GOLDEN PALACE
ONE STOP SHOP FOR MOROCCAN
RECEIPES

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CS 541

Link to application demo video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDk4CdL6Nvo

Introduction

Golden Palace is an Android based mobile application that is a one stop solution for Moroccan recipes. Users will have easy access to authentic Moroccan recipes along with the ability to search and order ingredients using their Amazon accounts, send out party invitations, and share recipes using their preferred social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or Emails). Golden Palace works smoothly across various Android devices running on Android 4.0[1]. The application was tested on Nexus 5X, Motorola and Asus Zen pad.

Related Apps

There are several Moroccan food applications on Google Play store. Mentioned below are the names of five applications that are available for free on the Play store:

1. Moroccan Recipes - Tree Devs

2. Moroccan Recipes - tricoapp

3. Moroccan Best Recipes - Talal Karim

4. Moroccan Recipes - Tagine - AKYSOFT

5. Traditional Moroccan Recipes - Soyou.labs

Market Need, Target Audience and Motivation

Moroccan food applications on Google Play store do not offer all of the functionalities. When the user is in Golden Palace application he or she does not need to visit any other application to set the timer or know how many calories one will consume or adjust the ingredients using the serving size calculator. This application is designed primarily for young adults from the age of 18-24 who are new to cooking or hosting dinner parties, they do not have to struggle with buying the ingredients, setting up a timer and sharing their culinary achievements on social media. This does not mean that Golden Palace is limited to this audience subset, this application is for everyone who wants Moroccan cuisine in English. We are offering more useful functionalities without creating clutter in the application which ensure that users spend more time in the application, giving lesser reasons to exit.

List of implemented features

1. Recipe tab

2. Salad recipes

3. Calorie calculator

4. Serving calculator

5. Timer - Start, Resume, Restart

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[1] Android 4.0 Ice-cream Sandwich. To check which version of Android runs on your phone follow this path: Phone Settings – About Phone – Android version e.g. Android version 7.1.1

6. Social Media - links the user to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Emails based on the user preference

7. Online store - currently links to Amazon's list of Mediterranean items

External libraries and Data Storage mechanisms

Golden Palace does not use any external API's like Maps. It does use Google's Firebase to fetch recipes and populate the salads' section. Features like Calorie counter and serving size calculator are currently hardcoded into the application.

Team Member responsibilities

The authors of this paper were jointly responsible for the logic flow of the application, Nihal Benkirane oversaw creating and populating the database along with UI Design and testing. Neha's primary responsibility was coding and debugging the application features.

Future work

Golden palace aims to be the best application in the category of Food application on Play store, keeping that in mind mentioned below are the list of features that will be implemented in the future:

