

Goal

The goal of our project is to assist university students in setting up their timetable. Do students really think they need assistance? How many students struggle with this task? We'd like to answer these questions.

Data gathering method + tools

Setting Goals:

We want to understand the magnitude of the problems associated with the process of setting up a timetable. This include:

- the time it takes
- the efficiency of using the standard timetable book
- the changes made by the university
- the need for a simpler solution.

Identifying participants:

We will only be making use of students currently studying at Tuks, as they are the only people benefiting from our project. Our focus will be more on 2nd, 3rd and 4th years because they have more experience in setting up timetables, and the problems surrounding it.

Relationship with participants:

We used Facebook's *"Classmates who went to University of Pretoria"* smart list. This list provides us with a list of our associates whom also study at Tuks. We tried not to involve close friends in our data gathering exercise by only emailing the questionnaire to people on the list with whom we have little connection.

Triangulation:

Our population (The group we have chosen) consists of students from a wide variety of faculties. This ensures that there will be data subjects whom are not that computer literate, and those who are. Providing us with accurate data from which we can draw a conclusion to represent the view of the whole university.

Pilot Study:

We created a Facebook group "IMY 310 - Questionnaires". The participants in this group are the people we have chosen to be our testers for the prototypes. They've answered the questions and gave us feedback on how they found the questionnaire. We then adjusted our questionnaire according to the feedback we got.

IMY 310 - Questionnaires

Secret Group

Search

Write Post

Add Photo / Video

Ask Question

Write something...

Hendrik Prinsloo

Hey guys. As you already know, you have been chosen to be our lab-rats in our project to design an application to assist you in the setup of your timetable. Please answer the questionnaire that follow.

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago · near Pretoria

Hendrik Prinsloo

Do you have a computer?

☒ Yes
☐ No, but I have access to one
☐ No

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

Describe the layout of the university's timetable:

☒ Good
☐ Okay
☐ Bad

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

How long does it take you to set up your timetable?

☒ <= 30 minutes
☐ <= 1 hour
☐ > 1 hour

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

How do you go about setting up your timetable?

☒ I choose the first group of each subject
☐ I write down all groups of each subject
☐ I randomly choose the group

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

What do you use to create your timetable?

☒ Only a pen and paper
☐ Only Microsoft Excel
☐ Both methods above
☐ Other

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

How many times did you have to update your timetable due to changes?

☒ Never
☐ Atleast once a semester
☐ Atleast twice a semester
☐ More than two times per semester

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 2 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo

Will you make use of this application?

☒ Yes
☐ No

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 3 hours ago

Hendrik Prinsloo created the group.

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 3 hours ago

Hendrik van Staden and 6 other people are in this group.

Like · See All Members

Figure 1: Pilot Study

Our study

We used an application I've created previously for another project to simulate a questionnaire. We emailed this application to a number of our friends who also study at Tuks. This application assists the user in answering the questions and also provides us with feedback as they only need to attach the text-file created in an email. This provided us with a way to collect sufficient, accurate and relevant data.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled 'Form1'. The main heading is 'Questionnaire' with a progress bar. Below it is 'Section 2: Application side'. A question is displayed: 'Question 3.1) Do you think the university should give students a program to help with timetable setup?'. There are two input areas: 'Select answer' with radio buttons for 'Definitely', 'Yes', 'Maybe', and 'No'; and 'Please specify other:' with a text box. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'PREVIOUS QUESTION', 'END', and 'NEXT QUESTION'. A 'Questions:' section at the very bottom shows a list of question numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

