



GYST is the easiest  
way to manage  
students To Dos,  
Notes and Resources  
on the go.

GET THE GYST?

BY NICK BELANGER, JEFF CAMPBELL AND SHAINA LURIE

## STAKEHOLDERS



Jill Jones

- 17 year old
- Undergraduate student
- Underweight
- Perfectionist

John Jacobson

- 35 year old Father
- Web Developer
- Graduate student
- High blood pressure





# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Jill Jones

Jill is a 17 year old undergraduate refugee student, just starting classes at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont. Physically she is underweight, what doctors may call anorexic, and is constantly in the gym trying to achieve what he believes to be the 'perfect figure'. Being the perfectionist that she is, Jill will not stop stop excessively working out until she looks as 'perfect' as those models she watches on her favorite show Project Runway. Jill is currently single and very concerned about how she will be received at her new college.

She gets very easily stressed due to her being a perfectionist as well as being obsessive compulsive. This proved to be somewhat of a handicap to her through high school because of all the sports and activities she had to juggle. Jill was very close to her family and now that she is on her own at school, she is very homesick and her stress levels are always on the rise.

For enjoyment, Jill likes to play games and use apps on her most prized possession, her iPhone. She considers her phone to be more like a lifeline and as such keeps her schedule as well as a list of things she must complete before the end of the day on it. She also has a laptop where she does all her homework, takes all her notes, and uses the Internet for updating her social media sites.



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## John Jacobson

John is a 35-year old 'Web Developer' who is attending graduate school at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. Physically, he is a heavier man weighing approximately 230 pounds with a height of 6'1'. His blood pressure is 90 over 144, which is high for a male at his age (should be closer to 81 over 122). He exercises by going to the gym about once a month and performs a one-hour workout composed mostly of weight lifting and some jump-roping.

He is currently married and has 3 younger girl children between the ages of 10 and 15 years of age. His tendency to be overly stimulated from all of the problem situations at work, home, and school causes him to be easily stressed. He has a lower resistance than the average male to deal with all of these external pressures, worn down over time, and a lack of time to properly release them in a healthy environment. Emotionally, this causes him to have a lack of patience and be short and spiteful in tense situations

When he does get the chance to have some time to himself, he tends to enter a circling pattern and watch TV shows that he is familiar with; Family guy is his favorite. He sympathizes greatly with the main character of Family Guy named 'Peter' whose social, familial, and physical appearance closely match his own. At work and school, he is well respected due to his high level of skill in solving technical problems and near-eidetic memory for computer languages, hardware, and math. He would probably be labeled a 'power user' in any regular office environment, always scripting some process to run automatically to free up time and checking and responding to email on his blackberry with great frequency.



# USAGE SCENARIOS

## Jill Jones

Jill wakes up after a terrible night of sleep and starts to get ready for class an hour before her alarm goes off. She's very anxious about her new school, classmates, and what she's wearing. She has no friends and wants to make a good impression so she doesn't eat and gets her things ready for school. She rushes off to class and realizes her iPhone is still in her dorm room. Realizing her most-prized possession is on the hot-pink pillowcase back in her dorm room, she sprints to her dorm room and back, completing the 200 yard dash nearly as fast as most Olympic short-distance runners. She arrives right as her new English teacher, Professor Cumberpatch, is orating at a rapid-fire pace through the material they'll cover, making snide remarks all the way. Jill must organize her class notes about the teacher, her subject, and their final project before the class ends.

Jill's overall goal is to maintain productivity within her education. As a new undergraduate refugee student, just starting classes at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont; she feels immense pressure to succeed. Her new school is expensive, therefore she cannot waste any time or energy on missing classes and assignments. This is an entirely new environment and community for Jill. Therefore, she feels additional pressure to make new friends and form relationship bonds. As a perfectionist, Jill always puts in her best effort towards her studies. Her anorexic condition does not help her retain levels of energy. What this means is that Jill will need she allocate her energy and time wisely. This would not be possible without maintaining an organizational structure for her everyday work flow within her education. The primary benefits for Jill include getting good grades and pleasing her family by graduating in the timely manner of a 4-year University.

