

BALANCE

A TIME MANAGEMENT TOOL



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Alex Vassallo – User Research

How do you spend your time?

- How long do you stay at school each week?
- How many hours do you sleep per day?
- How often do you hang out with friends?

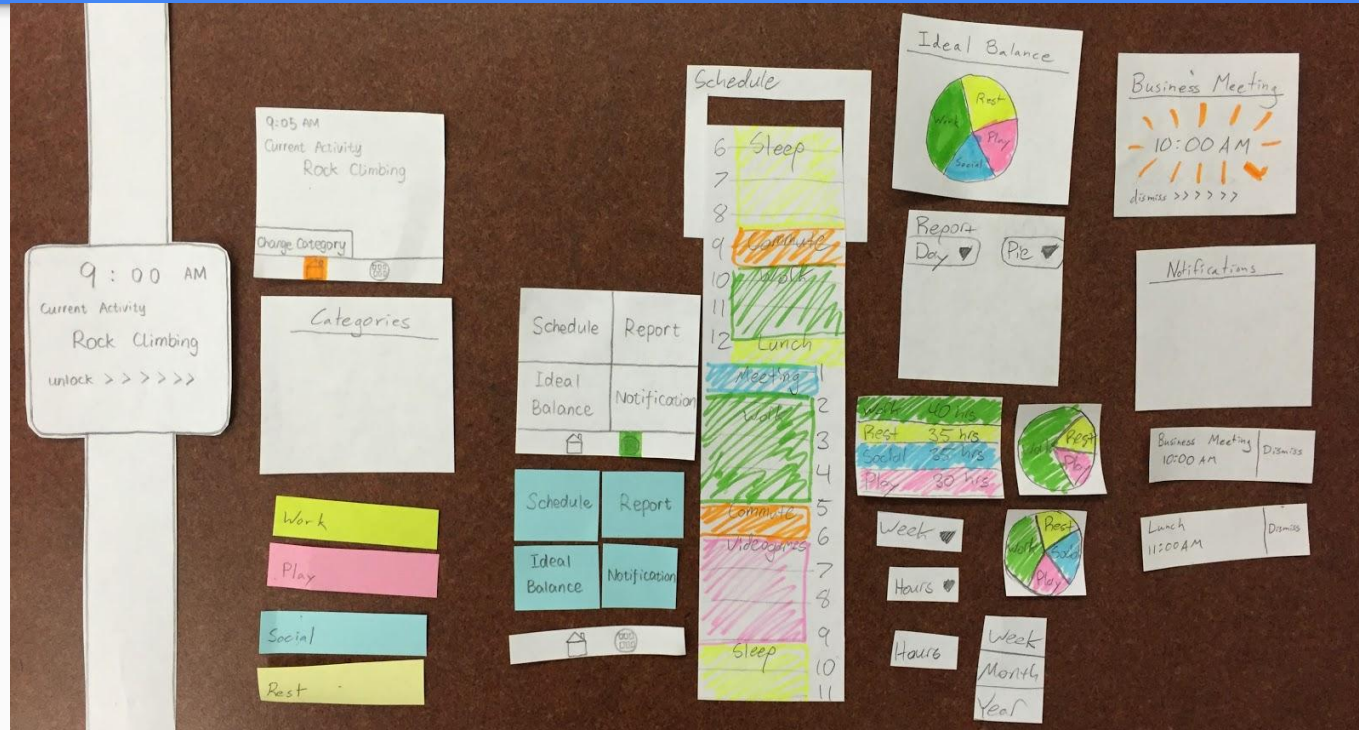
Overall Problem

It's hard to properly balance our time and achieve our goals.

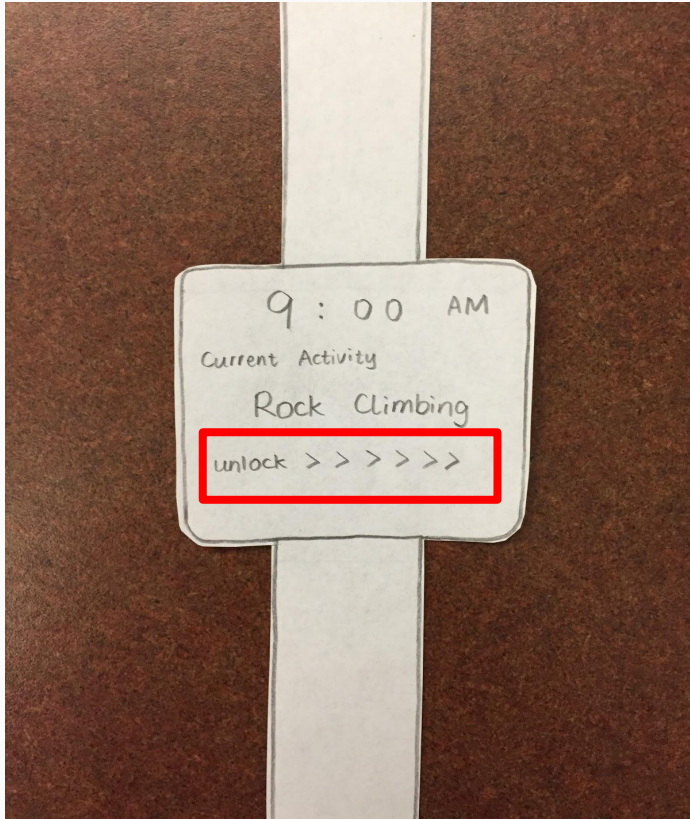
Challenges:

- Knowing how much time you spend on activities
- Planning what to do with free time
- Sticking to your plans

