# Dief Logging Mechanism 

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## Background

Obesity is a big problem in the U.S. - leads to:

## - Cardiovascular disease

- Diabetes
- Cancer


Approx. 60 million Americans are obese (BMI > 30) [CDC]
National obesity rate is continuing to climb despite growing awareness on the issue

## Dieting

$\square$
\$40 billion a year industry in the United States [Business Week]
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We are all familiar with a multitude of weight loss products and companies


Most diet programs advocate some type of diet logging
$\square$
Diet logs vary from a simple notepad and pen to advanced digital logs

## Electronic Diet Logs

## Require exact quantities

Attempt to provide complete nutritional information

Time consuming
Extreme dedication required


## Problem Statement

College students have poor eating habits
Diet logging is an effective method to eat well Problems with current diet logs - Low compliance

- Inaccurate


National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant

## PDS Summary

College-aged adults (approx. 18-24 years)
Readily available device or application
Michael Pollan
$\qquad$ Smaller portions
$\qquad$ More plants
Foods categorized

- Does not count calories

General idea of what a person is eating

## IN DEFENSE OF FOOD

ANEATER'S MANIFESTO


MICHAEL POLLAN THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA

## Design 1: Website

## Part Blog - suggest new habits and provide inspiring information

## Part Restaurant/Grocery Database

- Initially localized to UW-Madison
- Give healthy options
- Other: location awareness, comparisons, ratings, comments, etc

Who are we to say what is healthy?
High upkeep
Innovative design, but questionable engineering

## Design 2: Probe

Food probe that will classify food as you eat it Integrate into

- Utensils: fork, spoon, knife, etc. - Tooth filling
- Questionable Feasibility

Potentially excessive testing required

## Design 3: Pictures

- Visual log more engaging and influential

Smartphone hardware


- popular with college demographic
- readily available
- user takes before/after pictures


## Decision Matrix

|  | Website | Probe | Picture App. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Feasibility (25) | 15 | 0 | 10 |
| Nutritional Recommendation <br> (25) | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| Convenience (20) | 12 | 3 | 20 |
| Availability (10) | 10 | 2 | 5 |
| Upkeep (20) | 0 | 15 | 10 |
| Total | 52 | 40 | 70 |

## Final Design: Picture Log

- User takes picture of everything they eat
- Readily available through smartphone hardware
- Interactive interface
- Feedback - weekly review


## Relative Quantities

## Qualitative, not quantitative

User selects between sizes

- Small
- Medium
- Large



## Categorization



- [ User draws circles around foods, based on food groups
$\qquad$ Area of a circle allows for a rough estimate of quantity
$\qquad$ Custom categories


## Feedback

Weekly review

- Photo slideshow


## Fruits <br>  ㅁ․



- Week of meals, in pictures
- End of the week quiz: "do you know what you ate?"
- Summary of weekly food intake by category
- Pictures can also be sent to a researcher


## Future Work

## Choose application plafform

## - iPhone

## - Android

- Windows Mobile



## Programming

Find researcher to implement program

- Form of assessment
- Choice of categories



## Questions?

