

Recipe Management Software

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Leti Labell

- ▶ OPCUG member and a PATACS member with a lifelong love of computers.
- ▶ MS in computer science, and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and a Project Management Professional (PMP).
- ▶ Retired in 2014 from a long career in software development and general project management in the telecommunications industry and as a contractor to the federal government.
- ▶ However, even more than computers, loves cooking, collecting cookbooks, and collecting recipes.
- ▶ Latest love is languages — Studying Italian for eight years, Spanish for two years, German for 3 months
- ▶ Teaching a class about all things Italian, and another of Italian language

Previous Presentation

- ▶ Same presentation (same topic) in April, 2016
- ▶ Completely different landscape today
- ▶ We'll see if I've changed my mind in the past nine years.

Why use recipe management apps?

- ▶ Benefits:
 - ▶ Centralized recipe storage.
 - ▶ Streamline recipe organization
 - ▶ Meal planning and grocery list generation.
 - ▶ Easy access across devices
 - ▶ Discover new recipes and customize existing ones
 - ▶ Save time and reduce food waste
- ▶ Enhance the overall cooking experience.
- ▶ Some apps will manage recipes that you have already found; other apps help you find recipes

Key Features to Compare

- ▶ Device compatibility
- ▶ Recipe import options
- ▶ Meal planning tools
- ▶ Grocery list generation
- ▶ Price & subscription model

Wish list

- ▶ Recipe Storage and Organization:
 - ▶ Unlimited number of recipes
 - ▶ Offline access
 - ▶ Categorize recipes with subcategories
 - ▶ Add tags
 - ▶ Rate your favorites.
- ▶ Recipe Import:
 - ▶ From websites
 - ▶ From PDFs
 - ▶ From books or magazines
- ▶ Meal Planning:
 - ▶ Create meal plans
 - ▶ Generate grocery lists based on recipes
 - ▶ Track inventory of pantry

Wish list, cont'd

- ▶ Recipe Editing:
 - ▶ Customize imported recipes
 - ▶ Adjust serving sizes
 - ▶ Add notes
 - ▶ Track changes.
- ▶ Nutritional Information:
 - ▶ Include nutritional information
 - ▶ Calculate nutritional values
 - ▶ Identify allergens.
- ▶ Sharing and Exporting:
 - ▶ Share recipes with others
 - ▶ Export recipes to various formats

Features evaluated

- ▶ **Platforms:**
- ▶ **Price:**
- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**
- ▶ **Recipe editing and organization:**
- ▶ **Meal Planner:**
- ▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**
- ▶ **Grocery lists:**
- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**
- ▶ **Searching for new recipes:**
- ▶ **Other Features:**
- ▶ **Weaknesses:**

Paprika Recipe Manager



- ▶ OG “workhorse” app for home cooks who want to organize their own recipe collections.
- ▶ A long-standing and highly-regarded app, A favorite among serious home cooks.
- ▶ **Platforms:**
- ▶ iOS, Android, Windows, and macOS, with seamless cloud syncing across devices.
 - ▶ Offline access.
- ▶ **Price:**
- ▶ \$4.99 (Android/iOS, one-time), \$29.99 (Windows/Mac, one-time)
- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**
- ▶ Built-in browser allows for one-click recipe clipping from most websites, imports cleanly.
- ▶ Automatically detects recipe information on web pages and imports it into a structured format.
- ▶ Manually add recipes or paste from existing documents.
- ▶ Does not support importing from photos or scanned PDFs directly.

Paprika Recipe Manager



- ▶ **Recipe editing and organization:**
 - ▶ Organize recipes with categories, Highly customizable
 - ▶ Edit recipes and add notes.
 - ▶ Insert bold text.
- ▶ **Meal Planner:**
 - ▶ A drag-and-drop calendar for scheduling meals.
 - ▶ Create daily, weekly, or monthly meal plans
- ▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**
 - ▶ Cross off ingredients and highlight the current step as you cook.
 - ▶ Prevents the screen from turning off while cooking
 - ▶ Timer functionality

Paprika Recipe Manager



- ▶ **Grocery lists:**

- ▶ Creates grocery lists for a recipe or for entire meal plan
- ▶ Smart Grocery Lists: Automatically combines and sorts ingredients by aisle based on your meal plan.

- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**

- ▶ Can share recipes in paprika form or html form
- ▶ Can share to email or to messages

- ▶ **Searching for new recipes:**

- ▶ Browser has “Recommended Sites” – find recipes for different cuisines, occasions, diets, or the favorites of different chefs.

