

TooCooks Sample Challenge

Too often cooking can be the lonely job of an individual. Sometimes it seems as if kitchens work only for one person - or for two people who cook together often. But cooking can be educational, fun, and collaborative. It can bring together people who may not know each other well, or those looking for a new activity.

TooCooks is a solution that makes cooking with another person easier and more fun by assessing skill levels and assigning steps accordingly. Each recipe step is timed, and waiting periods are filled with interactive challenges like conversation starters or trivia questions.

CONSTRAINTS

- Design for only two cooks at a time of potentially different ages and skill levels. For example, cooks can be an adult and a child, or two adults on a date.
- Design for one shared device during the cooking.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

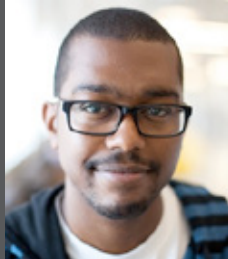
- Those with lower skill levels should feel like an important, valuable member of the team.
- Playful interaction wins over culinary perfection.
- Celebrate the kitchen as the heart of the home.

FEATURES

- A *cook profile*, stores information about a player's skill level, food preferences, and allergies. This should be gathered via a short questionnaire and stored for use during multiple cooking events.
- A *kitchen profile* to determine what kinds of equipment or utensils will generally be available.
- An *event picker* that allows players to choose the tone of the cooking event (such as "Romantic," "Educational," "Silly"), the meal type (breakfast, lunch, dinner), and how many people are dining.
- *Recipe suggestions* (three to six) based on data from the event picker, the kitchen profile, and cook profiles, with a for players to choose one of the recipes.
- A *recipe stepper* for the chosen recipe, with timed tasks and audible alerts customized for each cook playing.
- A *fun gap-filler!* Consider conversation starters, mini-games, trivia, or educational challenges. These will appear while players are waiting for water to boil. Players should be able to pause and resume.

TooCooks: Personas

LONG-TERM LAWSON



Personal Information

Age: 25 years old

Lawson moved to Chicago for work about a year ago. He's at a point in his life where he's looking for a serious relationship. He's excited about Jessica - they've been on several dates together, and for this one he wants to plan something more interesting than a restaurant and a movie.

Goals

- Have a fun date that helps the two of them get to know each other better.
- Impress Jessica with his home, and with his desire to develop a serious relationship.

Frustrations

- So many recipe sites call for ingredients or utensils that he doesn't have yet! He doesn't want to buy half his kitchen.
- Lawson doesn't know if Jessica is a great cook or a pure beginner. An overcomplicated recipe could backfire. He wants to look open and fun, but not ridiculous.

MAKE-A-HOME MEGAN



Personal Information

Age: 36 years old

Megan recently married Ben, who has a 10 year-old daughter named Angie. Megan wants to get to know Angie in a way that's friendly and home-oriented. She'd like to be an important and positive person in Angie's life.

Goals

- Strengthen her relationship with Angie.
- Form traditions for their new home together.

Frustrations

- Most nights Megan, Angie, and Ben end up in front of the television. It's easy but impersonal. Megan wants an interesting way to spend one-on-one time with Angie doing something active that they'll both enjoy.
- Angie hasn't done much cooking, and she can get anxious when faced with a challenge that she doesn't understand. Megan doesn't want Angie to get stressed out over making something perfect. She just wants them both to have a good time creating something together.