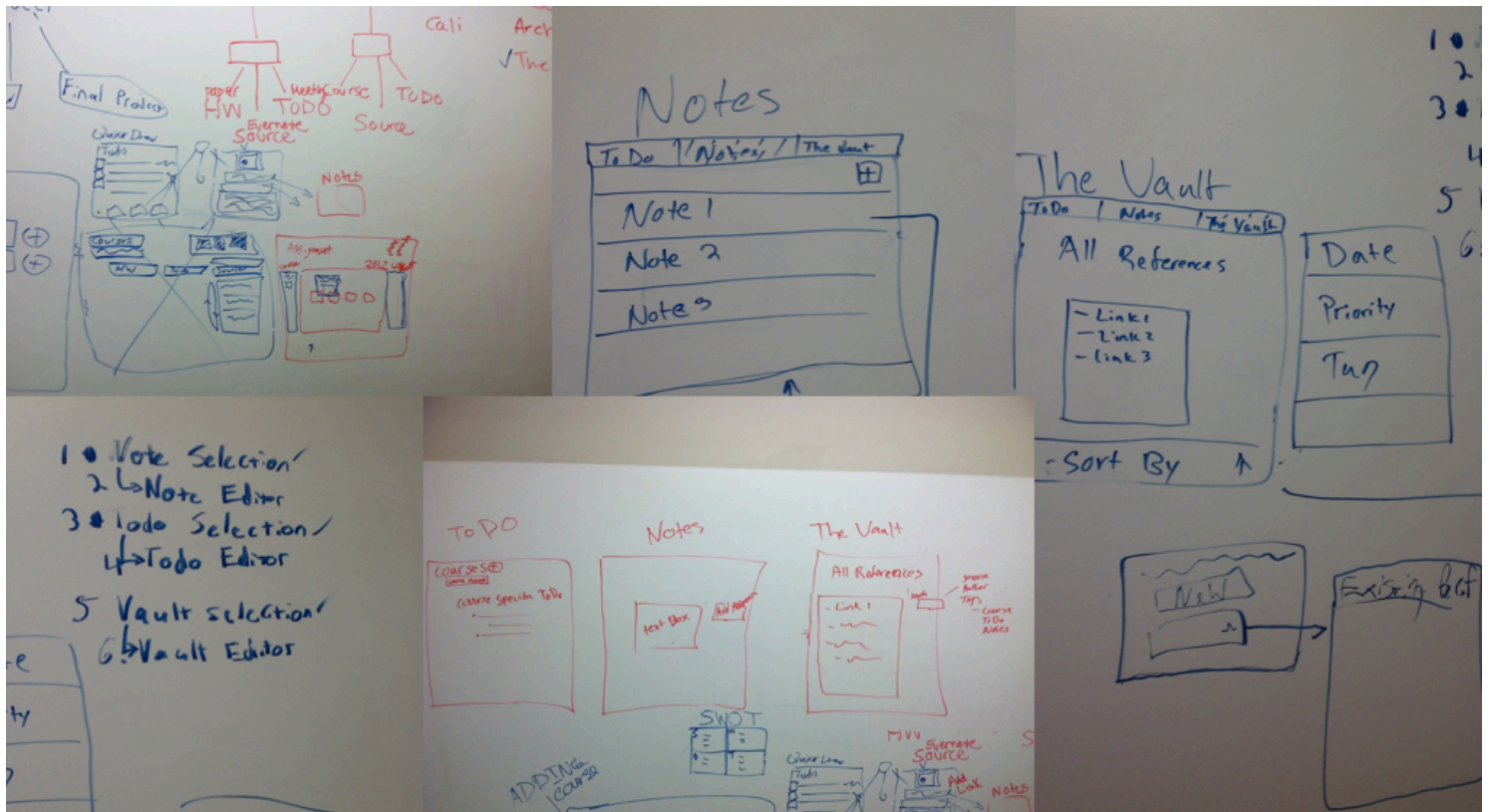


# USAGE SCENARIOS

## John Jacobson

On a typical Monday morning for John, he wakes up with a hangover and rolls off of the bed. His children are already yammering and hawing away in the next room while his wife screams at them to get ready for school. John dresses, cleans up, pounds down a shot of scotch, and drives off to work. Sitting down at his 3 x 4 cubicle at 6:30am, he needs to organize not only his full-time work, but his graduate student assignments before the weekly meeting at 7am in his paper portfolio planner.

John's overall goal is to maintain productivity within his career and his education. This is essential for him to retain his successful job as a Web Developer. He needs to be organized within his work and home environment to decrease his level of stress and anxiety. Keeping stress levels low is pertinent to his health. If he reaches high levels of stress this could be extremely dangerous because of his high blood pressure. Family is a huge part of John's everyday life. With his 3 children and wife he tries his best to set an example for his children by working hard on all his duties. John realizes that by striving towards higher education he will be able to give back to his family and hopefully gain a higher income level. This will help his three children reach their aspirations. Education is extremely important to John. He takes pride in attending graduate school at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York. His higher goal is to graduate next year. This would not be possible without maintaining an organizational structure for his work flow. The primary benefits for John include keeping his current job and getting good grades in graduate school. Both will help his future lifestyle and family success.





## TASK ANALYSIS

Jill Jones

### **Task Analysis #1:**

Record Information from an Orator into a paper planner

### **Required Tools:**

1. Pen or Pencil
2. Paper Planner

### **Step 1**

Ask a fellow student as well as the teacher about previously discussed information for the present class; write any information discussed into the notes section of the current day in the paper planner. If there was no previously discussed information, move to step two.

### **Step 2**

Continue listening to professor and if a pertinent subject or piece of information is broached, write notes on it into the paper planner. Otherwise continue to observe the class.

### **Step 3**

Once the oration has ceased, review notes for any discrepancies or missing pieces of information. If there are problems with your notes, ask the teacher and classmates for more information on how to correct them. Write them into the notes section.





## Jill Jones

### **Task Analysis #2:**

Record Information from an Orator into an Evernote note.

### **Required Tools:**

1. Computer (If laptop, ignore other items after this one).
2. Monitor
3. Keyboard
4. Mouse
5. Power source

### **Step 1**

Power on computer if not already on and login. Start up the Evernote desktop application and create a new note titled as the current date plus the class title.

### **Step 2**

Ask a fellow student as well as the teacher about previously discussed information for the present class; type any information discussed into the notes section of the current day in the paper planner. If there was no previously discussed information, move to step two.

### **Step 3**

Continue listening to professor and if a pertinent subject or piece of information is broached, write notes on it into the paper planner. Otherwise continue to observe the class.

### **Step 4**

Once the oration has ceased, review notes for any discrepancies or missing pieces of information. If there are problems with your notes, ask the teacher and classmates for more information on how to correct them. Write them into the notes section.

## TASK ANALYSIS

John Jacobson

### **Task Analysis 1#:**

Organize a diverse array of tasks from work and school and plan accordingly in his planner in a half an hour or less.

### **Required Tools:**

1. Pen or Pencil
2. Paper Planner

### **Step 1**

For each task listed, write down general information that describes the task, its dependencies, the amount of time required to complete the task, and when the task is due.

### **Step 2**

Divide each task into one of two groups based on whether it is a work task or school task.

### **Step 3**

Look at the weekly schedule from start to finish and identify the empty or potentially empty blocks where time can be exclusively devoted to school time and those exclusively devoted for work tasks.

### **Step 4**

With adjustments made for dependencies of the task and whether the time block is exclusively for school or work, place each task starting with the longest task (most time needed) into a block of time capable of sustaining the amount of time needed to complete it. If a task requires more time than any one block of free time is able, divide that task into two sub-tasks of equal amounts of work; then pick the longest task available and start again. Write the selected task into the allocated amount of time designated for it using a pencil or pen.



## John Jacobson

### **Task Analysis #2:**

Organize diverse tasks from work and school with Evernote in a 1/2 hour or less.

### **Required Tools:**

1. Computer (If laptop, ignore other required tools)
2. Keyboard & Mouse
3. Power source

### **Step 1**

If the computer is not already turned on and you are not logged in, complete both of those tasks. Once both of those things have been accomplished, open up Evernote and create a new note. Title it with the current date, plus 'Tasks' to form 'Current Date Tasks'.

### **Step 2**

For each task listed, type the general information that describes the task, its dependencies, the amount of time required to complete the task, and when the task is due.

### **Step 3**

Divide each task into one of two groups based on whether it is a work task or school task and type a label next to it as 'work' or 'school'.

