Flashcards by Samuel Strobel

User Guide

**Introduction**

Flashcards is an application created in order to assist students in learning the meaning of new words by allowing the creation of a multi-sided card, categories, and grouped decks. Students are encouraged to create decks for foreign languages, high level vocabulary, and other associative memory related tasks.

**Installation**

Simply unzip the folder and launch the .JAR file inside. This program creates files in its directory, so it’s recommended to leave it inside a folder and create a shortcut to place elsewhere.

**Main Menu Options**

From the main menu users have access to four options: *resume, new deck, load deck, and export deck.*

**Resume**

Resume will lead the user to their previously opened study session. If the app was closed during study, simply opening it again will load the session to the card that the user was on. This will not happen if the app was terminated.

**New Deck**

New deck will guide the user in creating a new deck. *(See* ***Decks****)*

**Load Deck**

Load deck will display current existing decks to the user, and allow the user to open up a deck without needing to navigate any directories. When loading a deck, the user will have the option to continue with their previous study session or restart the session if a session save exists. However, if the user wishes to import a deck, or open a deck in a separate directory, the *find* button can be used to open a file explorer to open a .csv file.

**Export Deck**

Export deck will allow the user to save a deck as a .csv or .xls file. Saving as a .xls file will require that the user open and resave the deck to format it correctly for excel.

**Study View Options**

The study view is the main window of the application, where the user will be allowed to view cards and study. There are 11 components to the study view: *back, options, title, card, prev, correct, incorrect, cards, statistics, card number, and statistics view.*

**Back**

The back button will bring the user back to the main menu.

**Options**

The options button will bring the user to an options menu. *(See* ***Options****)*

**Title**

The title label will display the title of the current deck being studied. Clicking on this will lead to the edit deck menu, allowing the user access to deleting the deck, changing the deck name or description, and access to a menu to delete or rename existing categories.

**Card**

The text of one side of the card will be displayed in the center of the window. Clicking on the text will flip the card to the next side. If the card is on its last side with content, it will be reset to the first side with content. Based on if the user was correct in their guess of the next side, it’s suggested that the user honestly clicks the “correct” or “incorrect” button for the most efficient study experience. If the “typing” option is selected and the first side is being displayed, then a text dialog box will open and prompt the user to type in the answer. If the user’s entry is correct, the answer will be displayed in blue font, if it’s incorrect, the answer will be displayed in red font. The user’s entry is not case-sensitive.

**Prev**

The prev button will change the displayed card to the previously displayed card. This will undo any change the previous card may have made to the correct statistics of the current session.

**Correct**

The correct button will change the displayed card to the next unviewed card in the deck. This will add a correct counter to the correct statistics of the current session. If a card was flagged as incorrect, it will remove that flag. If the card was the last unviewed card in the deck, the user will be lead to the statistics view.

**Incorrect**

The incorrect button will change the displayed card to the next unviewed card in the deck. Unlike the correct button, this option will not add a correct counter to the correct statistics of the current session, and will flag the card as incorrect. If the card was the last unviewed card in the deck, the user will be led to the statistics view.

**Cards**

The cards button will lead the user to a window where they can view all the cards in the deck. The user will be allowed to create a new card or edit any card through this menu. The user can also sort the menu alphabetically by any side, show all cards under any category or unassigned a category, or all cards that are flagged or unflagged. There is also an edit option that allows cards to be assigned a category, flagged, or deleted in bulk.

**Statistics**

The statistics label will display the current statistics of the deck, including how many cards have been looked at, the number of cards correct, and the percentage of cards correct out of the ones looked at.

**Card Number**

The card number label will display what card number the user is looking at, out of however many exist within the deck.

**Statistics View**

The statistics view window will display how many cards the user got correct out of however many they looked at. It will also give the user the option to reset the deck, or review the cards missed. Resetting the deck will allow the users to go through all cards again regardless of whether or not they were missed. The review button will allow the user to go through all the cards they missed (the cards flagged as incorrect by the incorrect button). The user may select the review option as long as even one card was missed.

**Options**

There are multiple options available through the options menu that affect how the user will be studying their cards. The options are: *shuffle, flagged cards only, only specific categories, type the answer, and start side.* Confirming globally will set whatever is selected for *shuffle, flagged cards only, type the answer, and start side* as the default for new decks.

**Shuffle**

Shuffle will shuffle all the cards in the deck to provide the user variety in the order they see the cards. Turning off this option will sort the cards alphabetically by their first side. It’s suggested that this option should always remain toggled unless users are attempting to memorize things in sequence.

**Flagged Cards Only**

Flagged cards only will make sure that only cards that have been specifically flagged will be displayed to the user. If no cards are flagged, this option will be untoggled.

**Specific Categories**

Specific categories will make sure only cards that have been assigned the selected categories will be displayed. Cards that have not been assigned categories can be selected or unselected through this option as well. If there are no cards with these categories, this option will be untoggled.

**Type the Answer**

Type the answer will allow the user to study by producing what they think the answer on the second side of the card displays. As long as a card has more than one side, when a user goes to view the second side of a card, a text dialog box will appear. The user should type the answer into the dialog box. If they’re correct the text of the second side of the card will be displayed in blue text, if they are incorrect it will be displayed in red text. This will not automatically set whether or not the card was correct, due to simple typos that may have occurred. This works how one would expect with the “Start Side” option. The text box only appears for the first side of the card going to the second side, no other sides are tested.