- ▶ **Other Features:**

- ▶ Pantry Tracker: Keep a digital log of your pantry items and their expiration dates.

Paprika Recipe Manager



► **Weaknesses:**

- Does not scan recipes from physical media
- Does not have a built-in program to calculate nutrition data
- Lacks video instructions.

► **Strengths:**

- Paprika Recipe Manager is designed to be a digital version of your favorite cookbook.
- **Easily save recipes from any website, organize them into categories, and annotate them**
- Powerful organization features, which makes it appealing to serious home cooks who want to build a comprehensive digital recipe collection.

Mela Recipe Manager

- ▶ Clean, minimalist design
- ▶ **Platforms:**
- ▶ Available exclusively on Apple's ecosystem (iPhone, iPad, and Mac).
- ▶ Recipes sync seamlessly across all your Apple devices.
- ▶ **Price:**
- ▶ Mela is a one-time purchase for each platform.
- ▶ iOS/iPadOS: \$4.99; macOS: \$9.99.
- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**
- ▶ Built-in browser and sharing extension for importing recipes from websites.
- ▶ Can scan recipes from a book using text recognition via the device's camera.
- ▶ Supports importing from YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok video URLs.



Mela Recipe Manager

- ▶ **Recipe editing and organization:**
 - ▶ There are rules for creating text; it's not free form
 - ▶ For example, To add a comment to an ingredients entry, it must be in parentheses. And, comments are only recognized if they're at the end of a line.
 - ▶ Only one level of recipe categories; no subcategories
- ▶ **Meal Planner:**
 - ▶ Uses Apple calendar to plan recipes
- ▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**
 - ▶ Cook mode which is a full-screen view
 - ▶ Highlights the current step
- ▶ **Grocery lists:**
 - ▶ Creates a basic list in the reminders app



Mela Recipe Manager

- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**

- ▶ Can share recipes in Mela form, pdf, or html
- ▶ Can share to email or to messages

- ▶ **Searching for new recipes:**

- ▶ RSS Feeds: Subscribe to food blogs and view new recipes directly within the app.

- ▶ **Weaknesses:**

- ▶ Only works on Apple devices
- ▶ Lack pantry management
- ▶ Meal planning and grocery lists are very simple, not like other apps.



Recipe Keeper

- ▶ Collect, organize and share recipes digitally
- ▶ **Platforms:**
 - ▶ iOS, Android, Windows, Mac
 - ▶ Offline access, cross-platform syncing
- ▶ **Price:**
 - ▶ Free, Premium \$2.99/mo or \$29.99/yr, Pro \$4.99/mo or \$49.99/yr
- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**
 - ▶ Automatically imports recipes from a large number of websites.
 - ▶ It features OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology to scan recipes from photos, PDFs, or handwritten notes and convert them to text.
 - ▶ Recipes can be copied and pasted from other documents or apps.



Recipe Keeper



▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Provides an integrated weekly and monthly meal planner.
- ▶ Calendar syncing

▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**

- ▶ Timers, highlights current step

▶ **Grocery lists:**

- ▶ Creates a shopping list that groups items by aisle.

▶ **Other features:**

- ▶ **Cookbooks:** Allows users to create customized cookbooks for printing or sharing as a PDF file.
- ▶ **Alexa Integration:** Search recipes and receive step-by-step instructions hands-free with the Alexa skill.

▶ **Weaknesses:**

- ▶ Navigation sometimes confusing

Yummly



- ▶ **Platforms:**

- ▶ iOS, Android, Web

- ▶ **Price:**

- ▶ Free basic version; Premium additional features \$4.99/mo

- ▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Limited

- ▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**

- ▶ Step-by-step instructions with visual aids.
- ▶ Many recipes include videos or high-quality photos

- ▶ **Grocery lists:**

- ▶ Smart lists
- ▶ Grocery ordering integration (Walmart, Instacart) .

Yummly



- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**
 - ▶ Community for cooking inspiration and discussion
- ▶ **Searching for new recipes:**
 - ▶ AI-driven personalized recommendations
 - ▶ Personalized filters (allergens, diets)
 - ▶ Extensive recipe library (over 2 million recipes),
 - ▶ Search by ingredients, smart shopping list, digital cookbook creation, cooking videos
 - ▶ Visual search
- ▶ **Other features:**
 - ▶ Integrates with smart-kitchen appliances
 - ▶ Allows filtering by difficulty and prep-time

Yummly



► **Weaknesses:**

- Navigation not always intuitive
- Imported shopping lists might have unwanted words or missed ingredients
- Limited meal planning

