Report for COM2008/COM3008: Creation and Use of a University System

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1 Introduction

Our customer has asked us to provide a system to organise and administer their university students and courses. They have a small number of departments, each offering a limited number of degrees. A department will offer a number of degrees, and some are interdisciplinary, available to two or more departments, but have one lead department.

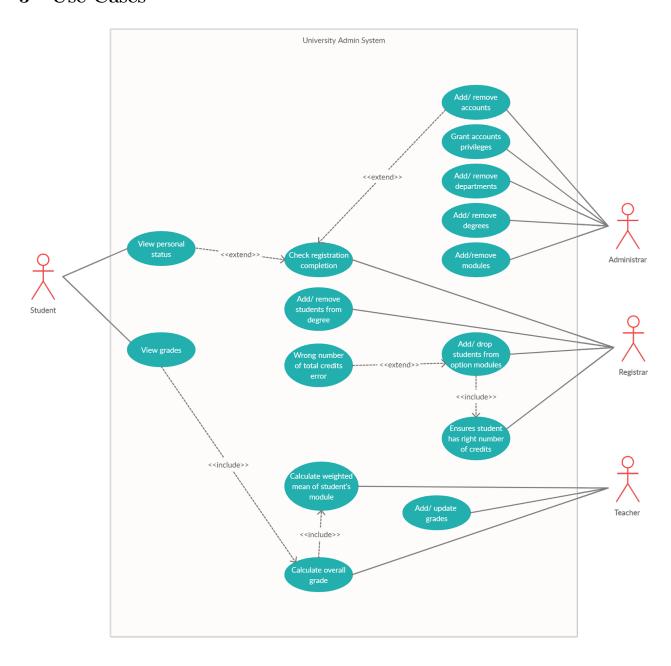
Each department has a full name and an abbreviated code consisting of three letters. Each degree has a full title and an abbreviated code, with the relevant department code as a prefix. A degree may be undergraduate or postgraduate and may or may not have a year in industry. A degree is divided into modules which can be core to the degree. Each module can be taught by a teacher. If the student passes the year and what classification they achieve depends on pre-existing conditions noted in the assignment brief such as current level in the degree and degree type.

2 Stakeholders

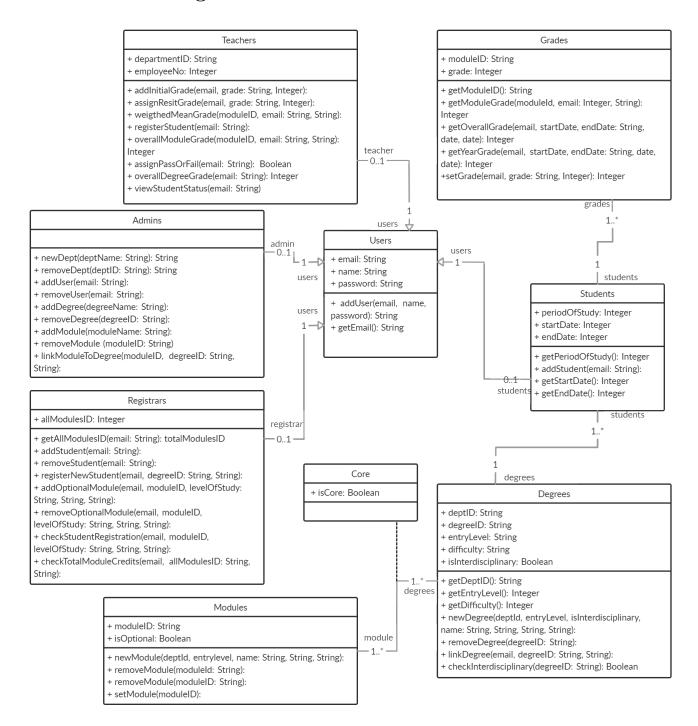
The stakeholders in the project are the university itself, and the users of the software itself, including administrators, registrars, teachers and students. All have different expectations and needs for the system.

The university would like some software to streamline its information database of current students and courses. The software should be useful to its current employees and make interactions with the information system as easy and smooth as possible.