Initial Paper Prototype



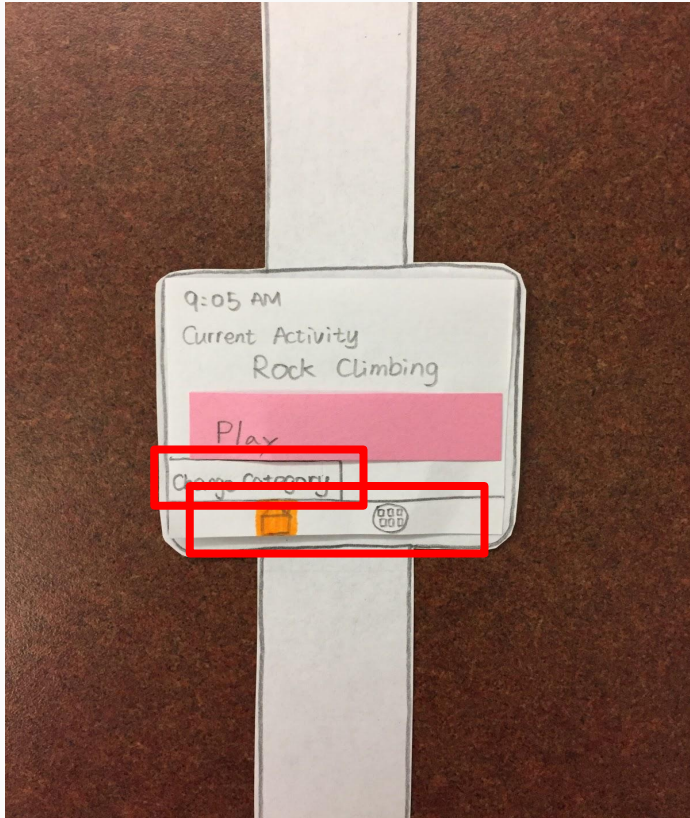
Task #1: Change the category of current activity



Initial lock screen

Step #1: Swipe right to unlock

Task #1: Change the category of current activity

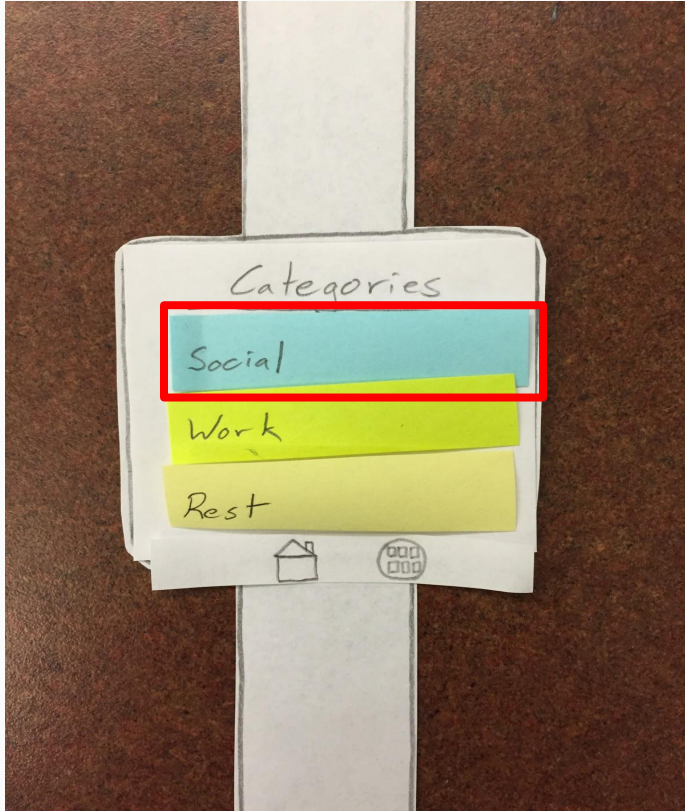


Home screen

Step #2: Press “Change Category”

Note: Home and Menu buttons

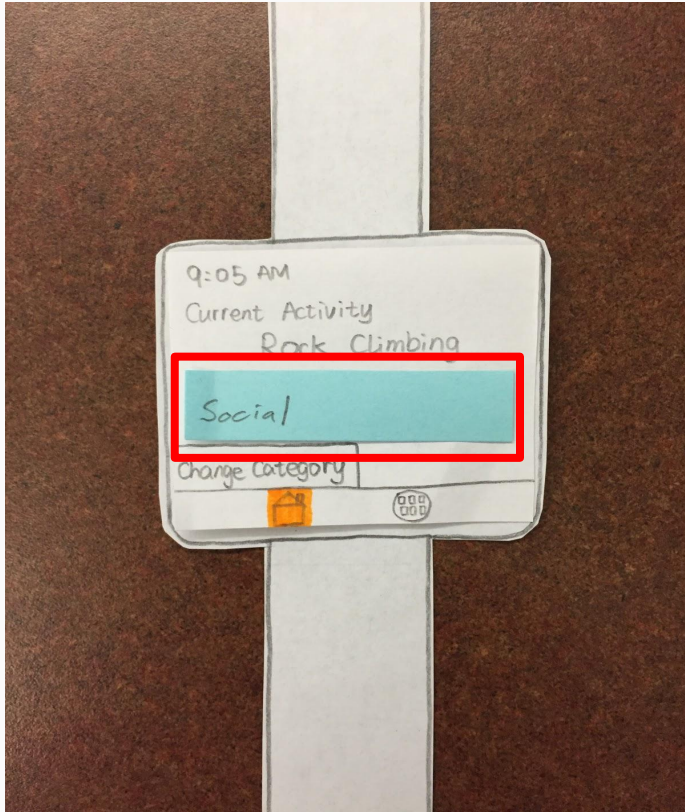
Task #1: Change the category of current activity



Categories screen

Step #3: Select new category

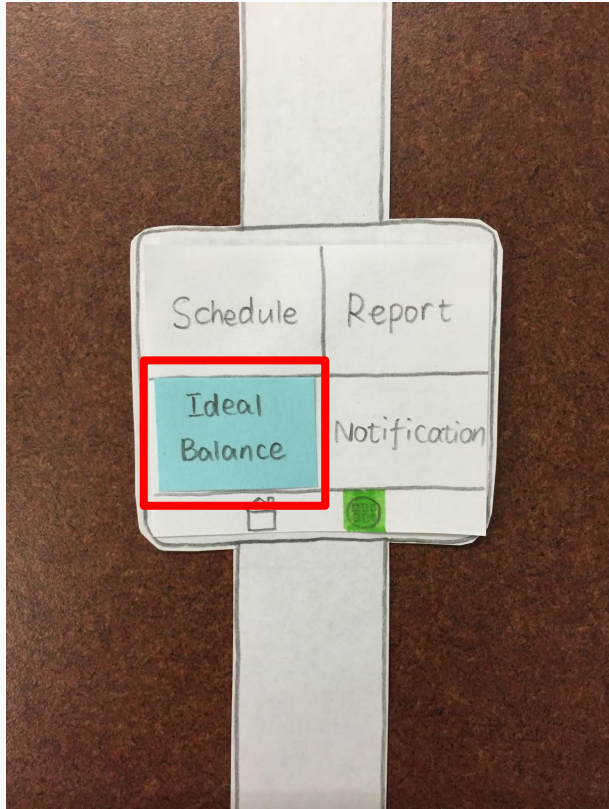
Task #1: Change the category of current activity



