

Evaluating Retail & Hospitality Schedules with Discrete Event Simulation

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Motivation

Ceridian's current scheduling module cannot monitor and **project key performance indicators** of a schedule.

Therefore, Ceridian tasked the team to build a proof-of-concept **simulation application** to evaluate employee shift schedules and identify areas for potential improvements.

Requirements

Project key performance indicators

based on user-defined schedule data.

Target user groups: Restaurants, Pubs,

Hotels, Retail Stores, etc.

Key requirements: Customizable, Multiple Performance Indicators

Use Case: Restaurant

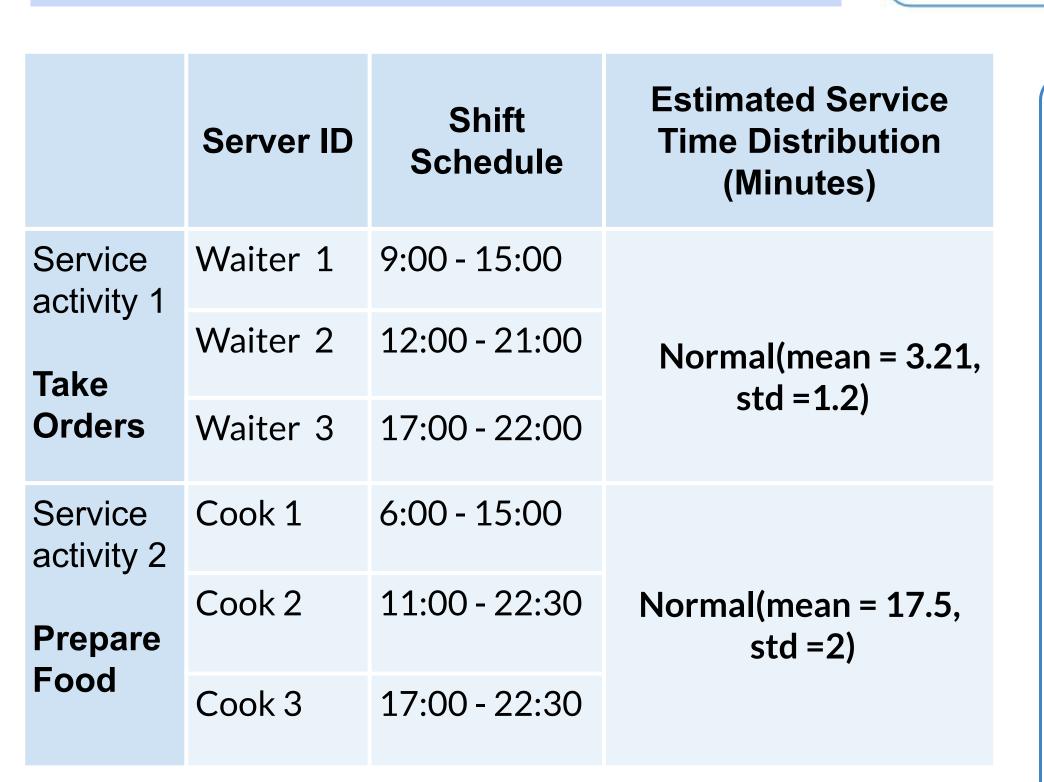
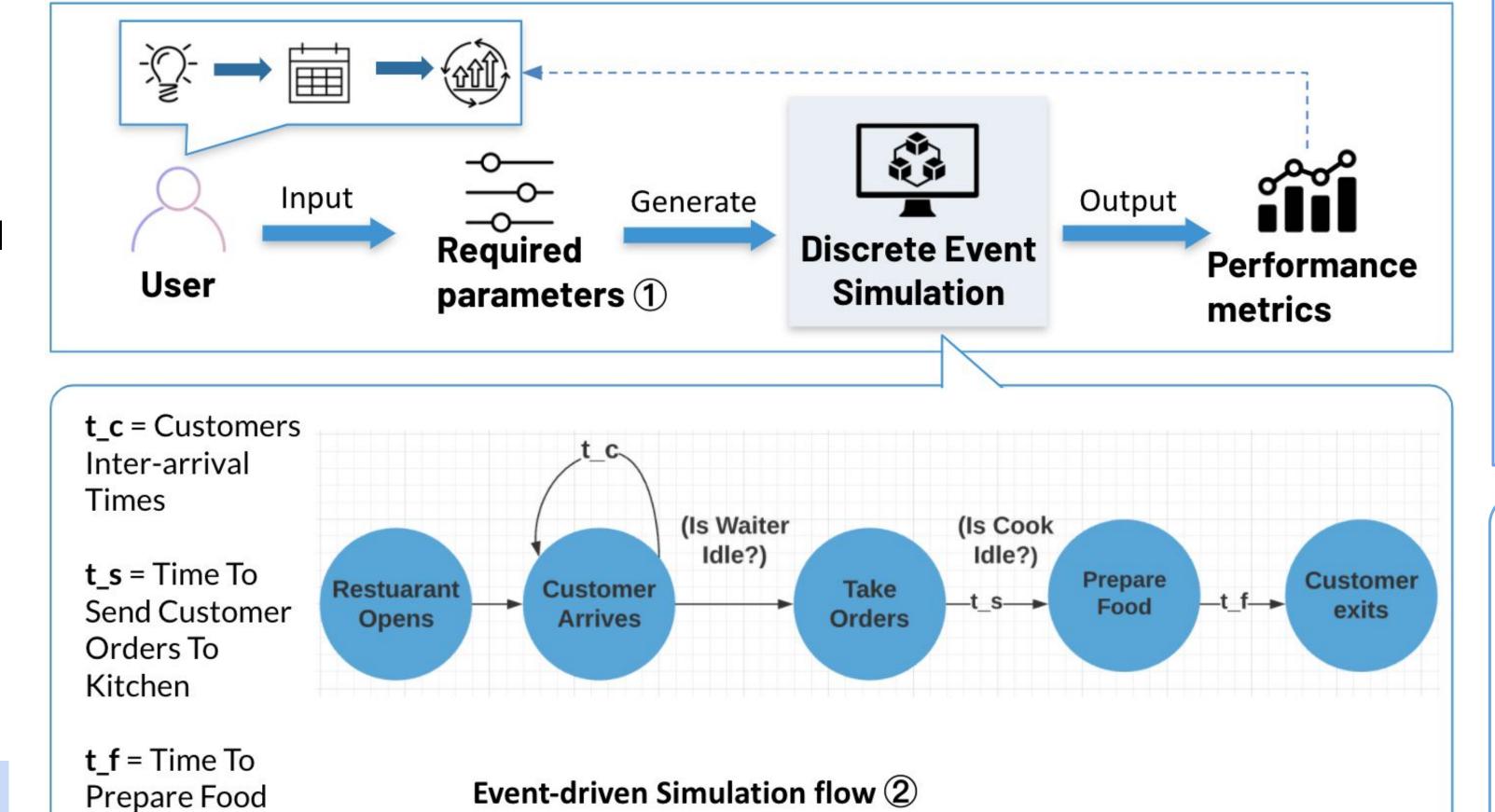


