Scope (a very rough draft)

The system will consist of a closed box touch screen user device with a barcode scanner. The device will allow the user to manage a running inventory of what foods they currently have in their kitchen. Options available to the user will be to scan in any food purchased in order to keep inventory. In the event the item doesn’t have a barcode the touch screen / keyboard will allow the user to manually enter the item into the system.

The device will have built in wifi to allow it to connect to either a company branded wifi printer or any store bought wifi printer connected to the user’s home network . The wifi will also allow the decice to connect to the internet through the user’s router. Incorporation of downloadable nutrition information, recipes and meal plans will be enabled through a wifi connection. The optional printer will allow users to print off meal plans and or recipes to assist with cooking.

The device will allow users to keep track of just what exactly they are eating and will do the math on calories and other nutrition facts to alleviate end users of the tedious task of keeping track of what they eat themselves. Many people are discouraged from maintaining a proper diet because they simply don’t want to have to keep track of these things themselves but if an easy solution for tracking that information was available many would be inclined to take advantage of it.

The inventory system on the unit coupled with the optional printer will allow users to print off grocery list before heading to the grocery store. When a user goes into the kitchen to eat they can use the device to subtract an estimated amount of what they ate. An example would be a box of animal crackers. The nutrition facts provide the serving information and the end user uses the touch screen device to enter how many servings they ate. The inventory system subtracts the servings from the known total and updates the information into a database. When the user prompts a list of low quantity foods in printed from the optional printer assisting them in knowing what foods they need to buy when shopping.

The device will allow various users to keep track of their own eating patterns and habits by having different user boxes for each person in the family. At the user’s request or user pre-programmed intervals the meal information can be printed or uploaded to the internet where meal suggestions and other dietary assistance can be provided by professionals.

An option for partnership with grocery store and retail chains presents the optional ability to have information directly added from the store itself. As an example users could be provided with a membership card with a barcode that will allow the partner store to upload whatever purchases the end user makes to servers and ultimately to the end user’s device itself. The cashier would scan or swipe the card before processing the order and at the end of the order the items purchased would be uploaded then downloaded to that specific user’s system. This would further ease the user’s required work to use the system.

The ultimate goal of the device and system is to allow users a very easy way to manage what they eat and to further extend that into helping users adjust their diets with as little effort as possible. Various interfaces can be used to achieve this result. At the core of the system is the software itself which will be available as a standalone product at a much reduced cost allowing users to install a version the software on their PC. Using the software in such a fashion would require much more effort on the part of the user but having the option would trade ease of use for cost.