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.

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.

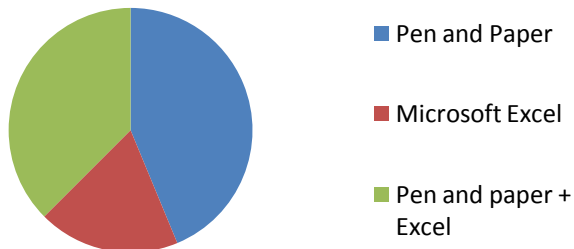Figure 1: Questionnaire screenshot   Figure 2: Results screenshot

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:
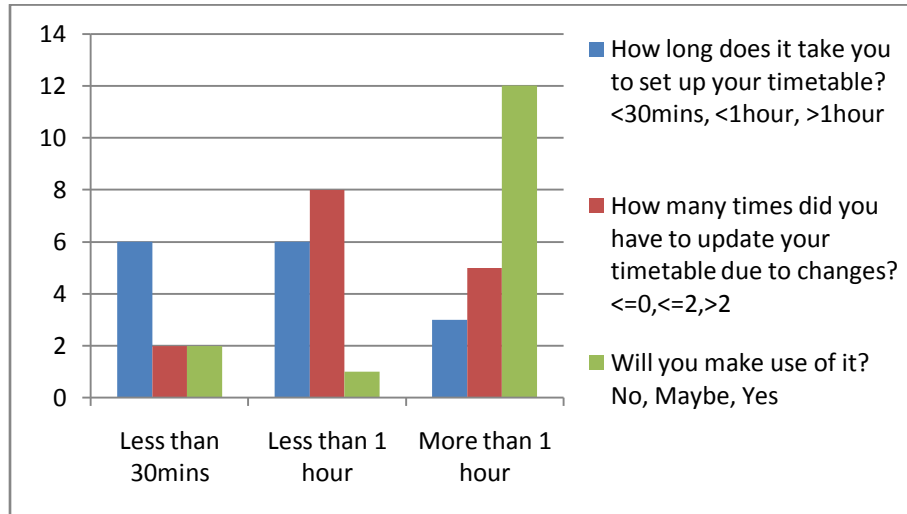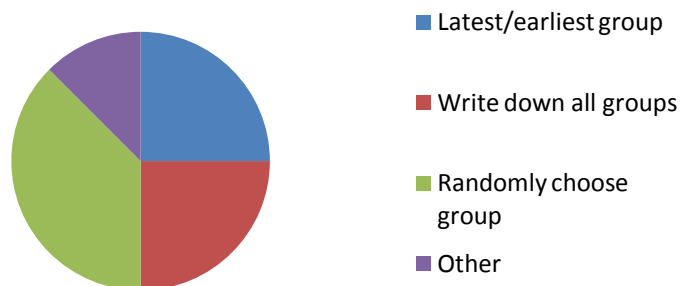

The chart on the left represents the tools our population go about setting up their timetable

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:

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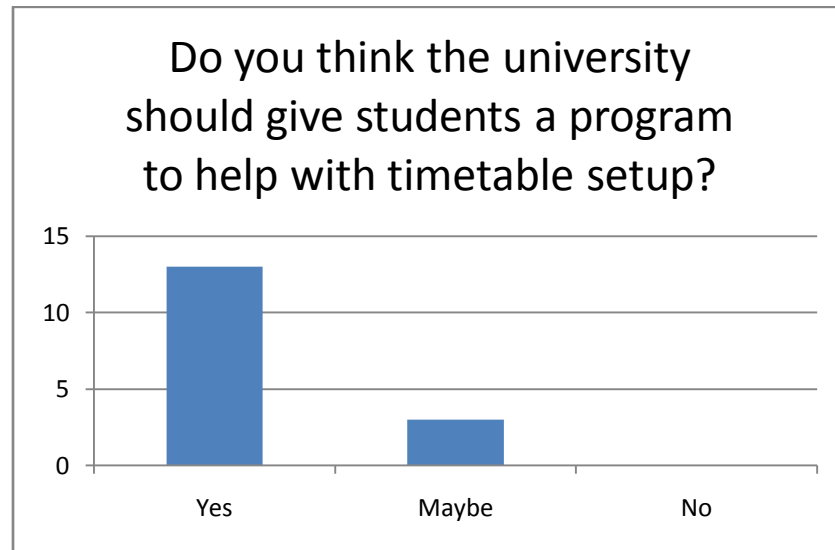
Our analysis has proven to us that there is most definitely a need for an application. We could establish a correlation between students whom take a long time to create their timetable and their need for a solution. Also we've seen that almost all our participants have had to update their timetables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

Only a few faculties provide timetables to their students