

Terms of Reference

Title

Creating a User Friendly Calendar App

Learning Outcomes

- To develop the ability to design, specify, construct and maintain software.
- To strengthen my existing Java and Android development skills.
- To equip students with skills and attributes that will enhance employment opportunities in general computing and IT.

Project Background

Mobile applications are becoming more and more popular each day with 1 billion units being sold in 2013 [Reference 1]. They can be used for tasks such as sending and receiving email whilst travelling, getting step-by-step directions to a location, playing games and many more. An application must offer good usability and a positive user experience.

Calendars are useful to people as they help manage upcoming events and activities throughout the year, Academics, business people as well as regular users use them. I aim to create a calendar app that helps people keep track of their activates as well as allowing them to keep track of their friend's birthdays, combining the features and functions that are good and improving on those that are not. There are many similar apps currently on the market (250) [Reference 2] but only a small selection of them are user friendly.

Usability is making a product or system easy to use, meaning that a user can complete a task quickly and effectively. A user should not have to regularly use help screens to complete a task or use a certain function. For example, if a user becomes frustrated because using a certain function requires too much navigation, then they will search for an alternative product.

User Experience is important when designing a product or system as it helps ensure that a user will continue to use a product or service. For example, if an app is slow, buggy and has a high tendency to crash or navigating the interface of the app is time consuming or confusing then the user will not continue to use the application and they will not recommend it to others.

Aim

The aim of this project is to create a user-friendly calendar app that has Social Media functionality, allowing the user to add their own entries as well as allowing the user to sync information (Birthdays) from a social media network (Facebook).

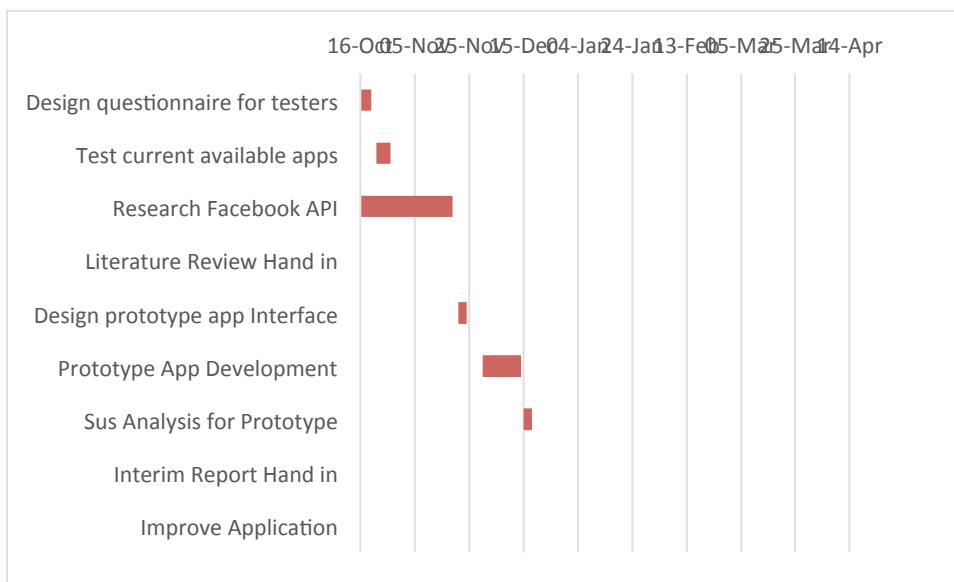
Objectives

- To use Surveys to identify the features in the calendar apps that are highly rated by users, those that are not so liked and then improve on the bad features within my own app.
- Using SUS Analysis to measure the usability of my App once a prototype has been developed.

- Implement linking with Social Media websites (Such as Facebook) to allow users to sync their friend's birthdays to the Calendar.
- Creating a prototype app and having testers fill in a SUS (System Usability Scale) questionnaire to measure the testers experiences in order to improve the app.
- To create a detailed tutorial that will allow users to learn how to use the app quickly and efficiently.

Timetable and Deliveries

Final Year Project			
Task	Start Date	Duration (Days)	End Date
Terms of Reference Hand in			17-Oct
Design questionnaire for testers	16-Oct	4	20-Oct
Test current available apps	22-Oct	5	27-Oct
Research Facebook API	16-Oct	34	20-Nov
Literature Review Hand in			21-Nov
Design prototype app Interface	21-Nov	3	24-Nov
Prototype App Development	30-Nov	14	14-Dec
Sus Analysis for Prototype	15-Dec	3	18-Dec
Interim Report Hand in			19-Dec
Improve Application	15-Jan	10	25-Jan
Report Structure Hand in			27-Feb-15
Report and Product hand in			27-Mar-15
Presentation			01-May-15



Required Resources

The required tools for the project are a Computer capable of running Eclipse for the App Development as well as an Android Device (I.E. Phone or Tablet) for demonstration and testing purposes.

References:

Reference 1: InformationWeek, (2014). *1 Billion Smartphones Shipped In 2013* - *InformationWeek*. [online] Available at:

<http://www.informationweek.com/mobile/mobile-business/1-billion-smartphones-shipped-in-2013/d/d-id/1113603> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2014].

