Project Proposal

for a Course Rating Platform for SCU

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1. Abstract

The goal of this project is to design and implement a course rating platform for the students in Santa Clara University. We'll focus on building a better and a reliable platform to help the students. By using the platform, the student can make better decisions in picking their course work.

2. Problem Statement

Students when enrolling to new courses have to go through a lot of hassle. Students need to register for courses very early with little to no information on the course. Once classes start a student has a week to decide whether to continue the course or not. If the student concludes that the course is not for him or her, the student now has to find an alternative course when most of the seats will not be available at that point. The student will also be paying an additional fee to drop and substitute with a different class. Students are in great demand for a tool or information platform to help them make choices wisely and avoid potential loss of time and money.

The main platforms students are now using are the RateMyProfessor, Reddit, and the SCU community in Discord. The information on these platforms is fragmented and takes a lot of time and effort to search. Our platform is made by SCU students for SCU students. So we are more focused, and can make the information in a more organized and approachable way.

Santa Clara University now has many new lecturers that do not exist on those platforms. Students also have to deal with unreliable reviews. In the current platforms users can abuse the system by posting multiple reviews, and there is no mechanism to

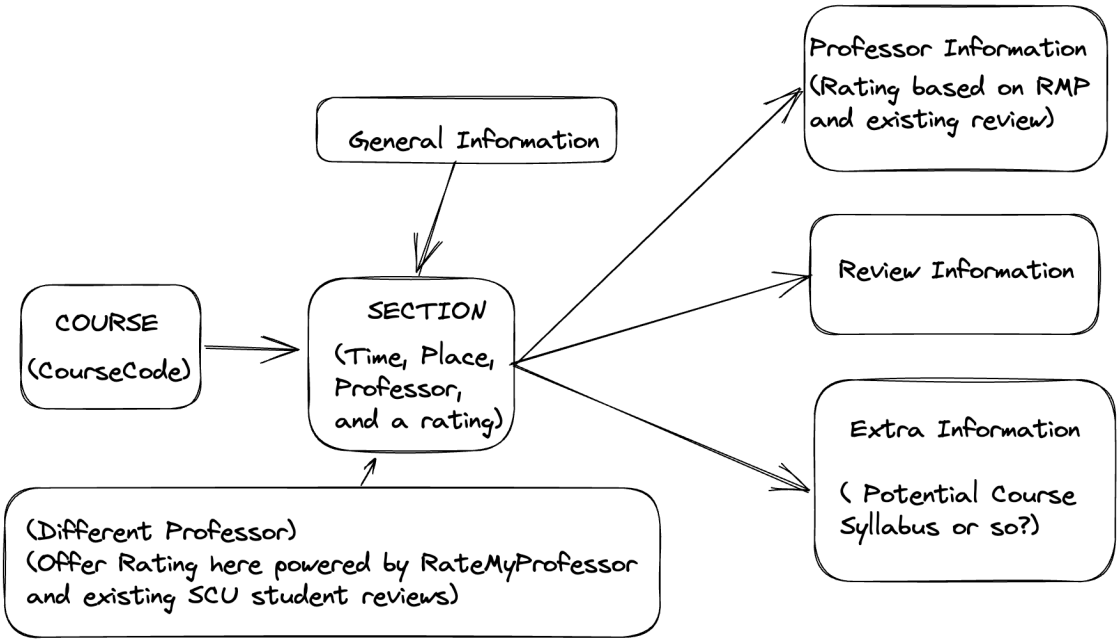
verify if the user even belongs to the university. This will impact the overall value of the review system.

