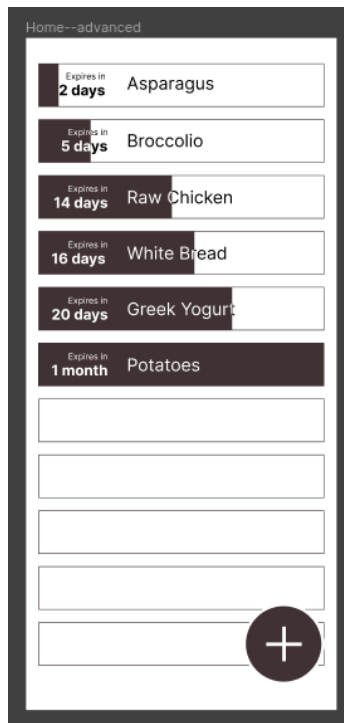
## Prototypes:

The app was designed to be very neo-brutalist and simple, so users could focus more on their food. It's very high contrast by default, using either black or a very dark gray as the accent color. It's used to accentuate important areas, such as the shelf life indicator. This simplicity provides a great base for theming, which can extend the app's customization options.

It was initially going to be much more specific with what kinds of items users could add. However, it seemed unreasonable to force them to search for each specific item, especially when many of them have similar shelf lives. Based on feedback from other people, I changed this to use broader categories that are much faster to tap through.



This prototype shows a variation on the shelf life indicator. It uses a sort of progress bar to visually show how much time is remaining for each item.



Quick Add

MilkEggs

Meats

Vegetables


Fruits


Seafood


Dairy

Quick Add

MilkEggs

Meats

Vegetables

Fruits

Seafood

Dairy

Meats

Meats

ChickenLamb

PorkBeef

TurkeyBacon

Ham

### Strengths:

Personally speaking as someone who is interested in this kind of app, I can see it being very useful in my daily life. I share my fridge and pantry with two other people, which makes keeping track of food rather difficult at times. It takes a weight off my shoulder to be able to just set a timer on my phone and not have to worry as much about food expiring. It's one less thing to worry about.

### Weaknesses:

It's rather cumbersome to have to go through and add each item individually. The idea of using broader categories helps this somewhat, but it still isn't an ideal situation and might turn off some users. A better solution would be to allow users to take a picture of their store receipt and have OCR automatically put in the items (with some potential human review). However, it's hard to understand how this could be done, considering how every product uses a different naming convention.

Another weakness is how difficult it may be to keep track of multiple items of the same type, eg. multiple pieces of steak bought on different days. It's hard to tell the importance of this without further user testing.

### Future Development:

Part of the future development is to test out some of the extra features listed on my Trello board and to get the app into the hands of more people. It's still unknown if this is useful for anyone besides me, so validating my assumptions would be a big part of moving forward.