Home screen

Finished: Category changed

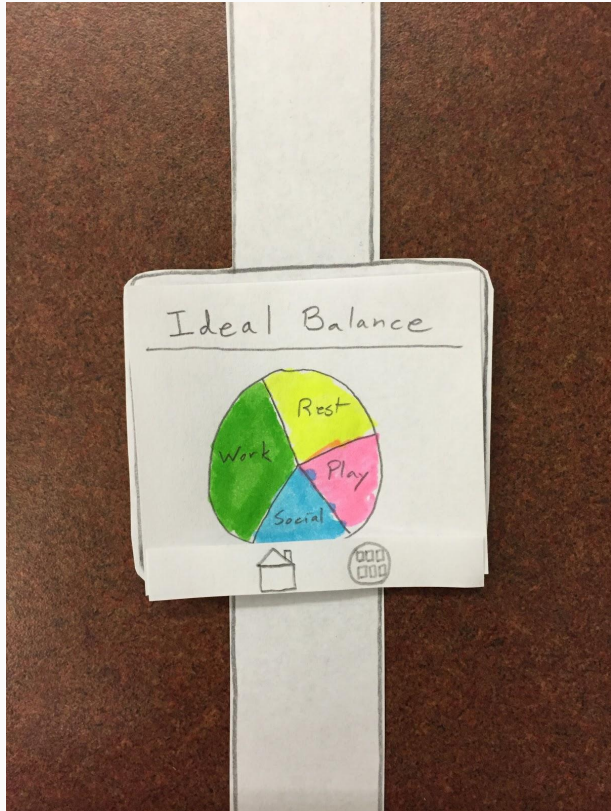
Task #2: See the ideal balance and current balances



Menu screen

Step #1: Select “Ideal Balance”

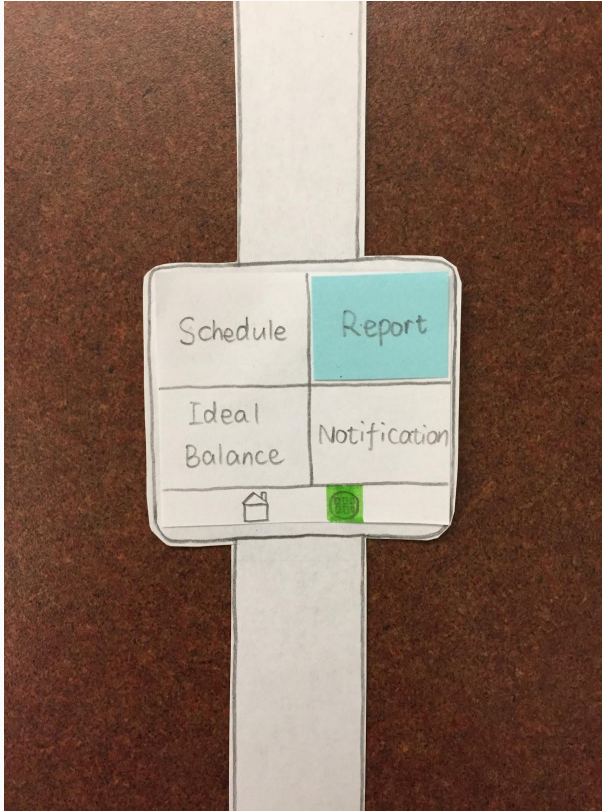
Task #2: See the ideal balance and current balances



Ideal Balance screen

Step #2: View your ideal balance

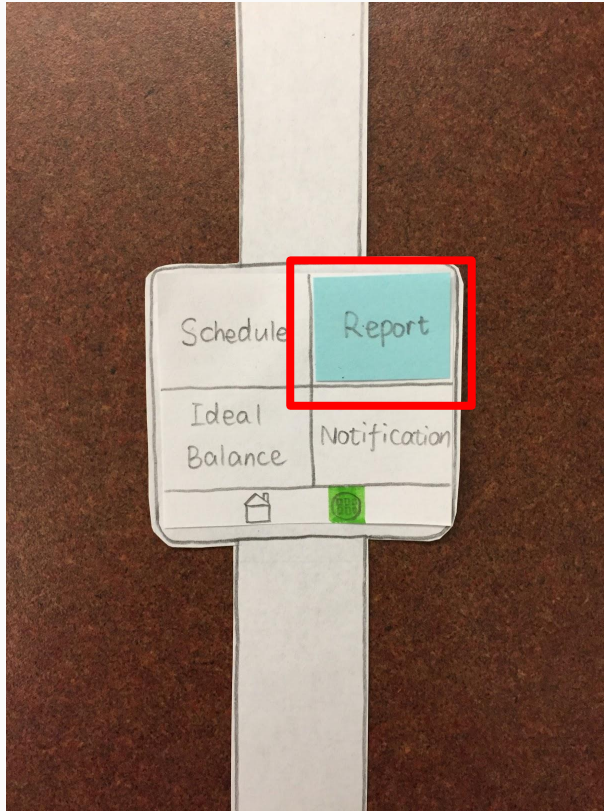
Task #2: See the ideal balance and current balances



Menu screen

Step #3: Return to menu screen

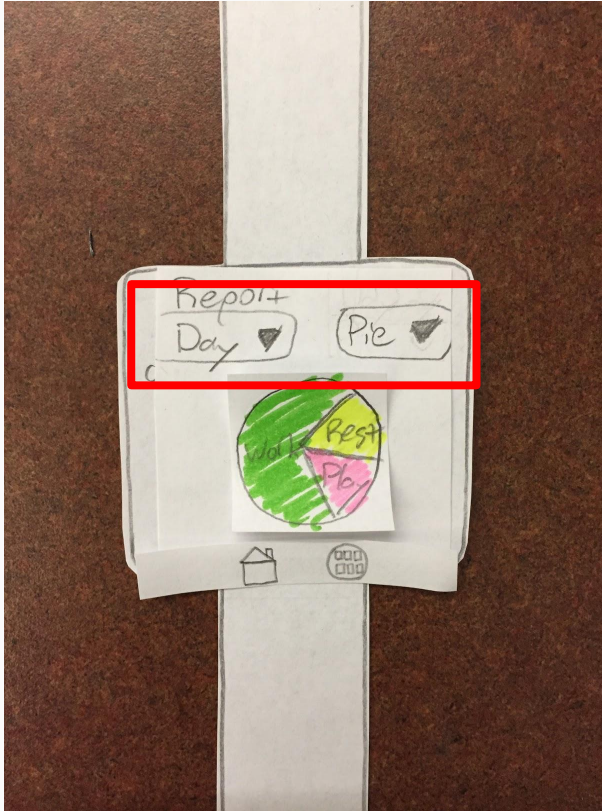
Task #2: See the ideal balance and current balances



Menu screen

Step #4: Select "Report"

Task #2: See the ideal balance and current balances



Menu screen

Finished: View current balances

Note: Dropdown menus to change timeframe and display type

Testing: Heuristic Evaluations

- Problems with pie chart displays:
 - They don't show exact percentages.
 - Labeling slices is difficult.
- No way to add new notifications.
- No snooze option for alarms.
- Missing "undo":
 - To re-enable dismissed notifications.
 - To cancel changing the category.



