RoomEase Project Description

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What is it:

RoomEase is a roommate coordination app which provides a better experience of living together. Its main goal is to help roommates manage shared resources and monitor responsibilities.

Problems it solves:

·   One's routine could collide with that of their roommates. E.g. watching different TV shows at the same time or taking morning showers around the same time.

·   Food in common storage units would often rot before anyone have removed it.

·   Meeting with all roommates to create a shared document, such as a roommate agreement or a shopping list, and then handing everyone a copy tends to be hard. Making sure that every roommate has a copy of said document is equally tough as well.

·   Dividing chores could be a mess, as well as remembering whose job was to do what and if it was completed, or even to do your own.

Features:

Reservation   *Main Goal*

Allows users to reserve any of the common resources (e.g. TV, kitchen, etc.) for a specified period of time.

Food Management   *Main Goal*

List all food items in the fridge or storage, who is it owned by, and the expiration date on every item. This feature also notifies users when an item approaches its expiration date regardless of owner.

Shared List   *Main Goal*

Gives the option of creating mutable or immutable lists that can be viewed by all or some roommates. This feature comes with a built-in Roommate Agreement list that the user is prompt to fill and can be only altered by the agreement of all parties.

Reminders Feed   *Main Goal*

Personal, regularly updated feed of chores, reservations, nearly-expired food, and to-do's.

Payment   *Stretch Goal*

A direct implementation of *Venmo* which processes money transactions that could occur between roommates for any given reason. E.g. buying groceries or the paying the rent.

Gamification   *Stretch Goal*

Tracks missed chores while granting points to completed ones. Punishment and award system is left for the users to decide.

Who's Home   *Stretch Goal*

An opt-in option for users to know who is currently at home. If not, it does not provide any additional information to a user's whereabouts.

Chores Preferences *Stretch Goal*

 Each user has the option to arrange chores from most to least preferred. Users'
 preferences are to be taken into consideration when dividing chores.

Alternatives:

Roommates could choose to coordinate amongst each other verbally, by using any texting
service, or a standard scheduling app. What sets RoomEase aside from all of this is that
integrates all of these into one and provides a record of past interactions as well.

Product v. RoomEase

 Home Slice

 Home Slice can be used in only two areas when put in contrast to RoomEase. It
 functions either as a shared list, or to keep track of roommates' debts to each other. It does
 not provide any of the extra functionality that RoomEase provides.

 Roommates

 Although Roommates provides most of the functionality RoomEase intends to, it falls
 short with its user-unfriendly UI that can be hard to understand. It also does not attempt to
 address the food management problem that RoomEase solves.

 My Roommates

 Like Roommates, My Roommates does not provide any food management functionality
 either. It is also only available on Android which makes it less ideal when roommates do not
 use the same operating system.

Non-functional requirements:

 Usability

 We recognize that having to type into your phone the expiry date of every item you buy
 is annoying, and so is typing before using the TV. Therefore, every task accomplished by
 RoomEase should be achievable in no more than a few buttons presses as not to bore the
 user away.

 Availability

 To ease communication between roommates with different operating systems,
 RoomEase has to be runnable cross-platforms. Mainly on iOS and Android.

 Performance

 Under optimal network conditions, no screen should load for more than two seconds.
 Elsewise, users will be less willing to use our product.

 Accessibility

 Despite using server-stored databases, our app should still be accessible offline. Other
 than Who's Home, the latest-viewed version of the contents of the fridge, shared lists,
 reservations, and reminders feed should be available.

Documentation:

 RoomEase's UI is going to be enough to explain the flow of the program and how tasks
are completed. However, for the case when a user cannot navigate their way solely, we are
going to include a HELP section in-app.