► **Strengths:**

- Learns preferences based on cooking history, dietary restrictions, or allergies then suggests recipes that are tailored to individual needs.
- Vast library of recipes
- Visual search feature allows you to identify recipes based on a photo of an ingredient or dish, further enhancing its user-friendliness.
- Integrates with smart kitchen appliances to control certain appliances directly from the app

Big Oven



- ▶ **Platforms:**

- ▶ Android/iOS
- ▶ Cross-platform syncing

- ▶ **Price:**

- ▶ Free (ad-support, limited features); \$20/year for Pro version

- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**

- ▶ Clip recipes from any website.
- ▶ Use recipe scanner import recipes from physical media

- ▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Create weekly or monthly meal plans
- ▶ “Use Up Leftovers” tool to find recipes that utilize ingredients you already have on hand
- ▶ Coordinate your shopping lists and meal plans with other family members

Big Oven



► **Grocery lists:**

- Automatically generates a grocery list based on your meal plan.
- Calculates Nutritional info.

► **Social aspects and Sharing:**

- Follow friends, family, and other cooks who use the app.
- Social sharing and recipe inspiration.

► **Searching for new recipes:**

- Tap Get ideas and scroll through dozens of the most mouthwatering recipes.
- Browse over 350,000 recipes made by home cooks.

► **Best for:**

- Social cooks who want access to a large community of recipes and unique features to reduce food waste.

Cookmate



- ▶ **Platforms:**

- ▶ iOS, Android, Web

- ▶ **Price:**

- ▶ Free, Premium available

- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**

- ▶ Web import
- ▶ Scan physical media

- ▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Includes meal planning

- ▶ **Interactive Cooking Mode:**

- ▶ Hands-free cooking

- ▶ **Other Features:**

- ▶ Voice assistant

- ▶ **Weaknesses:**

- ▶ Interface takes practice

Plan to Eat



- ▶ **Platforms:**

- ▶ Web-based (PC/Mac); mobile (iOS/Android)

- ▶ **Price:**

- ▶ \$49/year, 7-day free trial
- ▶ **Shared Account:** One subscription covers an entire family and all their devices.
- ▶ Subscription covers access on all supported platforms.

- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**

- ▶ Browser extension to import recipes from the web.

- ▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Drag-and-drop meal calendar to plan meals, add notes, and track frozen leftovers.

- ▶ **Grocery lists:**

- ▶ Shopping list automatically populates ingredients from meal plan, organized by category.

Plan to Eat

- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**
- ▶ Share recipes and menus with other Plan to Eat users.
- ▶ **Weaknesses:**
- ▶ Manual shopping list updates

The logo for 'Plan to Eat' is displayed in a stylized, blocky font. The words 'PLAN' and 'EAT' are stacked vertically, with 'TO' positioned between them and slightly to the right. A small arrow points from the 'TO' towards the 'EAT'. The logo is set against a light blue square background.

PLAN TO
EAT

AnyList



► **Platforms:**

- iOS, Android, macOS, and a web app for PC.

► **Price:**

- Free with limited features; full access via subscription
- **AnyList Complete:** Individual: \$9.99/year, Household: \$14.99/year
- Paid subscription unlocks unlimited recipes
- Household Sharing: Designed for families, allowing real-time synchronization of lists and plans.

► **Recipe Import Features:**

- Import online recipes right from your mobile browser

► **Recipe editing and organization:**

- Recipe storage by category
- Autocomplete and sorting.

AnyList



- ▶ **Meal Planner:**

- ▶ Meal planning calendar
- ▶ Automatically generate a shopping list.

- ▶ **Grocery lists:**

- ▶ Pick all or ones you want to add to shopping list.
- ▶ Provides grocery suggestions.
- ▶ Choose to favorite certain essential grocery items so you never forget about them during your next supermarket run. These lists can be shared as well.
- ▶ Grocery delivery integration

- ▶ **Social aspects and Sharing:**

- ▶ Collaboration functionality

- ▶ **Weaknesses:**

- ▶ Focused more on the grocery shopping aspect of cooking

Mealime

► **Platforms:**

- Android/iOS

► **Price:**

- Free version; \$5.99/month for Pro

► **Recipe Import Features:**

- Importing recipes from the web

► **Meal Planner:**

- Personalized meal plans based on food preferences,
- Accommodates various dietary restrictions

► **Grocery lists:**

- Creates shopping lists
- Grocery delivery integration
- Lists can be imported to Amazon Fresh or Instacart