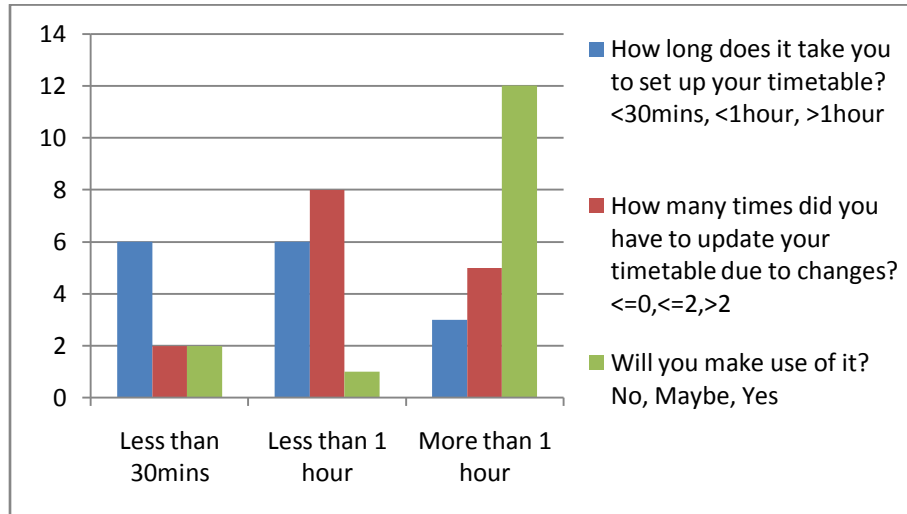
Figure 1: Questionnaire screenshot

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled 'Form1'. The main heading is 'Results:'. It contains instructions: 'Please copy only this content and paste it in the email, or save the results to a textfile and attach it to the email'. Below this is a list of steps: 1) Create a new email message, 2) Left click on the result box below, 3) Press 'Ctrl-a' on the keyboard to select all the text, 4) Press 'Ctrl-c' on the keyboard to copy the selected text, 5) Go to the email you have created and left click in the message's contents box, 6) Press 'Ctrl-v' on the keyboard to paste the copied text, 7) Send the email. At the bottom, there is a 'Save to textfile' button.

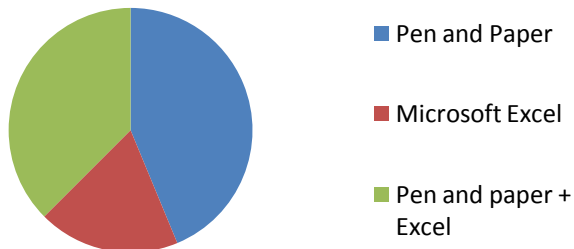
Figure 2: Results screenshot

Analysis

The chart below represents the relationship between the time it takes students to set up their timetables and the times they have to update their timetables due to changes against their interest in a solution:

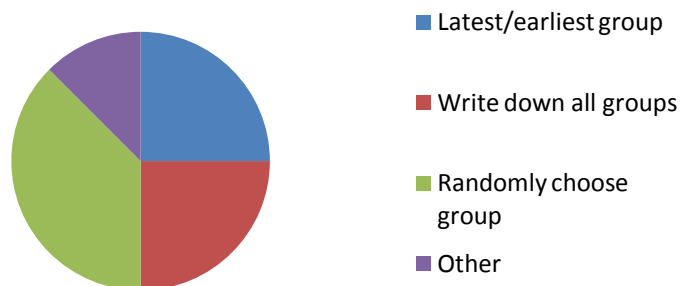


What do you use to create your timetable?



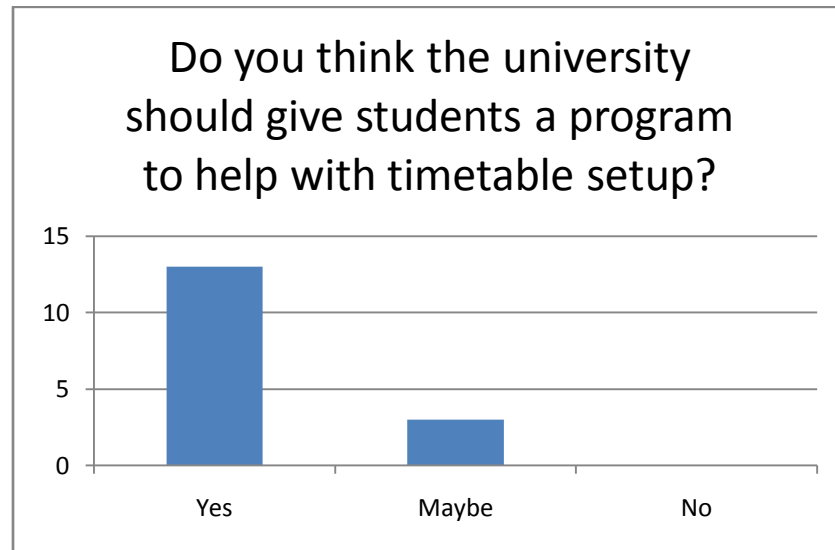
The chart on the left represents the tools our population go about setting up their timetable

How do you go about setting up your timetable?



The chart on the left represents the method in which our population go about setting up their timetable

The chart below represents the need for an application to assists students in setting up their timetables:



Our analysis has proven to us that there is most definitely a need for an application. We could establish a correlation between students whom take a long time to create their timetable and their need for a solution. Also we've seen that almost all our participants have had to update their timetables because of changes to the University's timetable.

Only a few faculties provide timetables to their students