Testing: Usability Tests

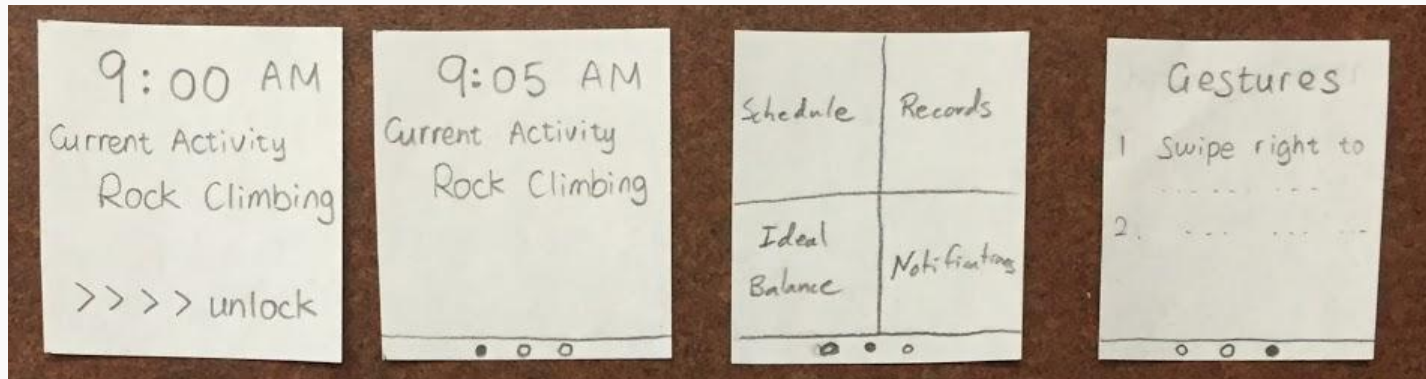
Participants:

- Mary, College Student
 - Balancing study and personal time.
- Jerry, Family Man
 - Balancing work, family, and personal time.
- Ryan, Data Visualization Researcher
 - Balancing study and research.



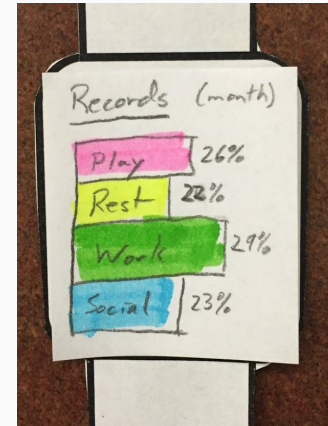
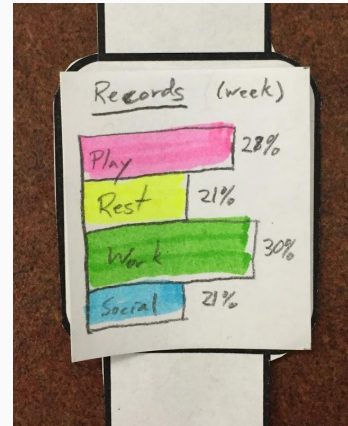
Testing: Results

- It was difficult to move between screens with buttons.
 - We made swiping right go back to the menu.
 - We made the menu contiguous.



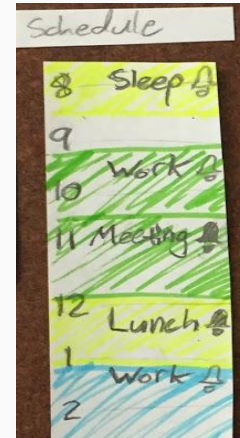
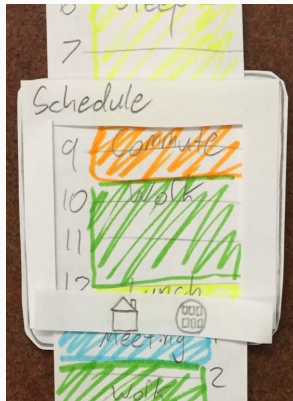
Testing: Results

- Drop down menu targets were slow and imprecise.
 - We replaced drop down menus with directional swipes.

