ATracker

ATracker is a time management app available on iOS and Android (it also has a separate web portal for desktop at an extra cost). The app allows users to track the time they spend on certain activities. It is not a Pomodoro style tracker that designates time-segments and break segments. Rather, it is simply a time logger. Press the button to start logging time on a certain project, and turn it off when you are done. This is very useful for users who struggle with the pomodoro-style approach that many other timers provide, and simply want a way to keep track of the time they spend on things. The app is customizable to set certain time chunks (like a 30-minute timer) and to remind you when those chunks are over, but there is no built-in break feature. The app also syncs with google calendar, so users can see their calendar items in calendar view, and if needed, add them to the time-worked categories they create. The app is free, but users can upgrade to pro for either $2.99 or $4.99 depending on platform, or can add the web portal for $2.99 per month. For these upgrades, users can get unlimited tasks, more robust data analytics, removes ads, and widgets for mobile homescreens.

Points in favor:
- One-click tracking allows users to easily begin tracking their time.
- The option of creating pomodoro-style work segments gives this app a flexibility of approach that others lack
- The data analytics are more robust in this app than in other apps, giving users a good sense of how they spend their days.

Points against:
- Iconographic user interface presents accessibility issues that increase the learning curve for this app.
- The paid version's price points do not match across platforms, and the additional monthly rate for the web portal seems excessive
- The complete lack of collaboration or data exporting makes it less useful for collaboration and mentorship environments.

Screenshots:
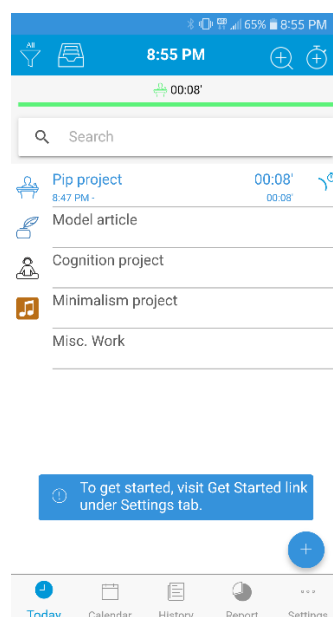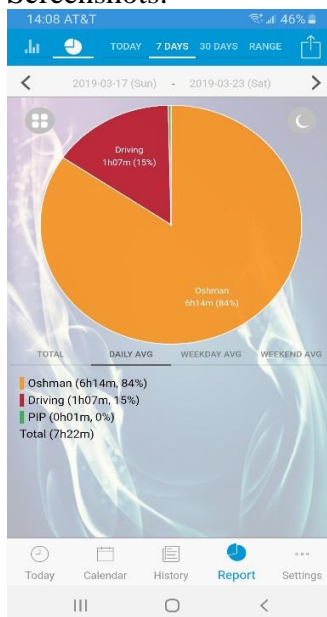
Brain Focus

Brain Focus is a pomodoro style time management app available on iOS and Android. Its simple interface lets users immediately start logging time from the main page. The app is based on the Pomodoro Technique[©] (although not directly associated with Francisco Cirillo). Work for 25 minutes, and then the app will ask if users want a break, want to stop working, or want to continue for another 25 minutes. After every four work sessions, the app assigns a longer break. The app is customizable to different time lengths, so if 25 minutes is not convenient for a user's working style, the user can change the work session time and break time as well. The app also provides distraction blocking, so users can disable wi-fi during the work session, or disable specific apps (like Facebook). Brain Focus also lets the user categorize the time they spend working. The user can create tasks, and then also group those tasks into categories (the free version gives up to 3 categories). These tasks are then logged, allowing users to view data regarding how much time they are spending on specific tasks, and on larger projects. The free version includes the customizable timer, task creation, and 3 categories. The Pro version gives users unlimited categories, removes ads, and contributes to the future development of the app.

Points in favor:
- The simple interface is easy to use, and a quick menu clearly defines all icon buttons
- We really appreciated the additional functionality of the timer to pause or add time. One can also log time after the fact, in case the user forgets to start the work session.
- The task and category functions allow users to clearly see where their time is going, and how much time (how many work-spans) it takes to get certain tasks done.

Points against:
- No sharing or collaboration capabilities
- The app did not make explicit the ability to log time after the fact. We stumbled upon that capability almost by mistake.

Screenshots:

Forest

The "Forest: Stay Focused" app is a time management app for iOS and Android, and also has a Google Chrome extension as a web-based platform. The app is based on the pomodoro approach, with a basic 25-minute timer followed by a rest period (though these time lengths are customizable). The thing that sets this app apart from the many pomodoro timer apps on the market is that this app gamifies the 25-minute experience beyond the simple collection of time-segments. For each 25-minute segment, the user "plants a tree" and the tree grows over the 25-minute time. Additionally, the app provides distraction blocking, which allows users to block websites that will distract them during their work session. If a user cancels the segment, or if they visit one of the blacklisted websites during the segment, the tree will die. However, if users make it to the end of their time segment, the tree gets added to the user's garden, which lets users see how much time they've worked in a lovely visual representation. Users also get coins for time worked and for achievements, that let the user buy different kinds of trees, or save up to get Forest to plant a real tree in their name. The app also advertises a collaborative/competitive feature that allows friends to compete against each other for "most time worked," as well as to share time-segments with a joint tree planting feature. Users can use some of the features for free, but for a one-time $2.99 fee, users can track their working time in more detailed ways, access the collaborative features, earn coins, and save their progress across platforms.

Points in favor:
- Customizable timer allows users to choose the right time span for them
- Gamification further incentivizes use of the app, which promotes good working habits.
- Labeling features allow users to track the projects they work on in intuitive ways

Points against:
- Some features work better on the mobile platforms than they do on the web extension.
- Some of the app's buttons could be more easily identifiable
- We felt that the collaborative features could be improved if the app would allow users to share projects with others in order to create a "shared garden" for a project.

Screenshots:
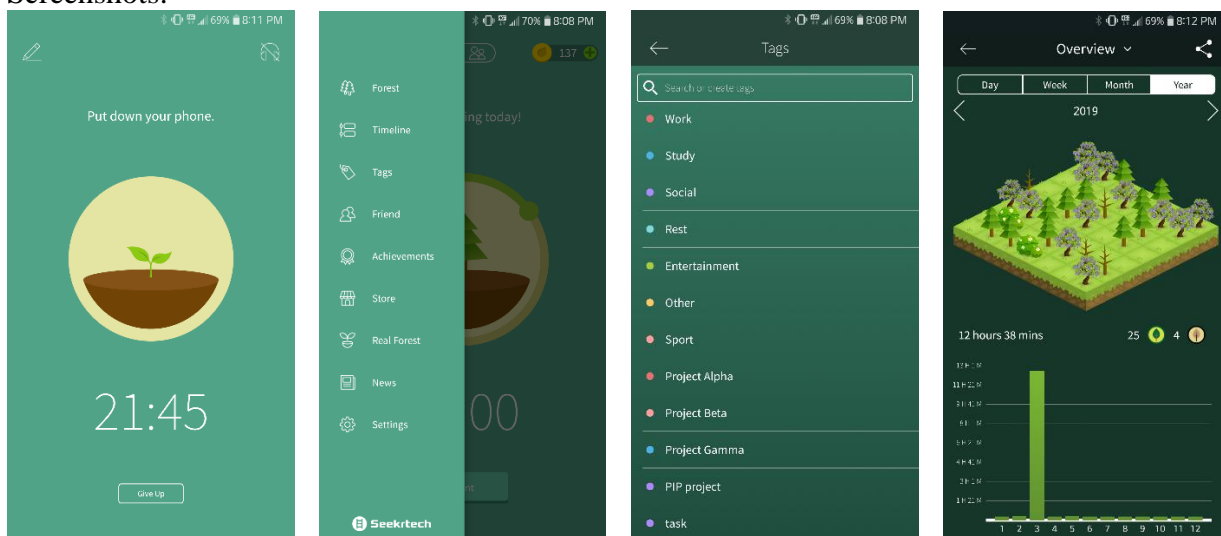
Hours Tracker

Hours Tracker is a time management app available on iOS and Android. It is designed for those who have multiple jobs for which someone needs to track hours and earnings. However, the app can easily be used to track time worked on multiple projects. The app can also allow users to set time quotas per day, which lets users manage the division of time among multiple projects. The app tracks time via a clock in/clock out method, so that users don't have to interact with it until they are done with the project (just don't forget to turn it off). Users can then view their time tracking data in several ways, according to day, week, month, and project. The app is free, and most features are available on the free version, but the user only has 3 categories (or "jobs") to work with. The paid version (a one-time fee of $5.99) allows for more categories.

Points in favor:
- The time quotas allow users to consciously think about the division of time in a day.
- Simple start and stop interface allows users to easily access and track the time they work.

Points against:
- The free version only allows for three categories of work.
- The free version has advertisements that detract from the use of the app
- Hours Tracker includes earnings tracking that clutters the interface in ways that make the app harder to use for those who aren't using that feature.
- The app could do better of graphing the time tracking data.