Figure 1: Restaurant information and estimated distributions

Restaurant Scenario Simulation

The discrete event simulation application models real world scenarios as queuing systems and projects performance metrics for future schedule analysis.



1 Input Data

The team simulated one single Monday operation of a restaurant client of Ceridian with their shift schedule and hourly customer arrivals from 9AM to 10PM. Input data is shown in Figure 1.

2 Simulation

- The simulation time duration was 13 hours.
- Event-driven simulation defined 5 types of events:
 new arrival, waiting, internal arrival from prior service
 activity, providing service, departure
- The team modeled the restaurant operation as a sequence of chronological events.
- The restaurant state was updated every time an event finished.

Simulation Results

Projected Performance Indicators

- Avg. Time in System (min:sec): 20:40
- Avg. Time in **Taking Orders** (min:sec): 03:30
- Avg. Wait Time in Taking Orders (min:sec):
 00:28
- Avg. Time in **Preparing Food** (min:sec): 17:39
- Avg. Wait Time in Preparing Food (min:sec):
 01:54
- Throughput Rate(per min): 0.06
- Server Utilization Rate: 0.78

Results Analysis

- Avg. Wait Time in Taking Orders →
 Whether scheduled waiters is reasonable
- Avg. Wait Time in Preparing Food →
 Whether scheduled cooks is reasonable
- Server Utilization Rate → proportion of server time that is busy

Conclusion

- The application can be widely used to project meaningful indicators, providing quantitative evidences for **comparing** different schedules.
- Each performance indicator assesses a specific aspect of the system, indicating which areas need to be improved.

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