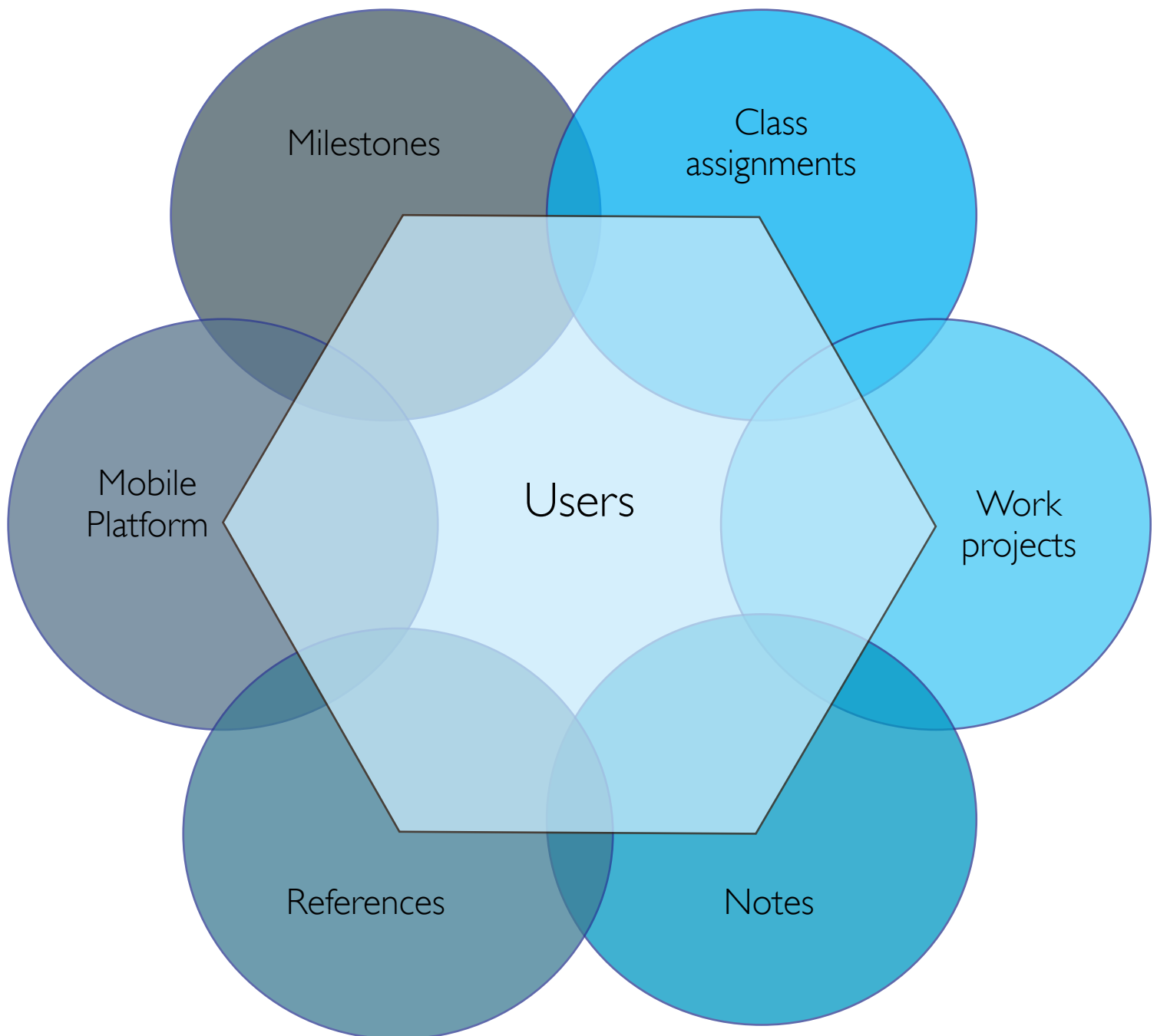
### **Step 4**

Create a new list using the unordered list button. Based on what your schedule is like for the week from memory, designate each block of time available for a work or school task and add it as a list item by typing the time block plus the day plus the type of task that can be completed in that block (if both types of tasks can be completed then, then write both in). Each line should appear in the format "0:00 PM/AM - 0:00 PM/AM School/ Work".

### **Step 5**

With adjustments made for dependencies of the task and whether the time block is exclusively for school or work, copy and paste each task starting with the longest task (most time needed) into a list item designating the block of time capable of sustaining the amount of time needed to complete it. If a task requires more time than any one block of free time is able, divide that task into two sub-tasks of equal amounts of work; then pick the longest task available and start again. Type the selected task into the line designating the allocated amount of time.

## CONCEPTUAL MODEL





# OPERABILITY

Users should be authenticated before reaching the full application. This method of authentication will provide a layer of security for the application as well as allow users to store and save their own individual data. Another operability requirement for this application is to have all tasks follow the same path process. This will avoid confusion about navigation and allow for easy usage. With this in mind, a basic task should not require more than four steps and a user should be able to reach any part of the main application within two steps. In addition, the information displayed on the application should be filterable by several different quantifiers such as time created, time modified, etc. Our last operability requirement is that information should be saved automatically as a user explores and manipulates the application.

# INTERFACE

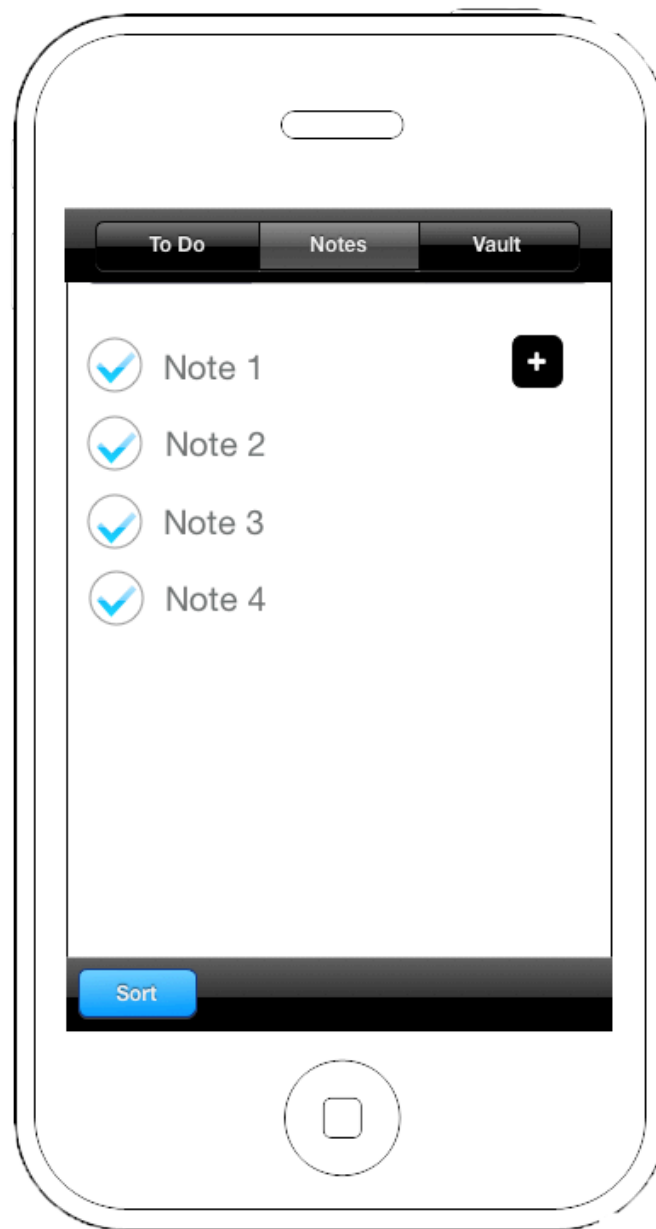
Our interface requirements include the following: the interface elements should be consistent and easy to understand throughout the entire application. Also, the main navigation should be available to the user through a maximum of two clicks. Our applications interface should remain consistent with similar iOS applications and will follow Apple's "iOS Human Interface Guidelines". Finally its should be apparent, upon the application start, what the application is.