**Start Side**

Start side will allow the user to choose whether side 1 or 2 is displayed first. By default side 1 is the first displayed side. This is a useful option for if a user wants to look at descriptions of a word before looking at the word or vice versa. It can also allow a user to see a word in English before the foreign language or vice versa. Enabling side 2 to be displayed first will swap sides 1 and 2 in the study view, making the sequence of sides 2 > 1 > (3…) rather than 1 > 2 > (3…)

**Decks**

All decks have four parts to them: *their name, description, cards, and categories.*

**Name**

The name of a deck is the identifiable feature of the deck. Names are suggested to be a short, self-explanatory summary of what the deck will be used for in order to help users quickly identify what they want to study, such as “Korean Vocabulary” or “Medical Terminology”.

**Description**

Descriptions are an extension of names in that they help users tell what the content of the deck holds. Descriptions should include things like what class the flashcards will be used for, where the list of terms came from, or who created the deck.

**Cards**

Cards are the content of the deck, and what will be studied by the user. (*See* ***Cards****)*

**Categories**

Each deck is given four slots for categories that can be assigned to each individual card. Each of the four slots can hold multiple category names, and it’s suggested that these categories are hierarchical. For example, slot one could hold what semester the terms were introduced in, slot two could hold what unit the terms were introduced in, slot three could hold what chapter the terms were introduced in, and slot four could be miscellaneous and hold what category the words are (medical, household, economy, ect).

**Creating a New Deck**

A new deck can be created from the main menu by pressing the *New Deck* button. This will lead to a deck creation window with two labeled text fields. Only the name text field is required to continue; adding a description to the deck is optional. Two decks by the same name cannot exist, and a warning message will be displayed to the user before attempting to create a new deck by the same name as an existing one.

The first card of the deck will be created upon the creation of a new deck, and more can be created through the cards view of the study menu. New categories can be created through the new card creation wizard. Users are encouraged to only create a category when it is being applied to a card, and not in bulk in order to keep categories from not being utilized.

**Editing or Deleting a Deck**

To edit a deck, simply click on the deck title on any of the study windows to be lead to an *Edit Deck* window. From here, the user can change the deck name or description simply by replacing the text in the corresponding fields and pressing *Confirm.* The deck can be deleted by pressing the *Delete* button. This window also has a *Categories* button which leads to a window displaying all the current categories for the deck. On this window, the user can select multiple categories and delete them by pressing the *Delete Categories* button, or the user can select a single category and rename it by pressing the *Rename* button. If a card is set to a deleted category, it will be set to “unassigned” once again.

**Cards**

Cards are the content of each deck and ultimately what each user will be studying. They have three components: *sides, categories, and a flag.*

**Sides**

Each card is allowed 5 different sides for study content. It’s suggested that side one is the term that the user wants to study, side two is the definition, side three is an example sentence, side four are synonyms, and side five is antonyms. At least two sides are suggested, and three sides for language study.

**Categories**

Each card has four categories slots which can be assigned one category each. The available categories will be pulled from the existing categories within the deck, and new ones can be created within the new card menu. There can be no duplicate categories for any category slot, but this check is case sensitive. Categories can be set in bulk to the in the “cards view” menu by toggling the *Edit Mode* check box, selecting the desired cards, selecting the category, and pressing the *Set Selected* button.

**Flag**

Each card can be flagged, allowing a user to mark one flag as particularly more important than others. This option is suggested for users that want to mark particularly difficult cards for later intensive study by toggling the “flagged cards only” option from the options menu. Cards can be flagged in bulk to the in the “cards view” menu by toggling the *Edit Mode* check box, selecting the desired cards, checking the *Flagged* (or *Unflagged* to unflag) check box, and pressing the *Set Selected* button.

**Creating a New Card**

The first card of a deck is created automatically during the create deck process. Any cards beyond this are creatable through the “cards” menu accessible from the study view. The “side one” field is the only required field in order to create a card. Any number of sides beyond sides one and two will require that all previous sides have content before they can be filled. This prevents any cards with only sides 1 and 5 viewable.

Categories can be assigned through the drop-down menu for each category slot. If a new category is needed, it can be created through this menu, however it’s suggested that only the category that will be assigned is created and assigned immediately. It’s also suggested that all categories are assigned as soon as a card is created so that the user does not need to retroactively assign categories in bulk after the deck has been completed. If the user wishes to unassign a category, simply press the *deselect category* label by the category.

A card can be flagged through this menu if the user wants to study it in a “flagged cards only” session later. Cards can also be deleted through the new/edit card menu if they are already created. Pressing the “back” button will cancel the creation of a new card regardless of what fields have been filled out. Completing a new card/card edit will autosave the deck, and creating a new card will reset the current study session.

**Editing or Deleting a Card**

Cards can be edited by selecting them through the “cards view” window and pressing the *Edit Card* button. From here, the user will be greeted with a scene similar to the “new card” window already filled in with the card’s information. All information can be edited and saved by pressing the *Confirm* button. Cards can be deleted by pressing the *Delete* button. Deleting a card will save the deck and reset the current study session.

Cards can be assigned categories, flagged, unflagged, and deleted in bulk in the “cards view” window by activating the *Edit Mode* check box. To set categories, flag, or unflag, select the desired cards, select the desired categories, select flag or unflag, and press the *Set Selected* button. To delete, select the desired cards and press the *Delete Selected* button. Note that all cards are displayed during “edit mode” and can only be sorted alphabetically by side.