Mealime

- ▶ **Searching for new recipes:**
- ▶ Chef-created recipes (ready in 30 minutes or less)
- ▶ **Other Features:**
- ▶ Nutrition tracking
- ▶ **Weaknesses:**
- ▶ Manually adding recipes is not an option in the free version
- ▶ Nutrition information only available with the Pro version



Whisk

- ▶ All-in-one app for finding and saving recipes
- ▶ **Platforms:**
- ▶ Android/iOS
- ▶ **Price:**
- ▶ Free; premium features (AI nutrition, substitutions) require subscription
- ▶ **Recipe Import Features:**
- ▶ Import recipes from the web through Recipe Saver extension to phone or desktop browser, saving recipes from your browser, directly to the app.
- ▶ RecipeScan feature to scan and upload printed recipes then automatically format it in an easy-to-follow layout.
- ▶ **Meal Planner:**
- ▶ Weekly meal plans



Whisk

► **Grocery lists:**

- Creating shopping lists
- Grocery store integration:
- Order groceries currently with Walmart, Amazon Fresh, Kroger, Ralphs, Instacart

► **Social aspects and Sharing:**

- Interface is a lot like any social media app.
- Join communities, follow creators, browse through recipes posted by the members community

► **Other Features:**

- AI-powered nutritional details .

► **Weaknesses:**

- Nutrition only with paid subscription



Scan recipes from physical media

▶ The following apps have a feature to scan physical media:

- ▶ Mela
- ▶ Recipe Keeper
- ▶ Big Oven
- ▶ Cookmate
- ▶ Whisk

▶ The following apps DO NOT have a feature to scan physical media:

- ▶ Paprika
- ▶ Yummly
- ▶ Plan to Eat
- ▶ AnyList
- ▶ Mealime

Functional workaround to scan recipes

- ▶ For iOS, use the device's built-in "Live Text" functionality
- ▶ Process:
 - ▶ On an iOS device, use the camera to hover over the text of a recipe from a book or magazine.
 - ▶ Tap the Live Text icon that appears and select the text for the ingredients list.
 - ▶ Copy the ingredients list to your device's clipboard.
 - ▶ Open the recipe app, create a new recipe, and paste the text into the ingredients field.
 - ▶ Manually format the text as needed.
 - ▶ Do the same for directions and other parts of the recipe.
- ▶ User is responsible for copying and pasting each section (title, ingredients, instructions) into the correct field and then manually cleaning up the text.
- ▶ This method is less automated and more time-consuming than apps with OCR.
- ▶ Lacks the advanced parsing intelligence of other apps, requiring more manual cleanup and formatting.

Compute nutritional information

- ▶ The following apps have a feature to compute nutritional information:
 - ▶ Yummly
 - ▶ Big Oven
 - ▶ Planning to Eat
 - ▶ Whisk
- ▶ The following apps DO NOT have a feature to compute nutritional information:
 - ▶ Paprika (but has section to store nutrition information)
 - ▶ Mela
 - ▶ Recipe Keeper
 - ▶ Cookmate
 - ▶ AnyList
 - ▶ Mealime

Functional workaround to compute nutritional info

- ▶ Copy the ingredients from the recipe.
- ▶ Paste them into a nutrition app or to a website to compute nutrition, such as
- ▶ <https://www.verywellfit.com/recipe-nutrition-analyzer-4157076>

How to choose a recipe management application

- ▶ **Recipe Discovery:** Do you need personalized recommendations and an extensive recipe database? Then Yummly might be suitable.
- ▶ **Organization and Meal Planning:** Do you need to organize your recipes, create meal plans, and generate grocery lists? Paprika is a strong contender.
- ▶ **Dietary Needs and Healthy Eating:** Do you require specific dietary filters and nutritional information? Yummly and Mealime can do this.
- ▶ **Ease of Use and Speed:** Are you looking for quick recipes and a user-friendly interface? Mealime might be a good fit.
- ▶ **Community and Social Features:** Do you want to share recipes and engage with a community? Whisk or Yummly offer social aspects.
- ▶ **Budget:** Many apps offer free basic versions, while others require one-time purchases or subscriptions for full functionality.
- ▶ This comparison should help you choose the recipe app that best suits your cooking style and needs.