## PROTOTYPE I





## PROTOTYPE 2

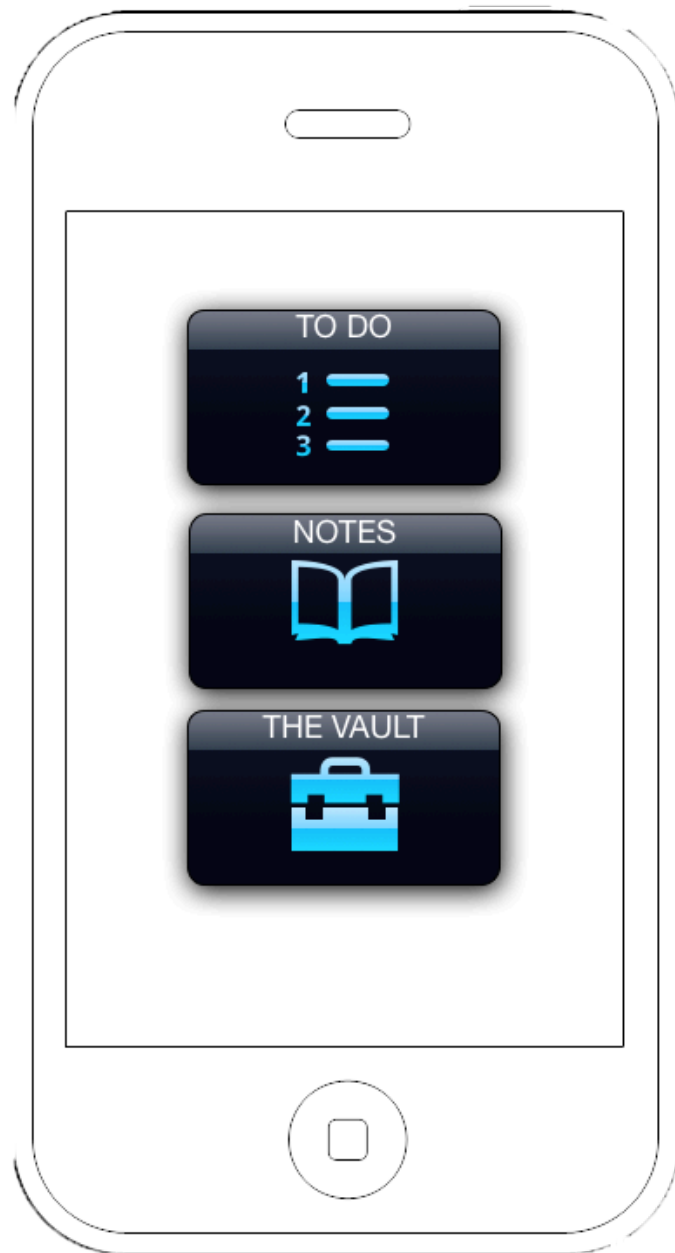




# GYST

*Get your sh\*t together*

## PROTOTYPE 3



# GYST

Get your sh\*t together

## TESTING & EVALUATION (1,2,3)

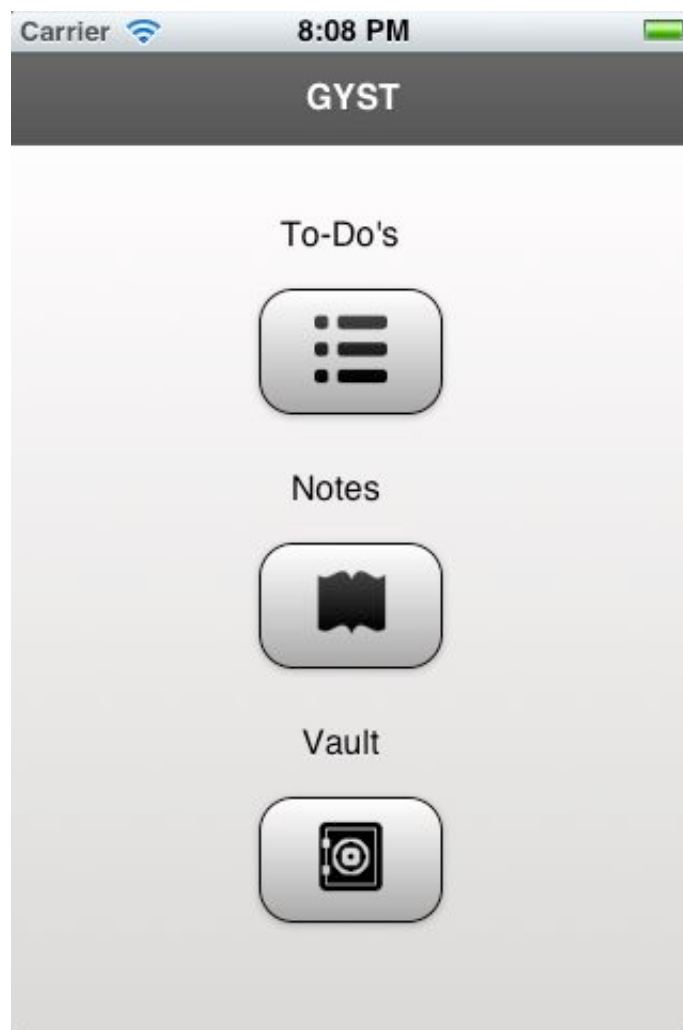
Google form:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=DEZZUDRJYVHZMNNBVXDENVVXLTLBLEE6MQ#gid=0>