1. Integrating other cuisines

2. Enhancing user interactions - rating services, forums and feedback mechanisms.

3. The overall UI of the application along with a new logo

4. Customizable invitation formats for theme parties.

5. Integration with Pinterest.

Lessons learned

Even though building an application might seem like a straightforward process in the beginning but it is time consuming. Several bugs and improvements are bound to happen as you go about building the application. We found out that Google's Firebase is easier to use and integrate with Android Studio. Firebase not only acts as a database, but it helped us with the basic analytics like how many time the application crashed, no. of user, time spent by users – daily and on average.
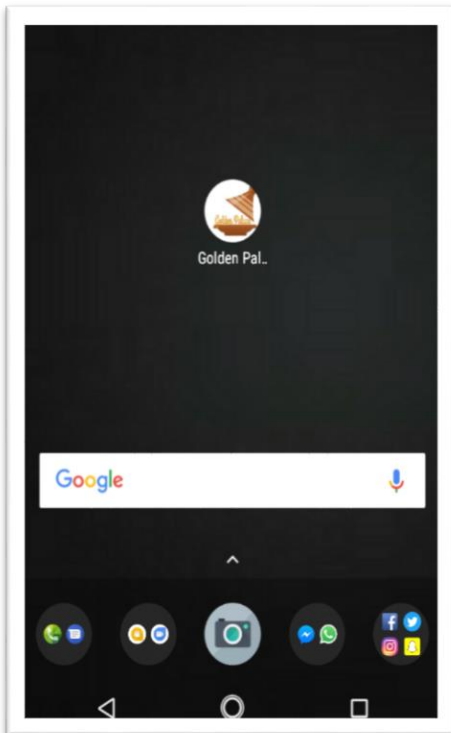
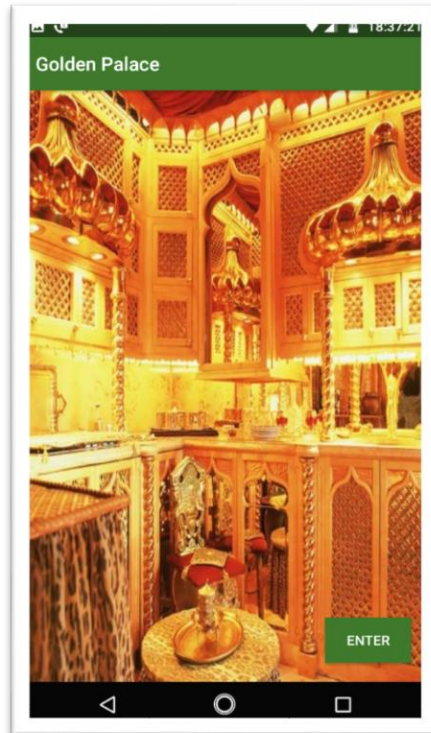*Figure 1: Golden Palace icon on Phone's Home Screen*

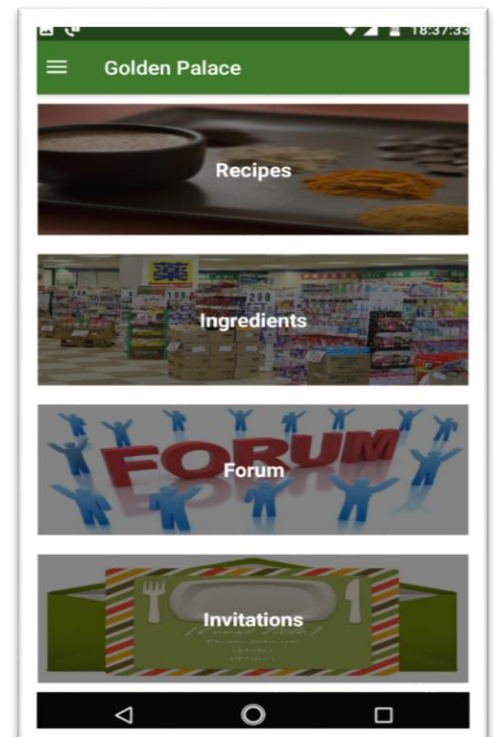*Figure2: Splash screen of the application*

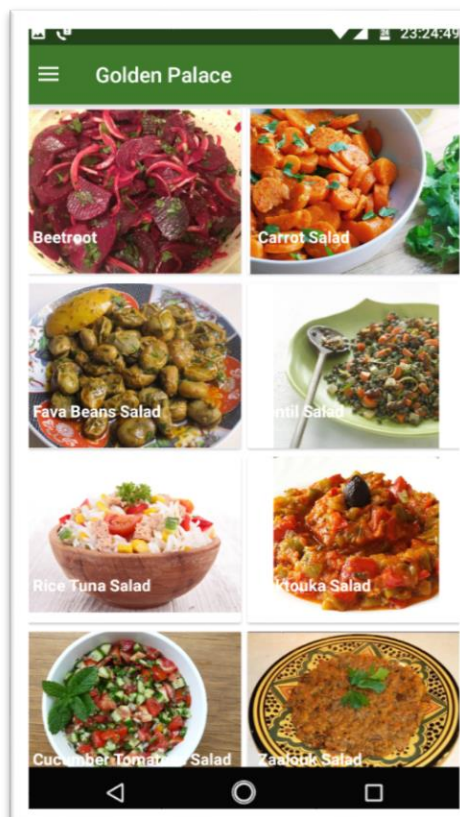*Figure 3: Main Navigation page of the application*
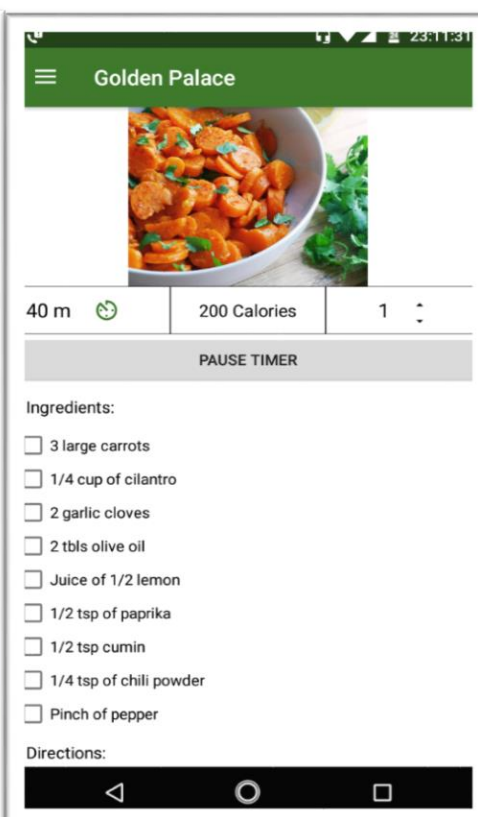