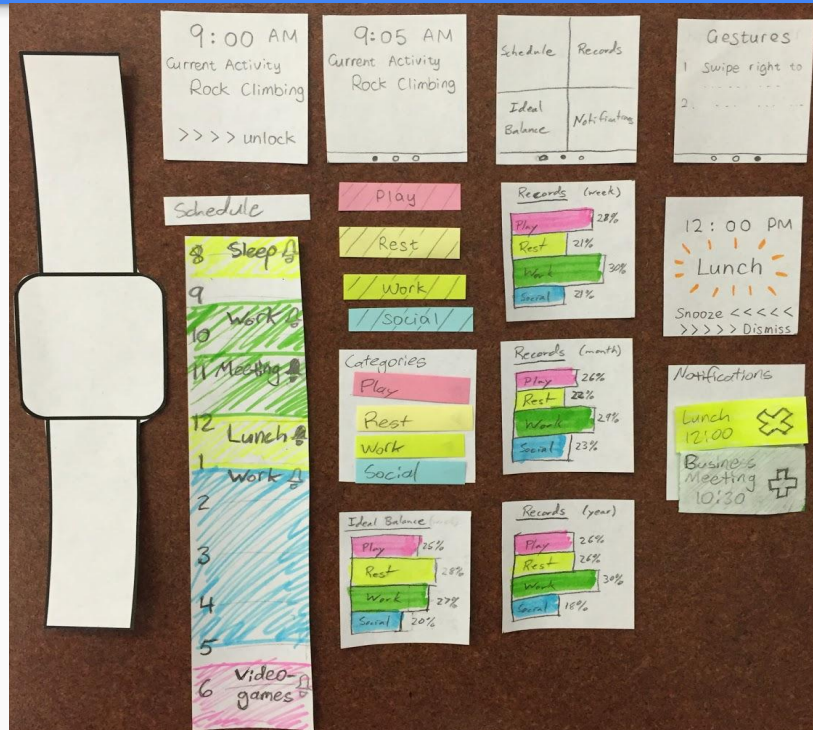


Testing: Results

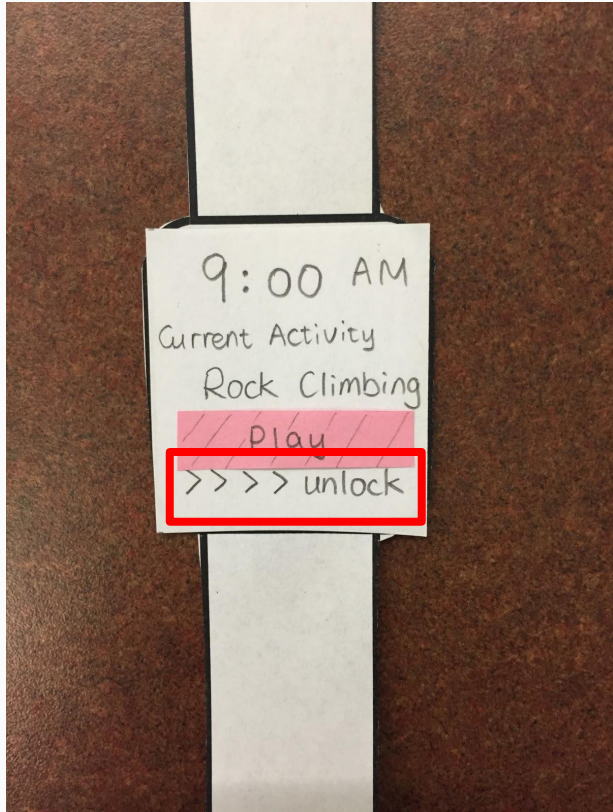
- Users expected more functionality from the schedule screen.
 - We allowed users to change the categories of future activities.
 - We added an alarm button to each menu item.



Final Paper Prototype



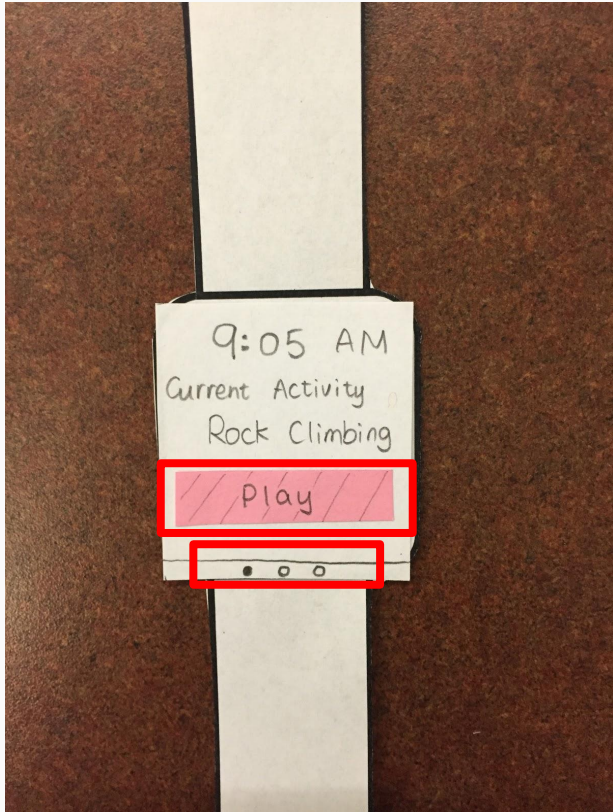
Task #1: Change the category of current activity