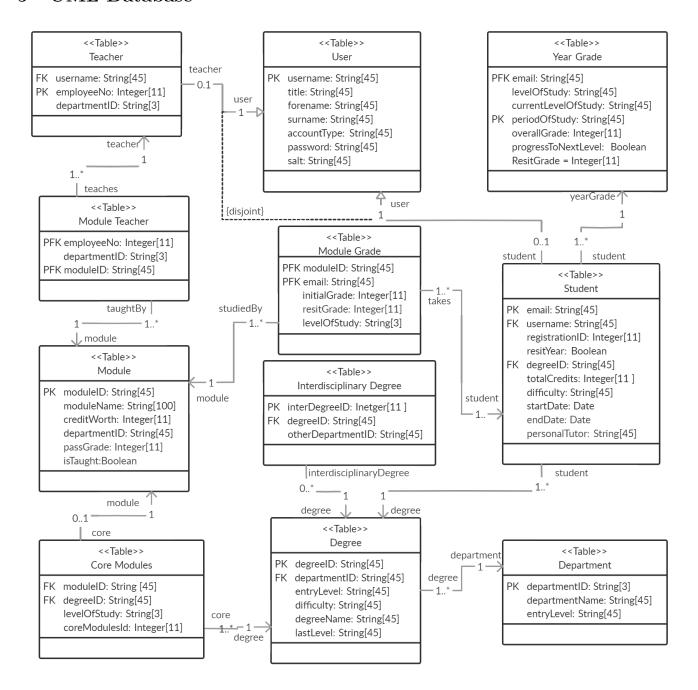
3 Use Cases



4 UML Class Diagram

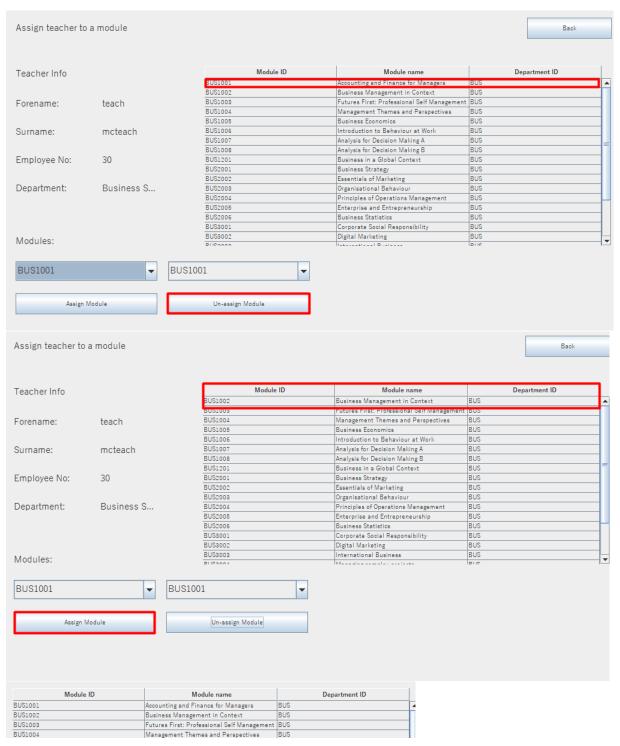


5 UML Database

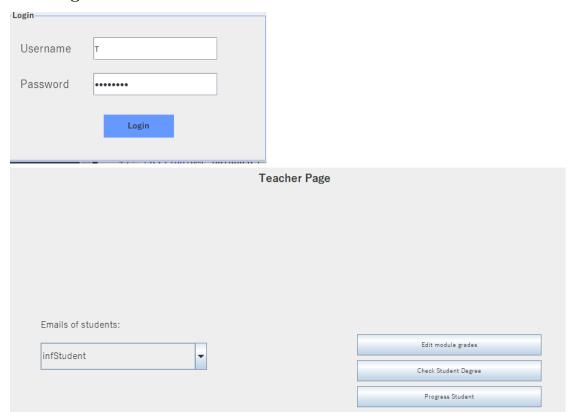


6 Best Aspects

6.1 Add Modules to Teacher Quickly



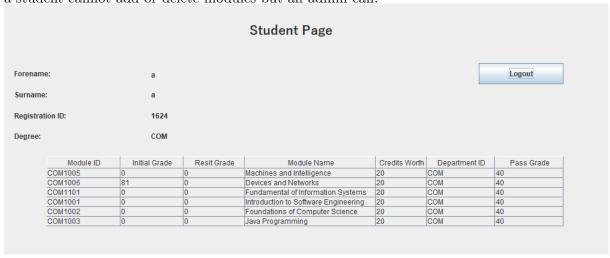
6.2 Login Screen



7 Security Features

7.1 Role Restrictions

Our solution enforces role restrictions. Each user is assigned a role-type that dictates the information that they can see and change. This is achieved by using private java classes and methods to change and view the data, and constructors to create instances that can access these methods and classes when the user signs in. This means that other users cannot use these methods; i.e. a student cannot add or delete modules but an admin can.



The user, student, has access to limited data, and cannot edit it.

```
public void displayDegree(String email) throws SQLException {...5 lines }

public void displayTotalGrade(String email) throws SQLException {...31 lines }

public static Boolean getProgressToNextLevel(String email) throws SQLException {...32 lines }

public static String getPeriodOfStudy(String email) throws SQLException {...31 lines }

public static String nextPeriodOfStudy(String email) throws SQLException {...31 lines }

public void updatePeriodOfStudy(String email) throws SQLException {...30 lines }
```

7.2 Password Protection

Each user is provided a personal password when their account is created. Salt is randomly generated and stored in the users table. Each salt is unique for each account so reverse engineering the password from the hashed password is made much more difficult to do en-masse. To login, the user provides their own username and password, and the plain-text password is rehashed with their own salt to see if the two values match and if they can login.

this.password = PasswordGen.generateSecurePassword(password, salt);



7.3 Resistant to Privilege Escalation

There are only two roles that have access to methods that modify a user's own role; admins and registrars. Admins have access to all the users' information and can change the type of a user at any point; e.g from registrar to admin. Registrars can do two role changes; they can register unassigned (temporary) users as a student and they can add a user as a teacher as well.

7.4 Prepared Statements

All the SQL statements needed to fetch and change the data are prepared first. Then the user's inputs are turned into their expected data types; e.g. String, Integer or Boolean. These are added in after the statement has been prepared and then the statement is executed. The use of prepared statements should limit or outright block the effectiveness of a SQL injection task.

8 Contribution

Names	Specific contributions	Points (100)
Sangamithra Bala	User statements, UML class diagram, database setup,	33
	student and grades classes, admin frame and panels, last	
	minute code fixes	
Laney Deveson	User statements, UML database diagram, admin teacher	33
	and modules classes, data importation for testing, teach-	
	ers frame and panels, report write up	
Barbara Ding	User statements, UML use case diagram, user, registrar	33
	and degrees, students and registrars frame and panels,	
	last minute code fixes	

Sign off Sangamithra Bala Laney Deveson Barbara Ding