Product Description

Overview

Our product is called GrabAByte. It is where people can get food with their friends or with new people. This Android phone application allows you to create a new meal plan with a desired food, location, and time. It allows other people in your general location to see your plan and get in contact with you if they have the same desires as your plan indicates. If you don't have a preference or don't know what to eat but want to join someone for a meal, you can look through others' meal plans and contact them.

Target Audience

Currently, the target audience we expect to use our GrabAByte application is UW students and staff. It is meant for those who do not want to eat alone or those who want to meet new people to make new friends or expand their network.

Motivation

GrabAByte helps to reduce loneliness. Instead of eating alone, this application provides a way of reaching out to other users. It also helps those who desire to meet new people but struggle to meet them face-to-face. For those who do not know what to eat and take a long time to decide, GrabAByte can speed up the decision making process by providing them available plans.

Comparative Analysis

The major alternative to the GrabAByte app would be the Facebook groups associated with the UW. Namely, posting a message looking for dinner parties.

One strength the Facebook group has is that it seems to be relatively more convenient since Facebook is a widely used social networking site on various platforms. In other words, the number of clients using Facebook is far greater than the number of users for GrabAByte since we target only UW people and our app will primarily only be built for android platforms. Another strength of Facebook would be that it has more resources to deal with malicious behavior and system crisis, providing more privacy and security, which makes users feel safer. However, using the Facebook group for meal plans has disadvantages: Facebook keeps tracks of all posts and shares within UW groups, while only a very small portion of them are actually related to meal planning. What is more,
posting a meal planning message to the group will also notify users in the UW groups who don’t have moods for food at the moment. In that case such messages will be classified as irrelevant and may be annoying to users who are not looking for meal plans.

Hence, GrabAByte is specifically designed to give users the option to efficiently meet with other people who want to eat the same food. Instead of having to mass text or message everybody in your social group, users can let GrabAByte narrow down people to those who actually want to get food at the moment. The system will keep meal plans up-to-date with accurate data, removing any expired data.

**Major Features & Stretch Features**

The major features that GrabAByte will include is the ability to create an account and login in whenever necessary. The application will also allow the user to create a meal plan post, leave any meal plans, join another meal plan they desire, and filter MealPlan searches based on certain specified attributes.

Besides these basic major features, we also hope to implement other features that could possibly be added to a later version. These include allowing users to enter additional account information, a “forgot password” functionality, an option for creating group meal plans, a notification system, a possible chat window, and a textbox for meal plans including additional notes from users.

**Non-Functional Requirements**

The non-functional requirements of this application include: restricting the release of personal information to the public, restricting the users to UW students and staffs, displaying only basic information (name, place and time) of each post, and making extra personal information optional. These requirements are to ensure that our application is safe for all users to use. To ensure performance, the mobile app will be activity-oriented, so the database for the current posts will not be necessarily huge. The application will also have an auto-update system that keeps posts up to date. The application will be created for the Android platform and could potentially be expanded to iOS or the web.

**External Documentation (User Guide)**

When users set up new accounts, we will provide a user’s guide integrated in the user interface, demonstrating how to use the app. As for external documents, we will write out a user manual consisting of two sections. In details, the beginner section including basic functionality while the advanced section including descriptions of additional features. Moreover, we could also create a promotional video to serve as a user guide and an advertisement.