Initial lock screen

Step #1: Swipe right to unlock

Task #1: Change the category of current activity

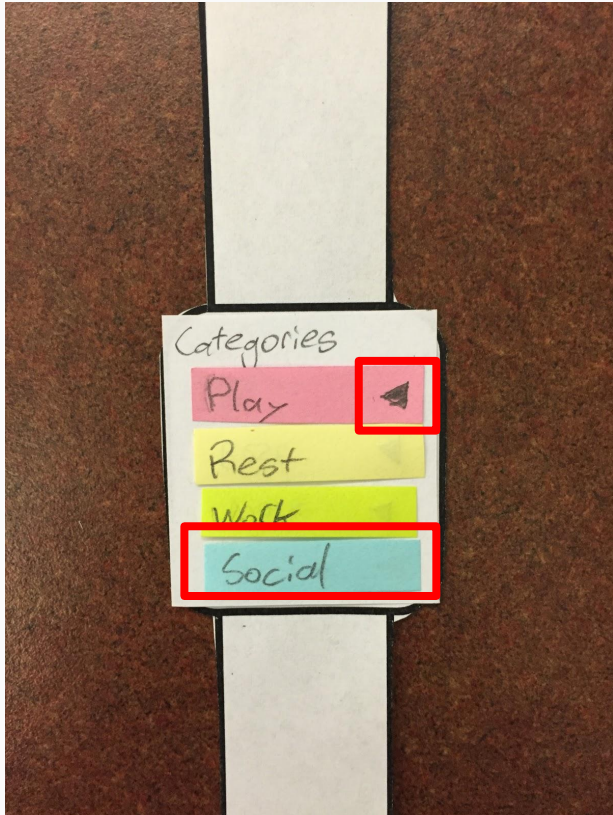


Home screen

Step #2: Press category to change

Note: Dots for navigation - indicate swiping gesture

Task #1: Change the category of current activity

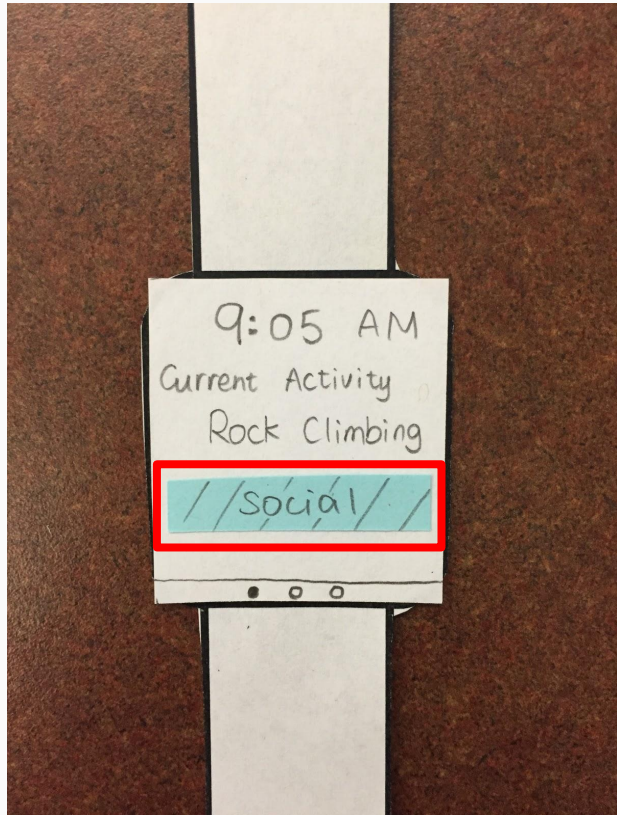


Categories screen

Step #3: Select new category

Note: Current category indicator

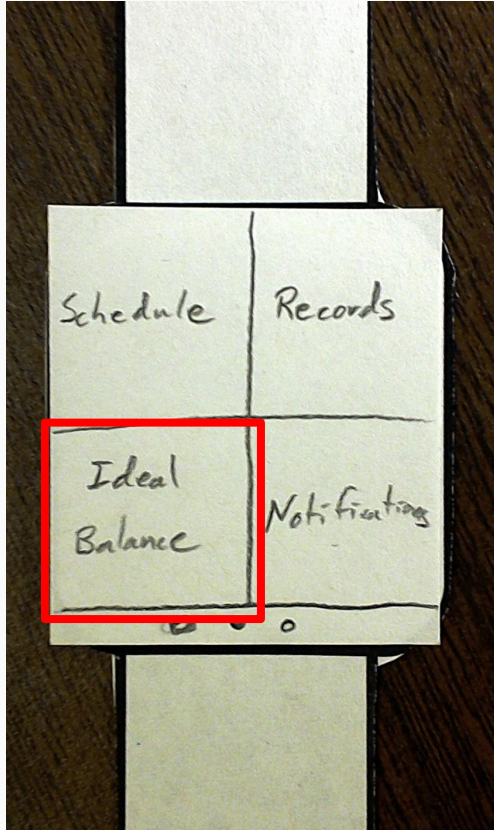
Task #1: Change the category of current activity



Home screen

Finished: Category changed

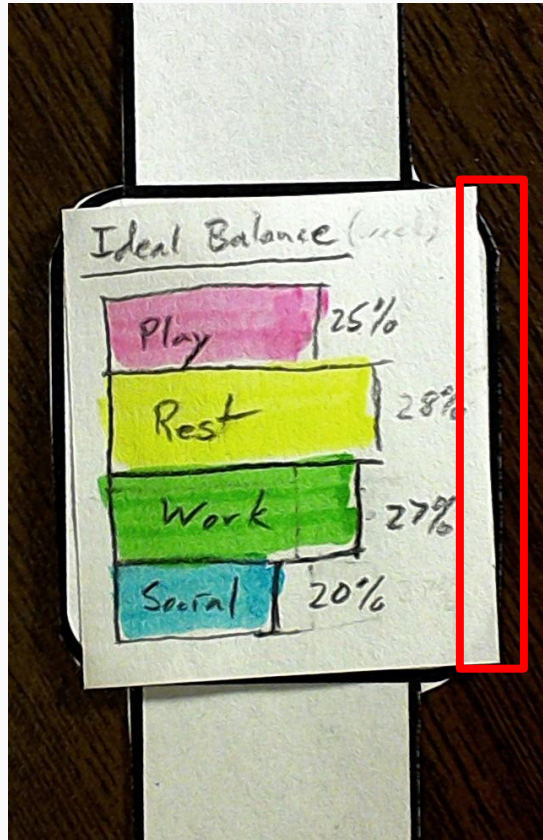
Task #2: See the ideal balance compare with current balance



Menu screen

Step #1: Select "Ideal Balance"

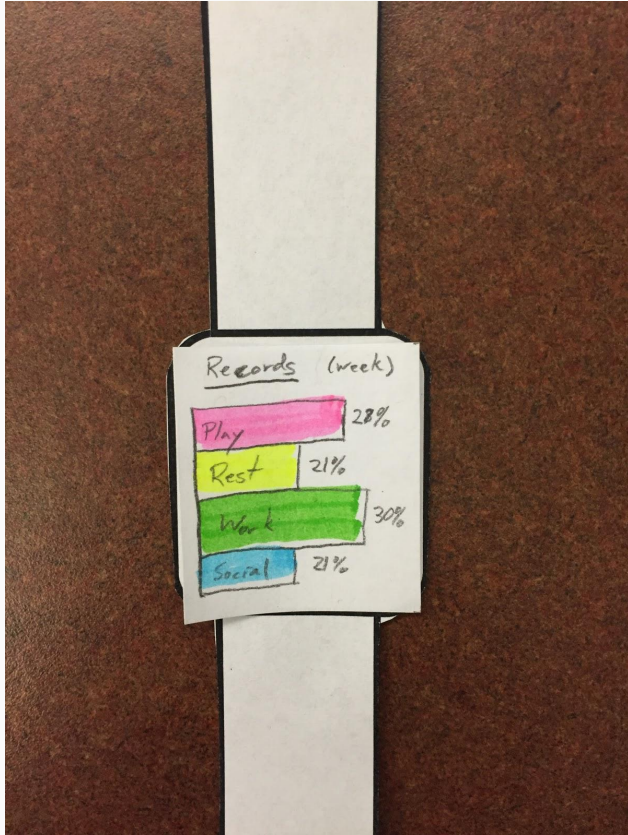
Task #2: See the ideal balance compare with current balance



