Show system status

* It’s difficult to figure out that how many ingredients should the user input in order to get the recipe for the food. If the user only type in one ingredient, this prototype didn’t show the possible recipes for the ingredient typed.
* Even this prototype did provide the button to check badges, but the panel of the badges achievement has not yet implemented.
* it will be difficult to figure out what kind of food recipe this app had, the first time user will confuse that. This app should set up and category of food, in order to show different kind of food separately.

Familiar metaphors & language

* The prototype allows users to type in ingredients to search recipes, but sometimes even users didn’t know the exactly name of the ingredient. It will be difficult for them to search great recipe. It should provide the other easy ways to help user typing the ingredient, such as selecting ingredient by photos.
* After selected the recipe, this prototype will show the list of ingredients that are required for the recipe, but not all users are familiar with this kind of measurement for ingredient. It should show the amount of each ingredient needed in vivid way.

Control & freedom

* This prototype didn’t any back button on profile page or food creation page.
* This prototype didn’t have anyway for user to review or edit their profile in most app panels.
* This prototype didn’t any filter features, so that the users can get some recipes they need (such as vegetarian, or Muslim).
* This prototype didn’t provide any button for users to go back or go to the next panel.
* This prototype didn’t provide interaction between the app and the user except choosing the food recipe and review the information about the food.
* This prototype didn’t provide any search feature to search the food recipe the users need; the users have to scroll all the way down until they find the photo of food.
* Both prototype only provides the button to view profile, but did not provide the edit button to edit users’ profile.

Consistency

* Back buttons are not on constant location.
* Buttons for profile are also vary in location and label.
* Both prototypes didn’t provide major features buttons on constant location, most of them are vary in locations.

Error prevention

* If the user types in multiple ingredients to the search bar. It will always eliminate some good recipes just because that ingredient is not included in that recipe. It should always show some recipes to user if the recipe doesn’t include all the ingredient typed.
* The second prototype will show the photos taken by the other users who have completed this food, but the way to prevent unrelated photos being upload to the app has not yet implemented.

Recognition over recall

* The first panel of this prototype only has a few words and a search bar, it will be difficult for understand how to use this app when users just open the app. Missing instructions on the first panel will make users confuse about the functionality of the app.
* The second prototype has no title for all panels at all, it will be difficult for users to recognize which panel they are currently on.

Flexibility & Efficiency

* Even though the second prototype did provide the ingredients list for the food, the video instruction has not yet implemented to teach users how to cook particular food.
* Both prototypes provide the feature of searching recipe, prototype 1 will search recipe by existing ingredients at home, and prototype 2 will search recipes by food name, but both of them will waste users’ time to go out and buy all required ingredients to cook the food. The purpose of both prototypes are helping people to get food done faster and easier, but wasting time on preparation of ingredients will make them not efficient at all.

Aesthetic & minimalist design

* The title of each panel on this prototype need to be place on constant location with better decoration, so that users can notice them easier and provide vivid view for the app.
* The text size for the button and for the description need to be larger and with clear font, so that they can be recognize by the users.

Recognize, diagnose, & recover from errors

* Error messages have not yet been implemented for both prototypes. There are some situations that both prototypes should handle: when users misspell the name of the food or ingredients, both prototypes should deliver error messages. Another situation both prototypes should handle that show error message for unable to find any recipe/

Help

* Both prototypes didn’t provide any help feature or help button on any panel of the app, so the users won’t able to get the help or instruction on how they can use the app.

Team Evaluation Summary:

Team Murloc’s main focus for their prototype were developing methods to facilitate cooking over delivery or takeout. They had two prototypes: prototype one involved the use of searching of some specific ingredient(s) and following the search their app would output various foods that could be created with said ingredient. Their prototype 2, on the other hand, involved the use of picking specific foods and their app would produce a recipe as well as nutritional facts. Both of their apps’ gaming elements utilized various badges as well as photos that could be uploaded to one’s profile to track progress as well as provide motivation to continue using the app as well as continue cooking!

For prototype one, a major problem that we discovered is that when discovering a recipe, there is only one resulting option, ie the user types in onions and they get a beef taco. They do not have another option and if they wish to search for another recipe using the same ingredient they have to go back all the way to the beginning and search again and then they have to hope that they do not receive the same recipe again. This could be very troublesome because some people have a dislike towards certain foods or the recipe may go against their beliefs such as someone being vegetarian or being Muslim for example. This could be remedied by having the user able to pick from a list of recipes after searching for an ingredient or being able to filter recipes out such as having a vegetarian option for example.

For prototype two, a major problem we discovered is that their home page, where the user can search through a list of foods to obtain their recipes only can be scrolled down. There is no proper search feature and so the user has to continually invest time and energy to find a food they may want rather than simply typing it in. This would cause the user to stray from using the app due to how complicated it would be for them to get a recipe they desire. This could be solved as mentioned above through some sort of search feature and in turn this would also allow special users such as vegetarians to better search for what they crave rather than be exposed to something that they dislike. Another major problem that we discovered is that it is very difficult to view your previous photos, there really is no profile button or view photos button and so the user has to upload a picture before even viewing their old photos. The app’s purpose is essentially being a food diary and this heavily limits the app’s functionality, it is in our opinion that users who use this app would love to be able to look at past photos easier and this would ultimately cause people to stray away from the app. This can be solved very simply through the addition of a profile button on some of the pages.

In conclusion, heuristic evaluations were quite valuable for our inspections because it caused us to think about people’s products in a very structured manner. We would use Nielsen’s heuristics as a template and this caused us to find problems a little bit easier because essentially we had something to search for such as discovering that their prototypes did not really have back buttons which violated the heuristic of Control and Freedom. Although HE is very valuable at the same time, there are various problems such as the tester may find more minor errors compared to user testing and HE is incredibly variant on the person doing the test. They may find various problems that another may not even consider a problem, it is highly dependent on the knowledge and experience of the testers.

Home Screen Link:

<http://preps.herokuapp.com>