

<https://github.com/tp2716/WebdevTeam6>

Chosen Issue/Problem Statement

Many BC students encounter difficulties choosing what to cook. It's tedious to eat the same dish day after day, but it's also hard to find recipes with ingredients they have in hand, as most recipes are sorted by names. Therefore, we proposed to build a website that randomly recommends recipes based on ingredients users have in hand.

Proposal

I don't know what to cook! I can't think of a recipe. Find me something easy to make with the stuff I have in my fridge

- Randomized recipe recommendations
- Personal preferences in recipes etc
- Nutrition indicators (protein, calorie limits)
- Safety concerns (food poisoning, allergies)

Interview plans

Who to interview: each of us pick 1 friends/roommates/classmates go through the questionnaire below

- Sit down casual interview

Interviewees' demographic details

The following interviewees are chosen because they are BC students who might have had a hard time choosing what to cook

Griffin: BC undergrad (senior), male, Midwest, White non-Hispanic

Wenshuo: BC undergrad (senior), male, cooks, lives off-campus with roommates

Jacob: BC undergrad (senior), male, West, multiracial non-Hispanic

Tommy: BC undergrad (junior), male, Northeast, off-campus, Chinese

Questions

Is this a product you would be willing to try?

- Is this a problem you often experience? What can I cook with the stuff in my kitchen?
- Would you be willing to make this a social thing? See what your friends are doing, track calories, etc
- What is your vision when we describe this product? What do you want this app to be able to do for you?

Griffin

1. *"Definitely, I would be very interested in that"*
 - a. *I usually have an idea of what to cook, but want to integrate new meals into repertoire, explore new styles, cuisines, techniques*
 - b. *I'd love to see a social media esque. Compared to Spotify. Like seeing what people are into, brings more intimacy*

- c. *Opens app: select breakfast/lunch/dinner (optional), it should know my preferences and nutritional needs, dietary restrictions. Main reason to use is to try new things and explore parts of the fridge I wouldn't normally use. Maybe have recommendations like Spotify. Also want to add roommate agreements, etc*
- d. *Opt in on sharing calorie and nutritional data with friends. Eating is very personal and there are concerns with ED. Definitely not default*

Wenshuo

1. *Yes! I have this problem more often at the grocery store, wanting to buy an ingredient but not knowing what to do with it. On the social aspect, I want to choose when to share because I don't want people to see what I'm doing.*

My vision for the project is to get recommendations based on cuisine fast when I input some ingredients I want to try through a few clicks. It should also generate a shopping list for me if I tell it that I have missing ingredients

Tommy

1. *Yeah, I cook pretty often but usually ending up doing the same easy things like rice or pasta. I want to mix it up a little but it can be a little overwhelming to find new things or base a recipe on just a couple ingredients.*
2. *I think it could be really cool as a social platform, letting you see what others are cooking and finding new ideas, plus tracking calories is always good (probably not as part of the social aspect). Could also be useful for meal prepping or even planning food for parties.*
3. *I'd just want it to be simple and easy to use. Could be divided by meal type and maybe be able to select from a short list of "main" ingredients (stuff like beef, chicken, rice, etc.) to see recipes using them.*

Jacob

1. *I think it would be useful to see what new thing I can make, explore new recipes, keeping track of groceries.*
 - a. *Personally probably wouldn't use it for a social thing, but can see why others would*
 - b. *Chef influencers*

Are people willing to give third party access to food purchases?

- *If so, through what method? (Scanning receipt, image recognition, manual input)*
- *Other privacy and data provenance concerns: how can we deidentify a very personal dataset? How can we ensure privacy is respected?*

Griffin

1. *Personally, zero issue. Does the app need to know who owns what kind of food (Alvin owns this chicken, Griffin is vegetarian)?*

Wenshuo

1. *Manual input - I don't think I need to tell you all the ingredients I purchased. It's enough for me to search for one or two ingredients at a time. So I'm not going to hand you my shopping receipt and tell you how much I spent at which grocery store.*

Tommy

1. *I think scanning receipt or taking other kinds of pictures would be really helpful, but could imagine that being tough to implement. Searching by food/meal type would work well enough. I personally can't think of any privacy concerns for myself, but could imagine others being hesitant about calorie tracking/goals. I think keeping that stuff hidden to others and only really showing them what meals people are cooking would be good.*

Jacob

1. *Just seeing what groceries and recipes I've chosen. That's all I'm comfortable with. Eating is pretty public*

When getting/cooking food, do you place more importance on convenience or having more controls like calorie-goals, etc.