Ideal Balance screen

Step #2: Swipe left to view to current balance

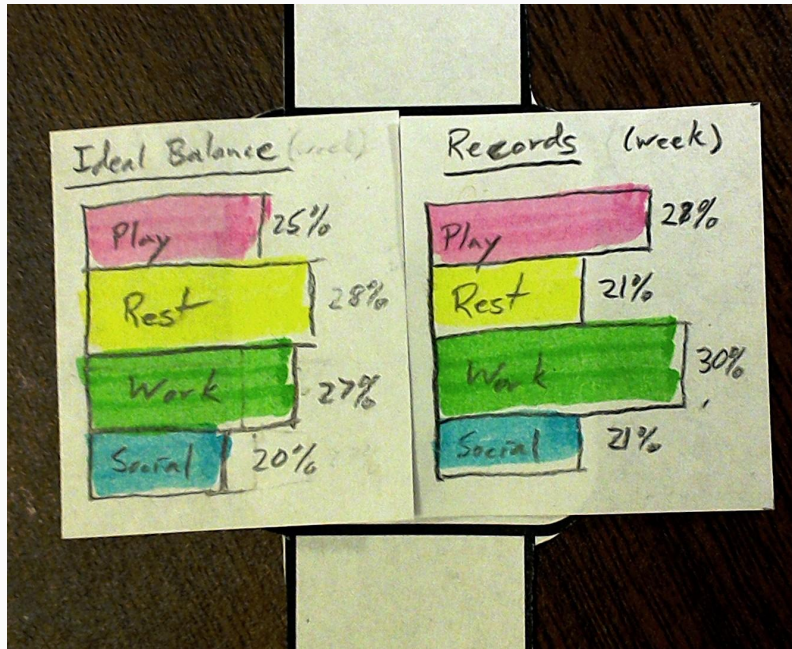
Task #2: See the ideal balance compare with current balance



Records screen

Step #3: Swipe right to return to ideal balance

Task #2: See the ideal balance compare with current balance



Ideal Balance screen

Finished: Can swipe back and forth to compare

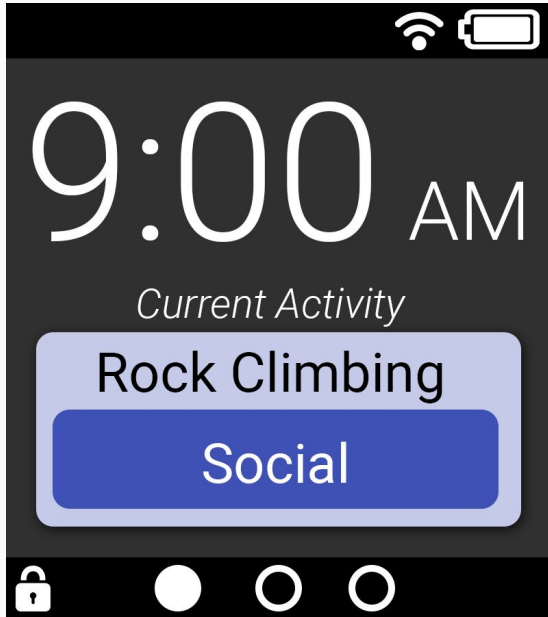
Digital Mockup



Change the Category of Your Current Activity

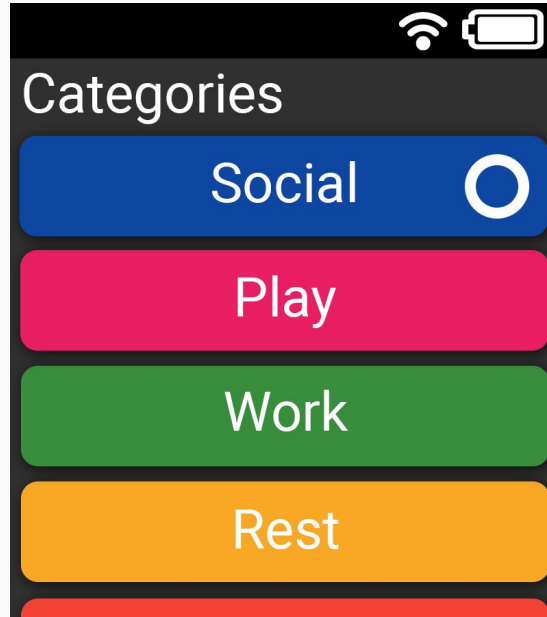
Home Screen:

Tap the category to change it.



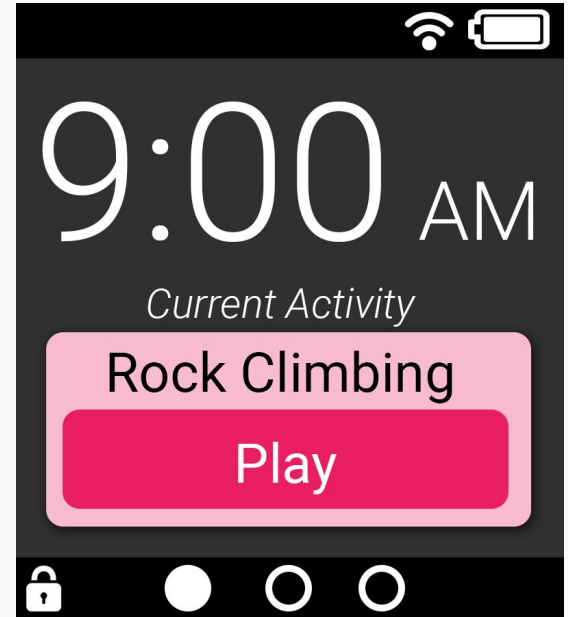
Categories Screen:

Select a different category.



Home Screen:

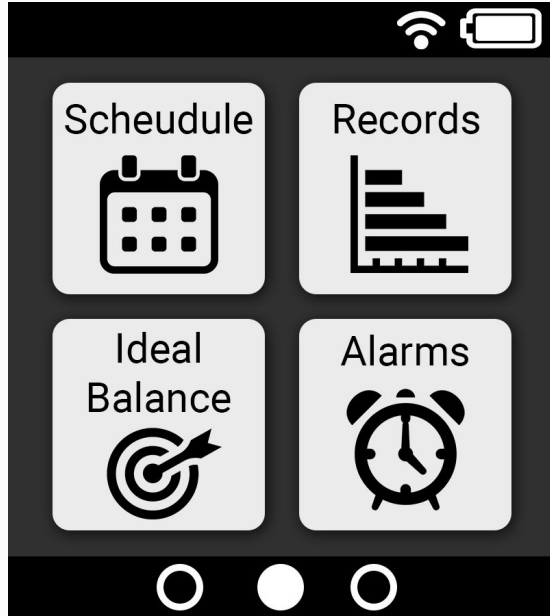
New category is displayed.