Screenshots:
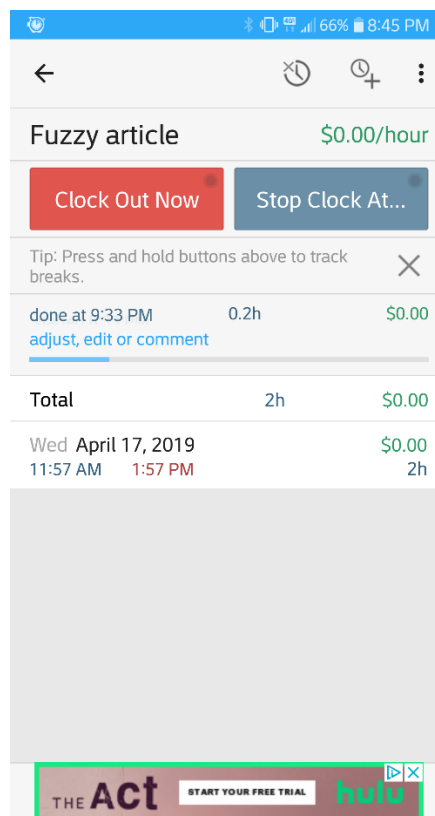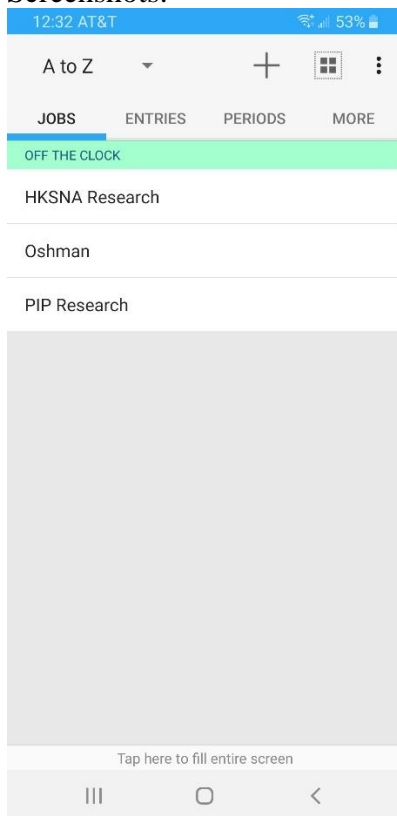
Tomato.es

Tomato.es is a web-based pomodoro time tracking app, which is great for those who do not want to be on their phone while working. The timer is easily available on the homepage of the website, making it easy to start the timer and then go to work on a project. Once the 25 minute work session is over, a buzzer will sound (users can turn sound off, and can turn desktop notifications on if that works better), and it will allow users to record your session in terms of what was worked on (by labeling your "tomato"). After every tomato, users get a 5 minute break, and after completing 4 tomatoes, get a 15 minute break. The app has robust data analysis features that can break down a user's work into tags and projects, which allows one to track where time is spent, how much time is spent, and whether one is meeting time goals for a project. For example, at the time of writing this summary, I have spent 100 tomatoes on this project. That's approximately 50 hours so far. I initially budgeted 100 hours for this project, and considering that I'm about half-way through, I feel confident in my time budget. If I had budgeted less, the app would help me to go back and reassess my goals.

Points in favor:
- Available without using a smartphone
- Labeling of worktime occurs AFTER the time has been spent, which is truer to the original Pomodoro Technique© methodology.
- Tags can be nested within projects, allowing users to see which projects are getting attention, and which tasks within those projects are taking the most time.
- This app has the ability to log time after the fact in case the user forgets to start the timer.

Points against:
- The web-based app means that the user must be online to use it
- The "log time after the fact" function only allows users to log one extra tomato after the fact.
- There are no collaborative features.

Screenshots:

Estimated revenues $ 12,590

Tomatoes   Projects   Tags   Export your tomatoes (csv)   Edit profile

Tomatoes by day
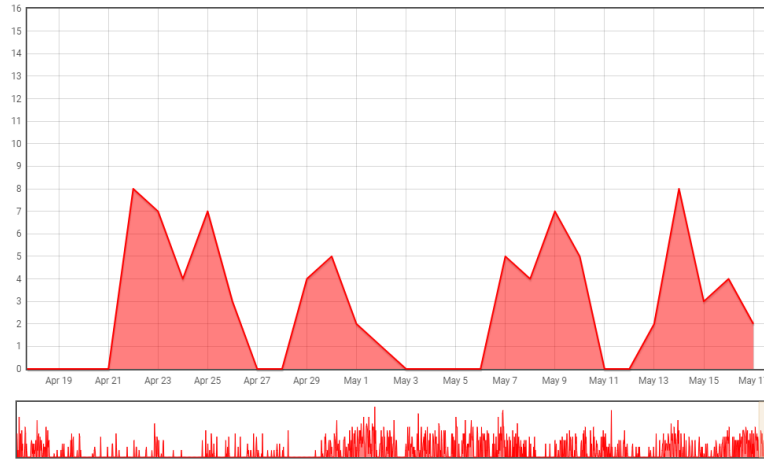
Edit project

Name	App project
Tag list (separated by commas)	App project, apps, app review, Rebecca, met with Rebecca, App Project, App summaries, App testing
	A list of project related tags.
Money budget	$ 10
	Available budget.
Time budget	100
	Estimated time budget in hours.

Update Project
Show | Back

App project project

Tags	App project, apps, app review, Rebecca, met with Rebecca, App Project, App summaries, App testing
Tracked tomatoes	166 tomatoes
Money budget	n/a
Time budget	4 days

Project statistics

Estimated hourly rate	n/a
Effective hourly rate	n/a
Effective/estimated ho...	0.00 USD/hour
Estimated work time	23 days
Effective work time	16 days
Effective/estimated wo...	- 7 days

Edit | Back