Group Project: Milestone 2 – Ishikawa Diagram, Problem Analysis, and Project Plan

MSCI 100

Prof. Mehrdad Pirnia

Riddhi Patel, Nishka Shah, Lavini Balakrishnan, Ian Chan, Jackson Fast, Cris Chen

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

**Progress:**

The problems to be solved by the time management decision support system were identified as time management issues, stress, new environment and difficulty in social life.

After problems were defined, we analysed the problems by determining the shareholders which are students, their parents and the faculty of Engineering. The need for each shareholder includes latent, threshold and express. They were later expanded in detail through online investigation and group discussion.

A Ishikawa diagram of the project was made after activities and routines are brainstormed, categorized and ranked in terms of importance. Discussion of group members effectively aids the process of creating ideas.

A framework of the time management decision support system was constructed. Based on the needs and categories of activities, a general layout of the system was drafted. Data entries related to activities of each branch will be assigned to different excel pages of the excel worksheet and the UserForm as user interface is sketched.

At the end of the group meeting, tasks were assigned to each group member. As expected, the project plan including technical functionalities, the problem analysis document, the activity log and the status report were completed.

**Obstacles:**

When beginning the project, group members lacked the necessary programming knowledge required to devise an adequate project plan to solve the problem identified. Through resources such as Google, labs, tutorials, and communication with TAs, we are planning to overcome this obstacle.

Scheduling was another major challenge we faced in our group project. As we are all undergraduate students focused on navigating through our first year at university and building our resumes. It was difficult to find a time when all 6 of us were available to meet up at once. We conquered this obstacle by planning our meetups and work sessions usually 3-4 days in advance.

With 6 people in our group, we all had our own interpretations of the problem and how to reach a solution. It was hard to agree upon how we were going to define the problem and how we were going to reach a solution. We overcame this obstacle by using the various project planning techniques taught to us during our MSCI module 2 Ch 6 lecture. The 2 main techniques used were brainstorming and C sketching. The C-sketches were done first to expose our ideas to the other group members and so they could learn and build off what we defined as the problem/solution. Then a brainstorming session was done in order to combine the ideas of our group and settle upon an ultimate definition of the problem / solution and to conquer this obstacle.

**Next Steps:**

According to the group project instructions, the project plan will be updated with more detailed list of functionalities. Technical tools, features and functions will be further investigated and discussed in detail. A detailed algorithm is planned to be constructed, and specific sections of development will be assigned to each group member with timeline or project management tool such as Gantt chart. The progress will be included in the next activity log and the status report.