Compare Current Records With Your Ideal Balance

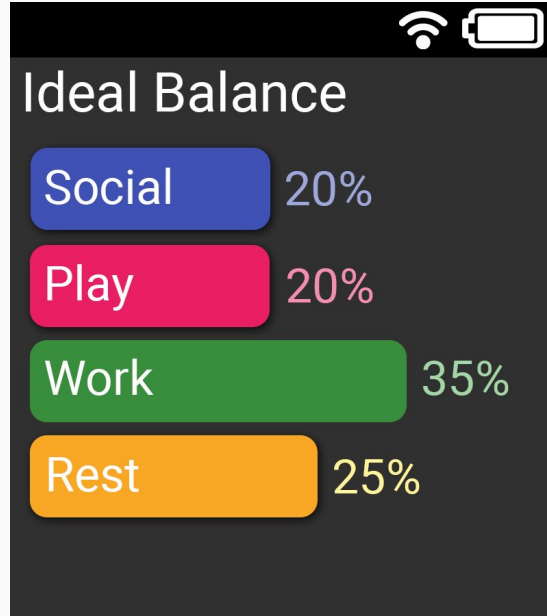
Home Screen:

Tap ideal balance button.



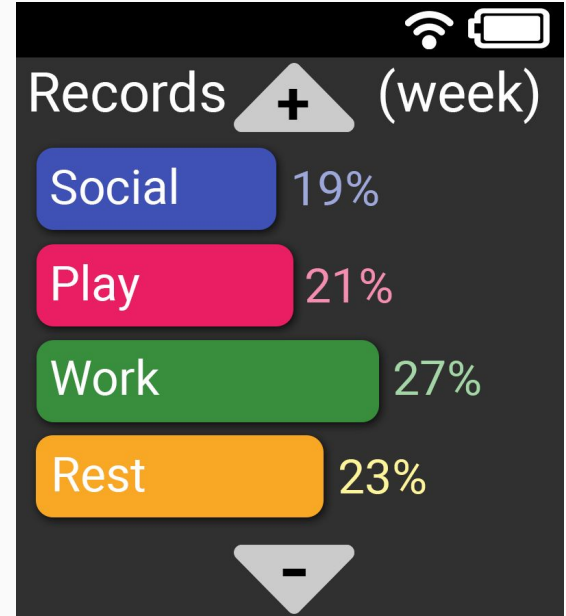
Ideal Balance Screen:

Swipe left to compare with records.



Records Screen:

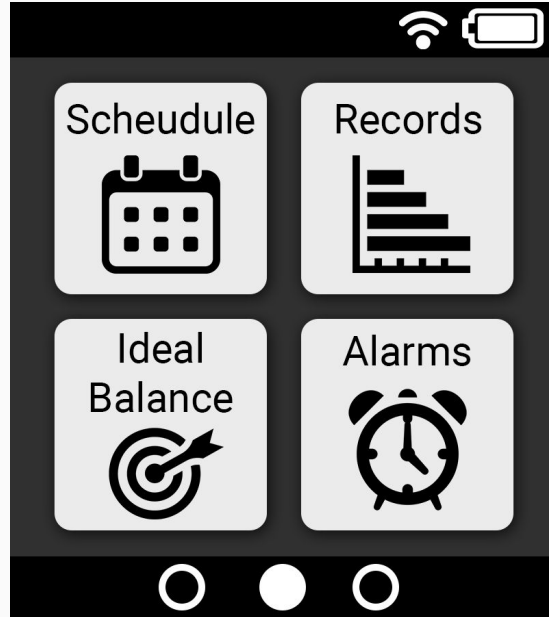
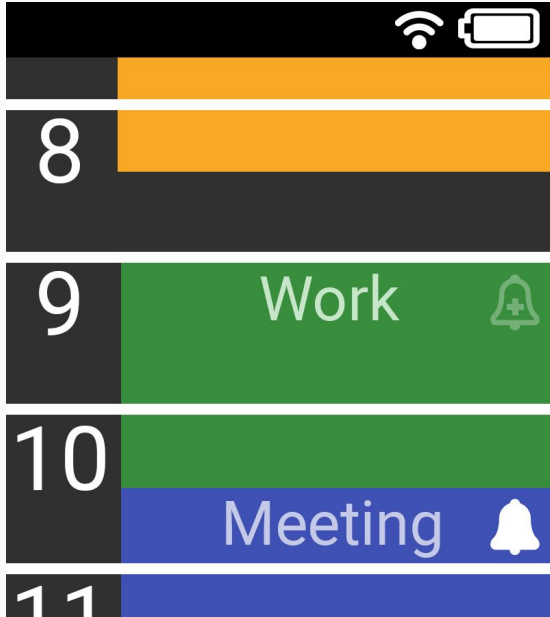
Swipe right to go back to ideal balance.



Set Reminders to Change Tasks

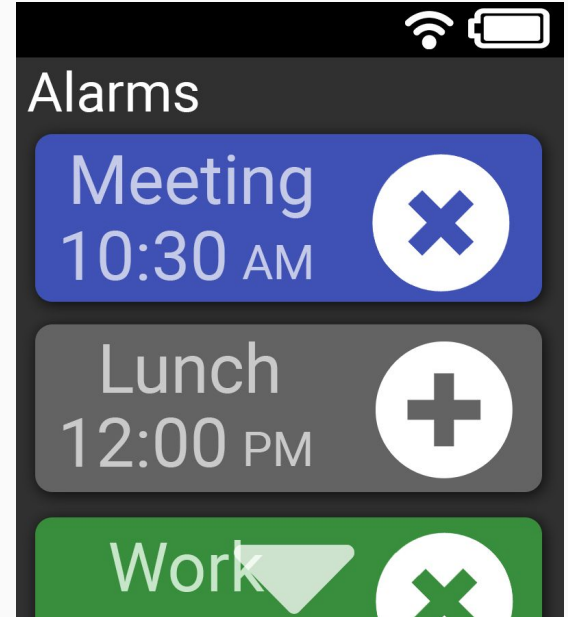
Schedule Screen:

Tap bell icons to toggle alarms.



Alarms Screen:

Tap "x" to disable alarms, "+" to re-enable.



Lessons to Remember and Share

- Be wary of feature creep. Ask yourself how each feature solves one of your user's problems.
- Don't assume that standard solutions from one design will work elsewhere.
 - Drop down menus
 - Pie charts



Lessons to Remember and Share

- Pay attention to what your users are familiar with, and what functionality they expect.
 - Swiping on smartphones
 - Tapping on the schedule

The Google logo, consisting of the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, green, blue, red).

Calendar