Figure 4: Salad options

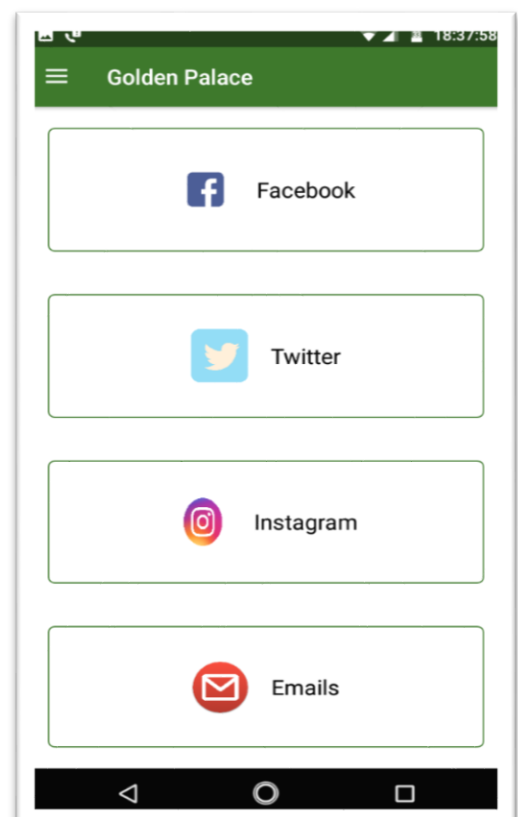*Figure 5: Recipe for Carrot salad, calorie counter, serving size calculator and timer*
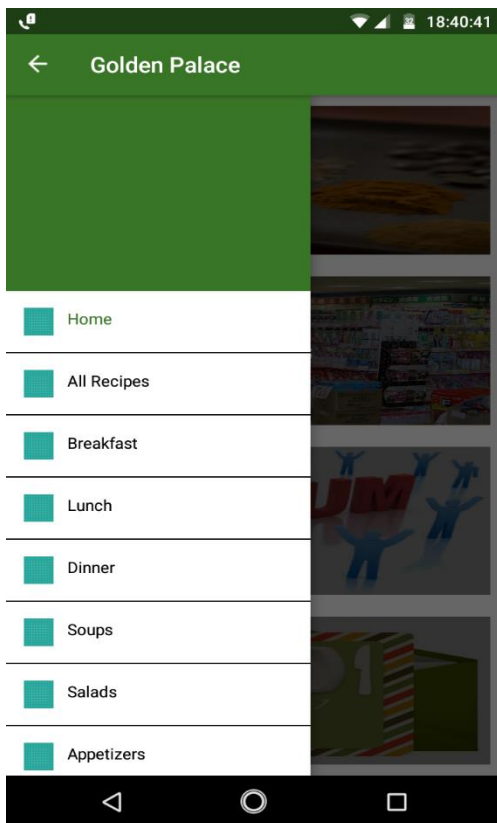

Figure 6: Social media connections

Figure7: Navigation drawer which is makes the application more user friendly