Reference 2: Play.google.com, (2014). [online] Available at:

https://play.google.com/store/search?q=calendar&c=apps&hl=en_GB [Accessed 10 Oct. 2014].

Ethics Form:



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

ETHICS CHECK FORM

This checklist must be completed for every project. It is used to identify whether there are any ethical issues associated with your project and if a full application for ethics approval is required. If a full application is required, you will need to complete the 'Application for Ethical Approval' form and submit it to the relevant Faculty Academic Ethics Committee, or, if your research falls within the NHS, you will need to obtain the required application form from the National Research Ethics Service available at www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/ and submit it to a local NHS REC.

Before completing this form, please refer to the University's Academic Ethical Framework (www.rdu.mmu.ac.uk/ethics/mmuframework) and the University's Guidelines on Good Research Practice (www.rdu.mmu.ac.uk/rdegrees/goodpractice.doc).

Project and Applicant Details

Name of applicant (Principal Investigator):	Isaac Kingsley Tsoor-Scale
Telephone Number:	07853 401153
Email address:	Isaac-Kingsley91@hotmail.com
Status: (please circle as appropriate)	Undergraduate Student Postgraduate Student (Taught or Research) Staff
Department/School/Other Unit:	Science and Engineering
Programme of study (if applicable):	Computing
Name of supervisor (if applicable):	Rabia Khan
Project Title:	Creating a User Friendly Calendar app
Does the project require NHS Trust approval? If yes, has approval been granted by the Trust? Attach copy of letter of approval.	YES/NO

Ethics Checklist (Please answer each question by ticking the appropriate box)

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Will the study involve recruitment of patients or staff through the NHS, or involve NHS resources? If yes, you may need full ethical approval from the NHS.	+		
2. Does the study involve participants who are particularly vulnerable or unable to give informed consent (e.g. children, people with learning disabilities, your own students)?	+		
3. Will the study require the co-operation of a gatekeeper for initial access to the groups or individuals to be recruited (e.g. students at school, members of self-help group, nursing home residents)?	+		
4. Will the study involve the use of participants' images or sensitive data (e.g. participants personal details stored electronically, image capture techniques)?	+		
5. Will the study involve discussion of sensitive topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use)?	+		
6. Could the study induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life?	+		
7. Will blood or tissue samples be obtained from participants?	+		
8. Are drugs, placebos or other substances (e.g. food substances, vitamins) to be administered to the study participants or will the study involve invasive, intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind?	+		
9. Is pain or more than mild discomfort likely to result from the study?	+		
10. Will the study involve prolonged or repetitive testing?	+		

	Yes	No	N/A
11. Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and informed consent at the time (e.g. covert observation of people in non-public places)?		✗	
12. Will financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants?		✗	
13. Is there any possible risk to the researcher (e.g. working alone with participants, interviewing in secluded or dangerous)?		✗	
14. Has appropriate assessment of risk been undertaken in relation to this project?	✓		
15. Does any relationship exist between the researcher(s) and the participant(s), other than that required by the activities associated with the project (e.g., fellow students, staff, etc)?	✓	✓	
16. Faculty specific question, e.g., will the study sample group exceed the minimum effective size?	✓		

If you have ticked 'no' or 'n/a' to all questions, attach the completed and signed form to your project approval form, or equivalent. Undergraduate and taught higher degree students should retain a copy of the form and submit it with their research report or dissertation (bound in at the end). MPhil/PhD, and other higher degree by research, students should submit a copy to the Faculty Research Degrees Subcommittee with their application for registration (RD1) and forward a copy to their Faculty Academic Ethics Committee. Members of staff should send a copy to their Faculty Academic Ethics Committee before commencement of the project.

If you have ticked 'yes' to **any** of the questions, please describe the ethical issues raised on a separate page. You will need to submit your plans for addressing the ethical issues raised by your proposal using the 'Application for Ethical Approval' form which should be submitted to the relevant Faculty Academic Ethics Committee. This can be obtained from the University website (<http://www.rdu.mmu.ac.uk/ethics/index.php>).

If you answered 'yes' to question 1, you may also need to submit an application to the appropriate external health authority ethics committee, via the National Research Ethics Service (NRES), found at <http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/>, and send a copy to the Faculty Academic Ethics Committee for their records.

Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the University's Guidelines on Good Research Practice and any relevant academic or professional guidelines in the conduct of your study. **This includes providing appropriate information sheets and consent forms, and ensuring confidentiality in the storage and use of data.** Any significant change in the question, design or conduct over the course of the research should be notified to the relevant committee (either Faculty Academic Ethics Committee or Local Research Ethics Committee if an NHS-related project) and may require a new application for ethics approval.

Approval for the above named proposal is granted

I confirm that there are no ethical issues requiring further consideration. (Any subsequent changes to the nature of the project will require a review of the ethical consideration(s).)
Signature of Supervisor (for students), or Manager (for staff): 
Date: 15/10/14

Approval for the above named proposal is not granted

I confirm that there are ethical issues requiring further consideration and will refer the project proposal to the Faculty Academic Ethics Committee.
Signature of Supervisor (for students), or Manager (for staff): _____
Date: