

As we near the end of our second term in CST, the time to pick our options for third and fourth term is quickly approaching. For many of us, this may be a difficult and confusing decision, especially during our current situation of online course delivery. Everyone has different opinions and priorities for their ideal option, but it can be a challenge to find good sources of information about them.

Currently, there are option talks given by the option heads soon before the decisions are due to be made, as well as unofficial rumours circulated by various instructors and higher-term students. It is also uncertain as to which options will be offered in the relevant term to us; these decisions seem to be made without much notice.

A desktop Java application outlining the CST options and concatenating information about them could be a good way to solve these issues. The app would be built using the JavaFX framework, containing a series of “cards” (Figure 1) that each displayed at-a-glance information about an option. When clicked, the card would bring up more detailed information (Figure 2).

Building the app using a series of nested classes would allow for ease of scalability; it could start out as a simple series of boxes storing text, and later be potentially integrated to online services or a database of information. The main class would be a Card, storing instances of other classes such as Instructors, Descriptions, and Reviews from past students who took the option. These would then be displayed in the window using JavaFX.

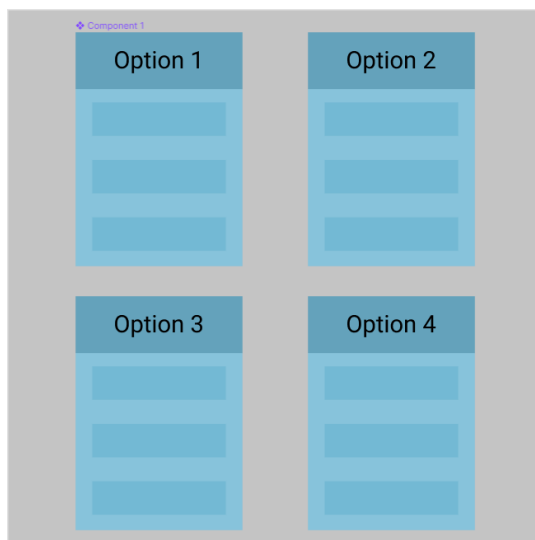


Figure 1: Application overview.

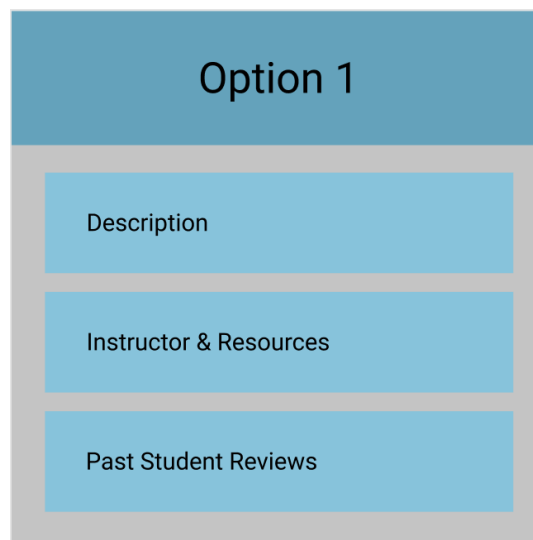


Figure 2: Option detail view.

Information for this app would be taken mainly from the options listing on the BCIT website (<https://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/5500dipma#details>) as well as collecting opinions and insights over time from people involved with the options whenever they are shared. As such, ownership of this app could be passed down to new students as the previous ones move upwards.