Project Idea

Our group had a variety of interesting project ideas used both in their previous assignments and simply ideas that interested them. Half the group had interest in making a video game. Some preferred a more action focused first person shooter while other ideas focused more on solving puzzles. Another interesting idea was a password storing application that would save and manage the user’s passwords. These could be easily referred back to, making logging into several different accounts an easier process. However, we felt many of these ideas did not provide enough substantial content that could be covered, so ultimately, we decided on a project idea revolving around a home cooking service.

Overview

While there are many who enjoy takeaway fast food, there are just as many people who make more health focused choices when deciding what to eat. This would be the target demographic of our home cooking app. The app will either partner with pre-established food delivery services such as Uber eats and Menulog, or have its own delivery service to deliver fresh, homemade cooking to customers doorsteps. There are many who have long since retired and too old to work who love to cook and bake. Cooking for the app would give them something they love doing to fill their free time, while also turning a profit! At the same time customers on the other side would be able to enjoy freshly baked apple pies or hot spaghetti bolognese just like their grandparents used to make. A food delivery service where you can choose from a variety of meals prepared in everyday people’s homes and enjoy a warm hearty meal while giving back to the community and local retirees.

What problems does this solve?

Currently, the entire world has been greatly affected by the corona virus, with many countries having their populations encouraged to stay home. Australia being one of them. In light of social distancing regulations, restaurants and cafés are now closed. Many people who would once enjoy Friday nights at their local family restaurant or meet friends at their local café now turn to takeaway food, making online delivery more popular than ever. For our target demographic, this means they can still get their traditional home cooking regardless of regulations. But it can also serve as an extra source of income for those struggling financially. One of, if not, the biggest threat facing the global economy in 2020 is the corona virus. Many have lost their jobs and are stuck at home with little to no means of earning an income. By delivering home cooking through our app, many home cooks with a passion for cooking and baking can still earn some money by selling their home cooking. It could even serve as a way for family and friends separated by social distancing to share their cooking creations.

How does it work?

Cooking

Meals are prepared by a cook within their own home and within their own time. A cook can prepare any number of dishes and then input into the app the name and number of prepared dishes. For example, a home cook may prepare three apple pies. They would then input into the app that three apple pies are ready for delivery at the location of their address. A user can open the app to see which meals are ready for order, and their approximate delivery times. Cooks will have ratings out of 5 stars reviewed by previous customers, allowing users to make informed choices on which meals they wish to order.

Delivery

Once an order has been placed, an allocated driver will be notified, where they will pick up and then deliver the ordered meal. In the case of a partnership with a delivery company such as UberEats, the app will have access to their network of drivers for a small commission fee. Once delivered the customer can leave a review for future customers. If desired, cooks can send a recipe card along with their meal. If a customer especially enjoys the meal they order, they can learn to cook the exact same dish themselves.

Issues

Of course, a variety of legal issues arise from this. Unlike the professional standards of a restaurant, not every home will have ideal cooking conditions. For this reason, each cook that registers with the app will need to have their cooking station examined and inspected by professionals to insure they meet health and safety regulations. These inspections would then recur at least once a month to ensure standards are consistently met. Some cooks may also wish to keep the recipes of their dishes private, and in particularly personally dishes, some cooks may even raise copy right concerns. It wouldn’t be hard for a customer to simply copy and remake a particular dish to sell themselves. For this reason including a recipe would be optional for cooks, but highly encouraged.