

CSE 403 – Assignment 1

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Finding a good recipe is one of the hardest parts about cooking tasty, healthy, meals. Most modern recipe websites offer little more than simple search functionality with no regard for user preference or finite result filtering. Everyone who cooks on a regular basis often looks for new recipes and does not want to spend their free time manually skimming recipe websites or books to find a good recipe. The product we suggest will solve all of those problems. It is oriented to allowing the user to search for the exact type of recipe they want, recommending delicious food with the same level of insight as a professional chef, and providing helpful features and alluring user interface that makes the user avoid some of the time consuming parts of cooking.

The main target of this product is any persons who are new to cooking and willing to learn how to cook nice food, persons who should carefully determine food to eat due to food restrictions, or those who want to cook some delicious food without dealing with any boring parts of cooking.

The main feature of the product is access to a large public database of recipes that will be processed to be searched with a fine degree of control and provide the user recommendations and alternatives. The product will also include other helpful features such as a calorie calculator, ability to rate recipes and see other people's ratings, recipe customization, price and grocery tools, and a chef's dictionary linked to the words in the recipe itself. The program can organize food by some standard such as vegetarian food based on the provided ingredients and instructions so that users can easily find out what recipe fits their tastes and cooking ability.

In terms of product architecture, the system of product can be built creating unique user interface and specialized search algorithms to parse a user generated recipe database and existing calorie, price, and cooking databases. From a technical point of view, this is interesting and challenging because inventing a streamlined user interface requires a fresh mindset and research on the previous and current similar products in the market. It also needs a significant amount of time and effort to design different search algorithms to find specific recipes based on varying criteria. Creating a recipe database using existing recipes and allowing easy access to many users and continuously updating information from third party calorie and price databases will be interesting as well.

There exist a couple of challenges. Creating unique and creative user interfaces might take a lot of time to come up with since it requires conducting research on existing products in the market and designing them over and over through feedback until the right ones are decided. Besides, a highly accurate search feature for finding the perfect recipe a user is looking for is a possible challenge. That is because searching for food through the database based on more than keywords will require a high level system that can filter data to find what the user wants. Presenting the user with an-easy-to-use-interface is a challenge. However, the preliminary design sketched out on the next page provides an indication of the intuitiveness and speed the project entails. The development risks associated with these challenges can be greatly mitigated by producing several interface prototypes

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with core functionality to present to focus groups and by studying the consumption habits of average people.

