The Problem

Problem Statement:

Many first-year computer science students at the University of South Carolina struggle to manage their time effectively between coding projects, coursework, and personal commitments, leading to increased stress and declines in academic performance.

Context:

Freshman computer science majors often face a heavy workload that includes multiple programming assignments, labs, and exams across several courses. Many also juggle part-time jobs or extracurricular activities. However, most existing time management tools are designed for general audiences and fail to adapt to the dynamic, project-based nature of a computer science student's schedule. This gap in effective, personalized time management contributes to high stress levels, poor academic outcomes, and burnout among new students.

Why this matters:

Understanding how first-year CS students organize their time can help identify opportunities to improve productivity, reduce anxiety, and support academic success through technology-based solutions.