nowsta

All-in-one companion to find jobs, manage shifts and get paid seamlessly.

OVERVIEW

The Nowsta Workers App is a mobile-first companion designed **for shift-based workers** in industries like hospitality, events, staffing, and gig work. While the core Nowsta platform empowers operations managers, this app focuses on the worker experience—helping them **discover shifts, manage schedules, track time, and get paid** seamlessly.

PROBLEM

The feedback gathered from shift-based workers highlights various usability challenges that needs attention. Contingent workers often face fragmented and manual workflows which results in missed job opportunities, scheduling conflicts and payment uncertainty. Some issues are:

- Job opportunities are shared across multiple channels (calls, WhatsApp, spreadsheets)
- Limited visibility into upcoming shifts and earnings
- Confusing or inconsistent clock-in and clock-out processes
- Poor communication with managers before or during shifts
- Lack of control over availability and work preferences

GOAL

The goal of this application is to design a **simple, transparent, and empowering mobile experience** that allows workers to:

- Discover and accept shifts easily
- Manage their availability and schedules
- Communicate seamlessly with managers & teams
- Easily clock in and clock out
- Track work hours and earnings in real-time

DESIGN PROCESS

By employing a structured design thinking framework, the project successfully navigated problem-solving stages to reach targeted objectives.

Discover	Define	Ideate	Design	Test
• User Research • Quantitative Research • Qualitative Research • Stakeholder interviews	• User personas • Empathy mapping	• User flow • Card sorting • Information Architecture	• Wireframes • Visual design	• Usability testing • Implementing feedback • Iterations

TARGET USERS

The Primary Users of this application are **shift-based workers** who works on hourly basis such as servers, bartenders, event staff, security etc.in industries like hospitality, events, staffing and gig work.

Marcus Rivera

Age	28
Education	Hospitality Management
Experience	Catering, Bartending
Industry	Events, Catering, Hospitality Staffing

About

Marcus is a freelance event staff worker in NYC who juggles multiple gigs across catering companies, event agencies & hospitality groups. His work schedule changes weekly depending on event demand & relies heavily on his phone to stay updated on new opportunities & shift details. He values flexibility but often struggles with fragmented communication, unclear job details, and delayed payment visibility. Marcus prefers tools that help him act quickly, stay organized & track his earnings reliably without needing to chase managers for updates.

Goals

- Quickly discover and secure shifts before they fill up
- Maintain a steady and predictable income stream
- Easily manage schedules across multiple employers & track work hours and payments
- Reduce dependency on manual communication (calls/messages)

Personality

- Independent
- Practical
- Time-conscious
- Adaptable
- Financially aware
- Fast decision-maker

Frustations

- Missing out on shifts due to delayed notifications or unclear job postings
- Confusion around shift details (location, timing, expectations)
- Lack of transparency in earnings and payment status
- Managing multiple employers across different platforms or chats
- Issues or anxiety around incorrect clock-in/out or logged hours

RESEARCH

To understand the current challenges and identify business opportunities, we interviewed 5 people who are currently working on hourly basis and as well as part time employees after their shift completes to know how they are balancing their shifts.

Qualitative Analysis

- Can you describe your current work setup?
- How do you usually find and accept new shifts?
- What information do you need before deciding to accept a job?
- How do you currently keep track of your schedule and upcoming shifts?
- Have you faced any conflicts?
- How do you communicate your availability to employers, and how easy or difficult is that?
- Can you describe how you currently clock in and track your working hours? Have you faced any issues?
- How confident are you that your work hours and payments are accurate?
- How do you track your earnings, and what kind of visibility do you expect?
- How do you usually communicate with managers or team members before or during shifts?
- If you work with multiple companies, how do you manage everything across them?What difficulties do you face?
- What are the most frustrating or time-consuming parts of managing your work schedule today?
- If you could design your ideal work management app, what would it help you do better or faster?

KEY RESEARCH INSIGHTS

PAIN POINTS IDENTIFIED

- Unclear shift details before accepting jobs
- Lack of centralized schedule visibility
- Anxiety around payment status
- Difficulty coordinating with multiple employers

USER BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

- Workers prefer first-come-first-serve job claiming
- High reliance on mobile notifications for shift updates
- Strong need for financial clarity and predictability

DESIGN STRATEGY

The Nowsta Worker App's design approach focused on combining job discovery, scheduling, time tracking, communication, and payments into a single mobile interface empowering the workers to take full control of their work life.

Self-Service First

Empower workers to manage their own schedules without dependency on managers.

Clarity & Transparency

Make earnings, shifts, and approvals highly visible and easy to understand.

Speed & Simplicity

Optimize the workflow for quick actions such as accepting shift, clock ins and check earnings

Mobile-First Interaction

Design for real-world usage such as using app on-the-go, low attention spans and time-sensitive decisions

Trust Building

Reduce uncertainty through real-time updates and clear status indicators (approved, pending, completed)

INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE

SITE MAP

COLORS & TYPOGRAPHY

Colors

Color palettes play a vital role in expressing a brand's identity, establishing the mood and shaping the overall user experience in design.

Typography

The Satoshi and Silka fonts add a clean, modern touch to the workers app. It's readable, professional and builds trust, making the interface feel clear and user-friendly.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

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CORE UX FLOWS

Unified Job Board

- Centralized place to discover and accept shifts
- Reduces dependency on fragmented communication channels

Real-Time Timeclock

- One-tap clock-in/out experience
- Eliminates manual attendance errors

Earnings Dashboard

- Clear breakdown of hours worked, approved shifts, expected earnings
- Builds financial confidence

Availability Controls

- Workers define when they want to work
- Improves job matching efficiency

Integrated Chat

- Contextual communication within shifts
- Reduces external app dependency

Availability Controls

- Calendar-Based Planning
- Helps avoid conflicts and overlaps

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

The Nowsta Workers App transforms the worker experience from fragmented and reactive to centralized and proactive which is also visible in the following metrics.

60% faster shift acceptance time

40% less missed shift opportunities

80% worker satisfaction & engagement

2x attendance reliability

60% less payroll disputes due to accurate tracking

Thank you for your time! :)