- Having more control scopes, search options vs. neat, simple interface

Griffin

1. *All are important; convenience is very high (probably number 1), followed shortly by nutrition, then taste. "Personally I focus a lot on the nutrition and what goes into my body". "I'd be embarrassed if I had to cook for someone". "Eating healthy even if it doesn't taste good makes me feel good"*

Wenshuo

1. *I like the idea of calorie limits but you should keep everything simple*

Tommy

1. *Convenience is probably most important to me, I don't like to spend a ton of time planning meals out or figuring out how to make complex stuff. Something being quick and tasty is best for me. Although I'm sure there's a significant group of people who would greatly enjoy things like calorie goals or other fitness related aspects.*

Jacob

1. *Definitely convenience, this app will help with that*

Quality of menus?

- How specific do you need the menus to be? Simple descriptions? Images? Videos?
- Allow adjustments on a menu? (Lack / don't like certain ingredients, allergies)
- Should we accept user feedback on menus? They can upload their own modified or unique menu / point out flaws in a menu

Griffin

1. *"I'm not a great cook." "I think this app is good for people who don't know how to cook but want to learn." "Have a technique page"*

Wenshuo

1. *Simple descriptions is good. User should be able to upload their recipes. They can also leave comments or like/ dislike others recipes*

Tommy

1. *I think keeping it as simple as possible would work best. People can always use the internet to find ways to best prepare things, and probably should if they are inexperienced cooking. I don't think this app would necessarily need to provide in depth cooking lessons, but could provide links to places that do that. User input is always good*

and a consistently developed app is great. Adding to the social features, being able to interact (comment, like) with recipes or even user uploaded meals would be cool.

Jacob

1. *Cooking is very personal, I'd like to see personal menu uploads and review*

Empathy Map



Ideation: HMW

1. How might we turn this excitement to explore into students actually following recipes long term?
 - a. Can't be too complex or too far out of their comfort zones
 - b. Use social features to promote exploration and continued usage
 - c. Suggest new recipes or foods based on usage
 - d. Some form of level/rewards system?
 - e. Regularly update/refine database
 - f. Add a reward feature, give points for each new recipe tried
 - g. Cook for friends, can log which of your friends you fed
 - h. Personalize user experience up to user's consent
 - i. Has to not take a while to log in or anything
2. How might we ensure that ingredients are properly used?
 - a. We can add a save recipes feature (recipe box)
 - b. We should adjust recipes to serve 1 person rather than 4-6
 - c. Add recommendations based on amount of ingredients inside My Fridge
 - d. Promote recipes that do not require any additional shopping
 - e. Push recipe ideas that are focused on an ingredient that there's a whole lot of, eg a whole squash
 - f. Push recipes that involve smaller ingredients (shallots instead of onions, etc)
 - g. Forum where you can tell your friends "I have too much fried shallots"
 - h. Tutorials for ingredient prep
 - i. Push preservation techniques like making stock or soup
3. How might we keep it simple? What does simple mean?
 - a. Ask/track user cooking level/expertise
 - b. Label each recipe with difficulty, time involved, etc.
 - c. Suggest additional resources for general cooking
 - d. Straightforward instructions
 - e. Simple UI
 - f. Could embed short videos to avoid long instructions
 - g. Ideally, we wouldn't redirect to recipe websites, but i think that's out of the scope for the project
 - h. Improve based upon user feedbacks
 - i. Avoid too many words or over-explanation, keep things quick and to the point
4. How might we obtain a database of recipes containing ingredient and nutrition information?
 - a. Open-source pre-existing databases (tabatkins@github, recipenlg)
 - b. Third-party API calls (Edamam)
 - c. Scrape web-data on our own

Low-fidelity Prototype

