Decision Making

Problem and Motivation

Humans make choices on a daily basis, of which the outcomes of those decisions either better or hamper personal development and overall wellbeing. Analysis paralysis is a state of over-thinking a situation until a decision is never taken. Since decision making tasks permeate many faucets of our lives, undergoing analysis paralysis at work, home and while making decisions for one’s self is not uncommon. The inability to make decisions causes loss of opportunity and acts as an additional stressor to a person, even more so in professional working environments. Categorizing decisions and identifying underlying reasonings behind the choices is difficult since it involves implicit and explicit motives of a person.

Background and Context

This problem of analysis paralysis arises from being engrossed in the possible outcomes and the results of the outcomes until it detracts the person’s ability to make a rational decision. ChoiceMap for iOS (Figure 1.1) seeks to categorize choices and assist in making a choice based on ranking influences.
MyDecision (Figure 1.2) for Android assists users in making rational choices by generating reports and charts to help in the decision process.

Both of these existing apps seek to organize choices and present suggestions to the user based on the user's motives and opinions. Present mobile applications excel at allowing users to input scenarios of varying scales, allowing for flexibility that mimics real life situations. However, the task of inputting data into existing applications is tedious and time consuming as decision making applications rely on textual input.