Timestamp	What is your gender?	Please select the range of years where your age lies in	Do you own a smartphone or have used one before?	On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your familiarity and skill in using computers and other technological devices?	If so, how many smartphone apps do you use on a weekly basis?	What is your major, or what field does your major lie in?	What do you currently use to keep track of notes, tasks, and important dates?	How easy was the interface to navigate for a given task on a scale of 1-10?	Between the three different versions of the GYST interface that you viewed, which was the most attractive and why?	Were there any elements of the application that were not immediately evident and what were they?	How does completing the usage scenario task in GYST compare to your current method of recording notes?	How did the layout of the application affect your ability to complete the task in the usage scenario? Did it affect you?	How did the color palette affect your perception of the application? Is it what you expected in comparison to apps you have used in the past?
3/31/2012 22:39:32	Female	16-20	No	6		Education	Post it notes, phone calendar	5	The third, as the menu was more visually appealing. Version 2 had a nice combination of version 3's design features and version 1's usability		More organized	The layout did not especially affect me	The black and white was not preferable
4/1/2012 20:46:10	Female	16-20	used one before	6	~2	Professional Writing	The back of my hand & a pen	8		The vault	If I had a smart phone I would be much more likely to use GYST than the notepad	Version 3's layout made it more difficult to navigate the app	yes. Clean and professional. Having different parts like the notes, versus the to do list in different colors helps prioritize what was more important, I liked the red and blue for that purpose.
4/1/2012 21:31:19	Female	16-20	Yes	6		Graphic design	Calendar on phone or notepad in phone	9	The Third one seem the most attractive. It was very simple and straight forward and the colors looked nice.	IT was very simple, the only thing I didn't understand was the filters.	It is better, as it is one place to go for all my planning needs, and seems like it will be easy to keep me on track. Using GYST could definitely benefit me in my note taking however, I am one of those people who would likely forget to use it every once and a while and go back to writing it down on paper. But I do find it to be a helpful and useful tool.	The layout on the third design seemed the easiest and most straight forward, it was very easy to navigate.	I liked to color palette of the third version, it was simple and yet something eye catching rather than just grey. It also was too much color like other apps I've seen that just distract from the task at hand. I liked this apps color scheme.
4/1/2012 21:43:47	Female	16-20	Yes	8	Probably around 15 or more	Early Childhood Education	-Notebooks - Planner -iPhone Calendar	9	Version number 3, it was easiest to navigate and included the back button. The buttons after the login menu seem more appealing than the other options just due to the simplicity.	I was unsure of what the filters were meant to do until I had them explained to me. However if I had the app to physically test out, I could probably have figured it out.		I found it easy to use and navigate, so the layout didn't affect me negatively.	The bright color palette helped me to better navigate the usage scenario. Since it was a prototype still in the stages of conception, I didn't think that it would be this detail orientated.
4/1/2012 22:06:47	Female	20-25	Yes	5	About 7	Professional Writing	1. Reminders 2. Notes	9	I liked the second one because it most closely resembles the iPhone platform. It's not clunky and it's easy to navigate as well. Likewise, it is more attractive than the first version of GYST that I viewed.		It's about the same as the iPhone. However, I feel like it has the potential to be a lot more versatile.	It was easy to follow as well as easy to navigate. There weren't too many directions to take, which made it even easier to mess up and to follow along.	Color always catches the eye. The less color there is the easier it is for me to get bored with whatever it is and move on from it. Apps that I have used in the past are more colorful, but it wouldn't stop me from using the app.
4/1/2012 23:12:03	Female	16-20	yes	8	10	Psychology	The notepad and calendar apps on my phone.	10	Design 3, it caught my eye the most out of all three.	The "vault" element, if I wasn't told it was for more references then I wouldn't have known	GYST seems more organized than just a regular notepad app on a smart phone so that's definitely a plus.	In my opinion, it seemed easy to use.	