Tips on choosing an app

► **Tips & Considerations**

- Budget vs. features: One-time apps like Paprika or Recipe Keeper avoid ongoing costs, but subscriptions may offer smarter features.
- Platform coverage: Paprika, Mela, and Recipe Keeper require per-platform purchase; verify cross-device syncing before buying .
- Offline functionality: Paprika, Mela, and Recipe Keeper offer offline functionality; many free/subscription apps require internet to function fully.
- Community & inspiration: BigOven and Whisk and Yummly excel with social and discovery features

Recommendations

- ▶ **Recommendations**
- ▶ **Paprika:** Best for robust features and one-time fee
- ▶ **Runners up:**
- ▶ **Yummly:** Personalized, appliance integration
- ▶ **Plan to Eat:** Focused on meal planning
- ▶ Choose based on your needs: import, planning, shopping, device compatibility, budget
- ▶ Try free versions before subscribing

Paprika Recipe Manager

<https://paprikaapp.com/>

► Works on multiple platforms:

- iPhone \$4.99
- Android \$4.99
- iPad \$4.99
- Mac \$29.99
- Windows \$29.99



Paprika Features

- ▶ Seamless Cloud Sync
- ▶ Web Importing
- ▶ Custom Categories
 - ▶ Only app I found with subcategories
- ▶ Smart Grocery Lists
- ▶ Interactive Recipes
- ▶ Tools to Help You Cook
- ▶ Meal Planning

Paprika Cloud Sync

- ▶ Seamlessly sync your recipes, grocery lists, and meal plans across all of your devices, so you can take your recipes everywhere.
- ▶ Cook with your tablet in the kitchen, manage your recipes on your computer, and take your phone with you to the grocery store.

Recipe Input:

Web Importing or Direct Input

- ▶ Built in web browser allows you to browse for recipes anywhere on the web.
- ▶ When you find a recipe you like, simply tap a button to download the recipe and save it into Paprika.
- ▶ Works with most recipe sites
- ▶ Recipes from cookbooks
 - ▶ Can be directly typed in
 - ▶ Use external OCR scanning feature
- ▶ Custom Categories and subcategories

Tools to Help You Cook

- ▶ Automatically scale ingredients to desired serving size
- ▶ Timers are automatically detected in your directions:
 - ▶ Tap on one to start timing
- ▶ Interactive:
 - ▶ Track progress by crossing off ingredients when you're done with them
 - ▶ Tap to highlight the current directions step
- ▶ Smart grocery lists
- ▶ Meal Planning

Favorite Recipe Sources

Serious Eats Detailed, tested recipes with a focus on food science. Often includes explanations for *why* a technique works.

New York Times Cooking Trusted source with a high volume of well-tested, high-quality recipes. Community comments are often helpful for modifications and troubleshooting. **Cons:** Requires a paid subscription, though some content is free

Allrecipes Massive database of user-generated recipes, often focusing on approachable, family-friendly meals. Recipes are rated and reviewed by the community. **Cons:** Quality varies widely, with some recipes being poorly written or untested. Website is often cluttered with ads

Epicurious Draws from a large archive of recipes from magazines like *Bon Appétit* and *Gourmet*. Recipes often feel more "upscale". **Cons:** The website has faced criticism for a confusing design, and recipe quality has varied since moving away from a solely magazine-sourced format

More Favorite Recipe Sources

King Arthur Baking: A trusted source specifically for baking recipes. Its site is consistently formatted, resulting in smooth imports.

EatingWell: A good source for health-conscious recipes that are consistently formatted.

Food52: A community-driven platform with a strong editorial team, offering a mix of user-submitted and professionally curated recipes.

Skinnytaste: Focuses on healthy, low-calorie recipes that are consistently reliable.

Food Network: While some content is for entertainment, the website has a large collection of recipes, with many coming from reliable celebrity chefs like Ina Garten and Giada De Laurentiis.

The Kitchn: A well-regarded online food magazine that provides daily recipes, cooking lessons, and kitchen advice.

Tips for evaluating online recipes

- ▶ **Check the source:** A recipe from a respected test kitchen or a well-regarded food blog is more likely to be reliable.
 - ▶ Be cautious with recipes from platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Pinterest. These may have been created by inexperienced cooks or even AI, and are not guaranteed to work.
 - ▶ **Compare sources:** If a recipe is unfamiliar, cross-reference it with two or three other versions from different sources. If one recipe has ingredient proportions that are wildly different from the rest, it may be unreliable.
- ▶ **Read the comments:** Comments from other home cooks can provide valuable insight into a recipe's success, potential pitfalls, and suggested modifications.
- ▶ **Look for details:** A reliable recipe will include specifics like "1 medium onion" or "1 cup chopped carrots" rather than just "1 onion" or "carrots".
- ▶ **Scan for "visual cues":** Good recipes describe what the food should look and feel like at various stages, such as when onions are "translucent" or garlic is "fragrant," rather than relying solely on timing.