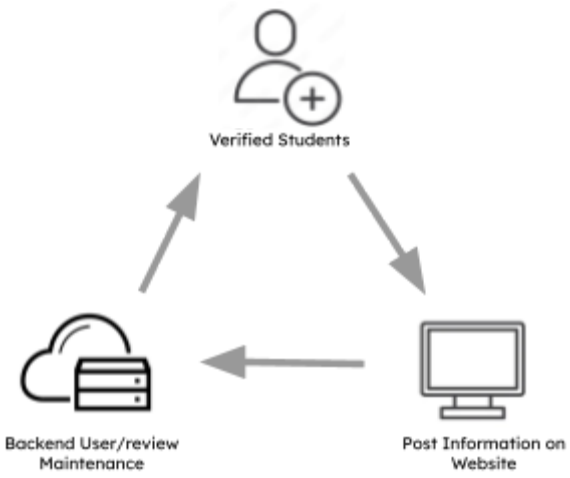
We aim to design a reliable and secure system in our project to solve the current existing problems. Our platform even steps one more step, trying to offer files like the syllabus to help students get a clear understanding of the class to make a wiser choice.

3. Methodology

Architecture:

The architectures of our project are shown below:





There are several key features for this architecture:

- User-Friendly Interface: Easy for students to use, our tool is an efficient information collecting tool, so easy to use is important.
- Course Rating and Review System. Let the students see the course professor's rating and review. Also, let the verified students leave new comments and reviews to it.
- Students verified system: to verify the user identity to make sure they have the right to leave a review and keep the rating and review true and reliable.
- Course associate file system. Students can download associate documents like the syllabus of the course to see the details.
- Course Overview system: to overview a class in past and coming quarters (is it offered during that quarter? Who taught or will teach it) or overview a class, which departments offer what classes in the coming quarter.

4. Solution

We propose building an online information platform that is specifically designed for Santa Clara University students to minimize the searching expense and try to offer more information in a more organized way. The platform will be a website where users

can view information and reviews of certain courses. It will not only provide information on the rating and the review of the current professor who will teach the class but also some more detailed information like what quarter will the course be offered and potentially offer associate syllabuses to it. To protect users' personal information, all reviews are posted anonymously. However, all users will still be asked to login so they are limited to writing one review per course. Before users are allowed to write comments on the website, their school email addresses will be verified to make sure the SCU student identities. The platform is considered to have some other functions of providing more informative documents like the syllabus to the class.

This is a project made by students for students, so it is a charitable project. May need a donation system or ask the University for funds to support maintenance service and server fees.

5. Timeline

The estimated timeline for building this project is limited to about 7 weeks. The development will include the following stages:

Week 1: Making ideas and making decisions on an approachable proposal.

- (Finishing the proposal documents)
- Week1 (Deadline Apr 10, 2023)
- Project Proposal

Week 2: Requirements gathering and documentation.

- (Finishing the requirements documents)
- Week2 (Deadline Apr 19, 2023)
- Project Requirements

Week 3, 4: Design and prototyping.

- (Design a base app that can be shown)
- Week 3 4(Deadline May 1, 2023)
- (Prepare a mid-presentation of what we have done)

Week 3, 4, 5: Development and testing.

- (keep refining it, test different functions)
- Week 3 4 5(Deadline May 15, 2023)
- Documentation of Test Strategy, Test Plan, And Test Case

Week 5: Deployment and launch

Week 6,7: Post-launch maintenance and updates.

- Prepare the demo and also the final presentation for the projects.
- Prepare the final-presentation of the project we have done.

6. Deliverables

The final deliverables for this project will be

- An online platform that focuses on providing assistance and advice for course selection to SCU students will be created. The platform will organize courses as units, integrating ratings and evaluations of professors from RateMyProfessor, and allow students to leave new ratings and evaluations for courses. Additionally, the platform will strive to provide more detailed information such as syllabi, to help students build a comprehensive understanding of the course, and thus assist them in making informed course selections.
- Our group members will also gain a deeper and more detailed understanding in the process of Software Engineering. Through this project, our team members will not only have the ability to write excellent code, but also be able to write various development documents such as ideation and requirements in a more standardized and detailed manner. Moreover, we will have a more comprehensive understanding of testing, deployment, and maintenance after completing the development process.