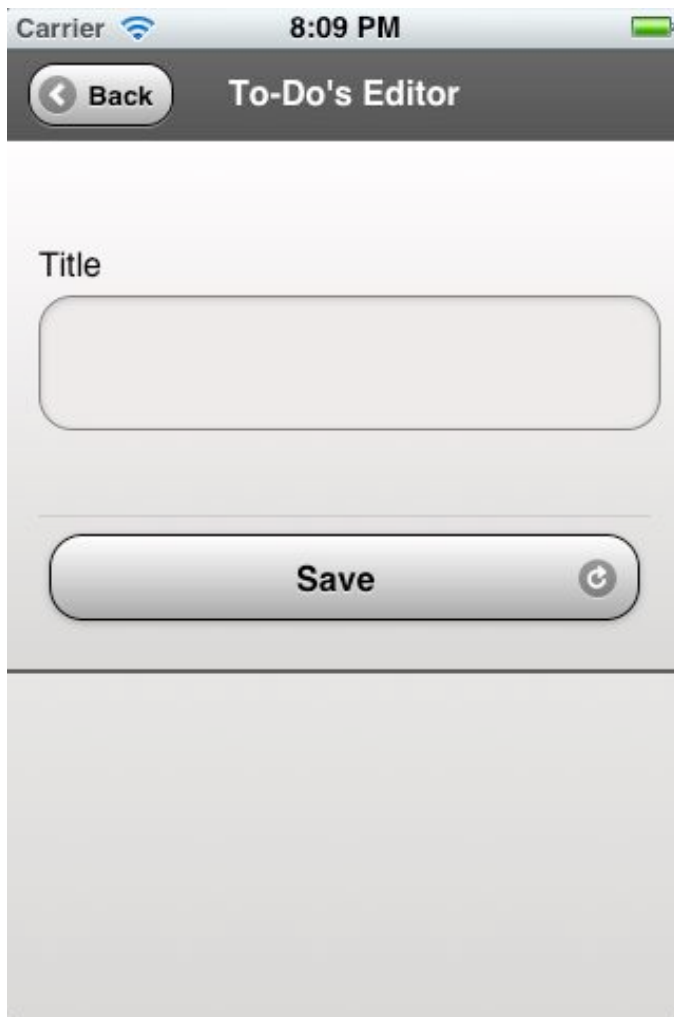
# PROTOTYPE 4



# GYST

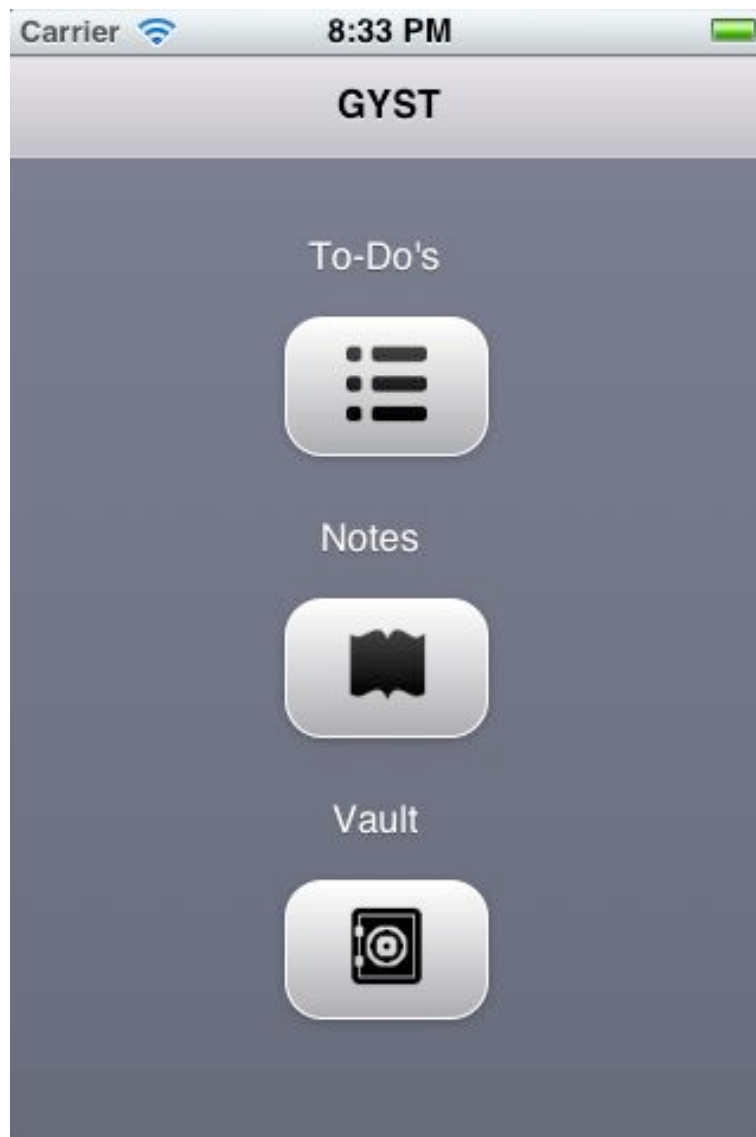
*Get your sh\*t together*

## PROTOTYPE 4





# PROTOTYPE 5



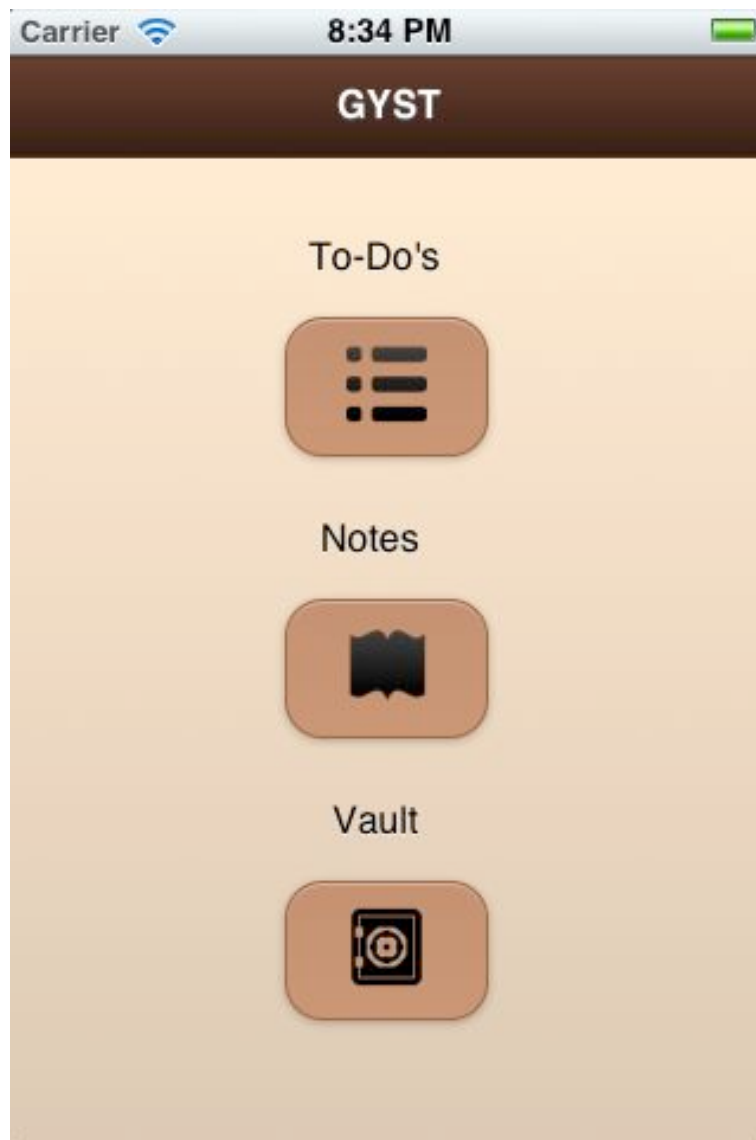


# PROTOTYPE 5





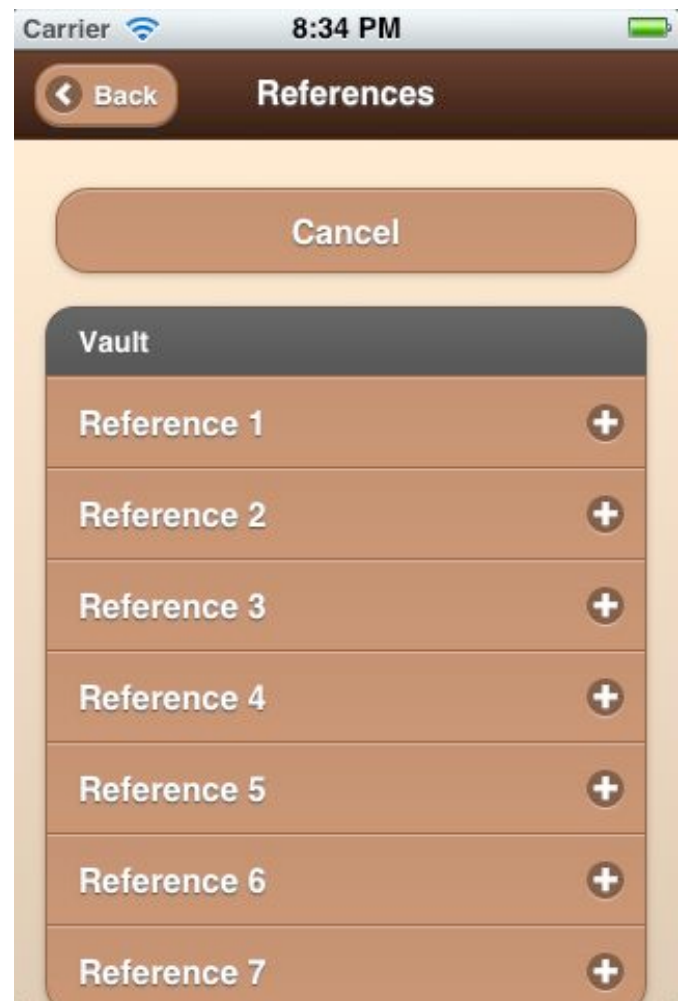
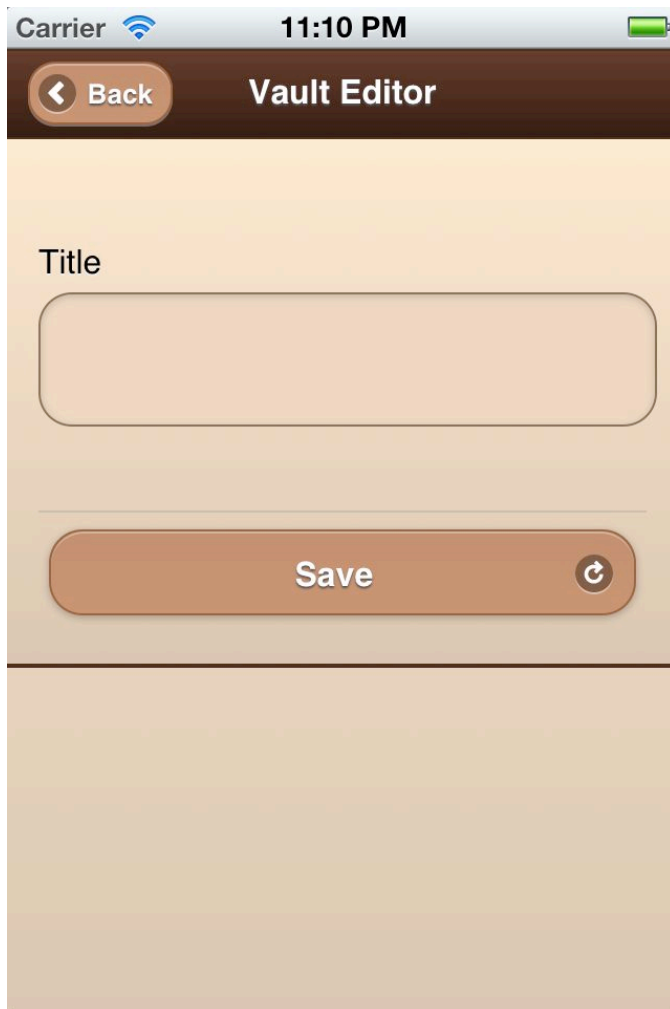
## PROTOTYPE 6







## PROTOTYPE 6



## TESTING & EVALUATION (4,5,6)

Google form:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=DEIUBML50FPNCXLYVMXWN3YIVKHSABC6MA#gid=0>

Timestamp	What is your gender?	Please select the range of years where your age lies in	Do you own a smartphone or have used one before?	How would you rate your familiarity and skill in using computers and other technological devices?	If so, how many smartphone apps do you use on a weekly basis?	What is your major, or what field does your major lie in?	What do you currently use to keep track of notes, tasks, and important dates?	How easy was the interface to navigate for a given task?	Between the three different versions of the GYST interface that you viewed, which was the most attractive and why?	Were there any elements of the application that were not immediately evident and what were they?	How does completing the usage scenario task in GYST compare to your current method of recording notes?	How did the layout of the application affect your ability to complete the task in the usage scenario? Did it affect you?	How did the color palette affect your perception of the application? Is it what you expected in comparison to apps you have used in the past?
4/12/2012 11:15:13	Male	21-25	Yes	Very Proficient	6	Computer Information Technologies	Google Docs and Google Calendar on my Chromebook	ok	I liked GystB the most, its black background was the least stressful on my eyes.	Well, if they were not evident I would not have noticed them, but I think that there was not anything that I missed. To-Do's, Notes, and the Vault were all that I noticed.	It takes 3 fewer steps to begin writing the note, but does not automatically save.	The layout was very easy to use. Potentially increasing the size of the icons could help with pressing them, but they are currently very similar to the sizing of the icons on the home page of the iPhone, so they are not too small.	It did not change my feelings towards the application. The black background was the nicest to look at, though.
4/12/2012 11:22:52	Male	21-25	No	Very Proficient	n/a	Computer Information Technologies	notes on paper, for most part i just remember dates.	ok	3 for it color choice but number 1 for its size of icons.	n/a	sub par for me i use short hand for notes and type interface for smart phones is something that i do not enjoy	no, its flow is fine for me	color helps with its contrast
4/12/2012 11:34:07	Male	21-25	Yes	Very Proficient	10	Computer Information Technologies	Calendar app, Reminder app	Very Easy	GystC was the most attractive. It looked nice and clean and had warm colors.	I did not understand 'The vault', it seemed to bring me to the same to-do list as when I pressed the 'To-do' button	It seems to take about the same amount of time. However, when I use the Calendar and Reminder apps, they allow me to set alarms to remind me to complete the tasks.	The layout was nice and simple, which made it easy to navigate so that I could accomplish the specified task.	I enjoyed the color palette of the application. it was simple it was not cluttered with too many colors.
4/12/2012 11:49:07	Female	36-40	Yes	Very Proficient	6	computer science	in outlook	ok	first one was clearer contrast but the idea of a color against white like the third would be nice	yes - title is not content need two boxes - one for each felt lost at that point	need a quick not button on front of screen for those emergency moments or a voice to text quick button too many clicks to enter if you are late as in your scenario	initial buttons need to be larger or in a box with bigger text ( fits law) back and + buttons also need to be more obvious - not enough contrast with background of top of screen	liked the brown but not the pinkish background color could be good to increase contrast I like color
4/12/2012 12:03:26	Female	21-25	Yes	Very Proficient	0	Web Development & Design	Sticky notes Random sheets of paper Dry erase board Calendar	Very Easy	Number one or two... neutral colors are best to stick to when using planning apps such as this.	The vault was rather confusing, I needed clarification on it. Maybe calling it a "Library" or "Resources" so it's more relevant for students. When I think of Vault I think of storage, like a bank.	It's all in one place and is always with you, which is nice... but for those of us that don't have a smartphone, it's not really an option.	I wasn't given a usage scenario... but the app was very simple & straight-forward.	Neutrals are good (see above). The brown - it was interesting to see color, but I don't think the copper was the right one.



## PROTOTYPE 7

Carrier 10:58 PM

GYST



Username


Password

Submit

Carrier 10:58 PM

GYST

To-Do's



Notes

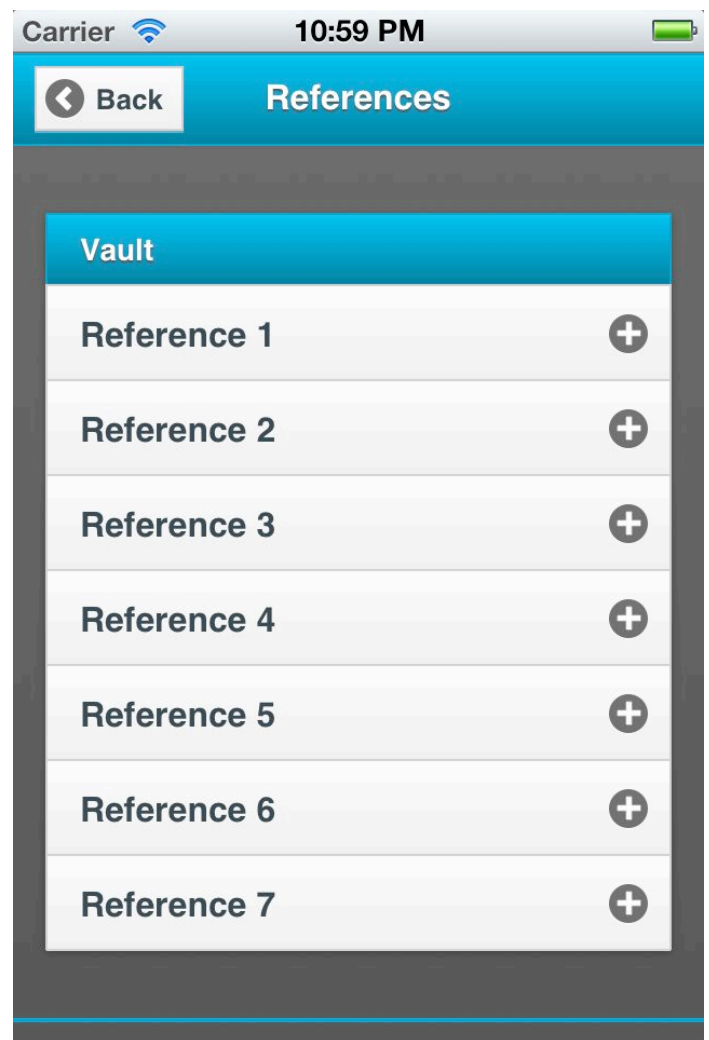
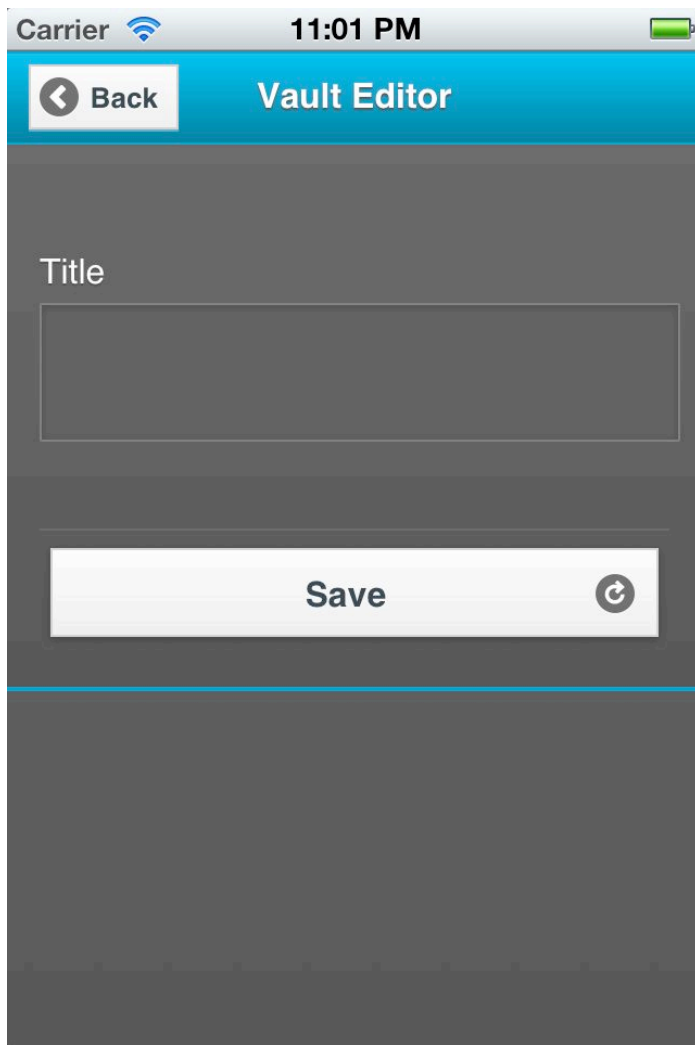


Vault





# PROTOTYPE 7



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<[HTTP://WWW.ILS.UNC.EDU/~ACRYSTAL/AMCIS04\\_CRYSTAL\\_ELLINGTON\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.ils.unc.edu/~acystal/amcis04_crystal_ellington_final.pdf)>

PROCEDURAL TASK ANALYSIS, <[HTTP://CLASSWEB.GMU.EDU/NDABBAGH/RESOURCES/RESOURCES2/PROCEDURAL\\_ANALYSIS.HTM](http://classweb.gmu.edu/ndabbagh/resources/resources2/procedural_analysis.htm)>