

Appendix

First interview - Planning

Interviewer: Atahan Öztürk

Interviewee: Mustafa Aydos, Vice Principal

Time: 16:00

Date: February 12th, 2018.

Interview done in person

Atahan Öztürk: Do you have any problems right now in our school?

Mustafa Aydos: In our school, students prepare a special transcript when applying to foreign schools. The standard is set by our foreign advisor. The document is then send to me, which I cross check with the real transcript that e-okul (our national student grades database) provides. Because they are not formatted the same way, it takes a long time check.

In the required format, students write IB lesson at the top and normal lesson in the bottom. But in the transcript automatically given by e-okul everything is scrambled, which requires me to inspect them one by one if the student has written the correct grades or calculated the averages correctly.

Plus, there are some special lessons. In e-okul, the Turkish lesson for example is split in two as Turkish grammar and Turkish literature, 5 hours in total. IB students calculate the weighted average of the two lessons into one Turkish lesson for the IB. I also need calculate the values to check those lessons.

So, checking all this takes a serious time. I usually need to spend 10 minutes per student, and that is not usually enough. Students calculate the average grade of the year and I can't calculate those values. Moreover there are probably some mistakes in the process.

So for this process to be error free and, if you calculate from 10 minutes per student and 30 students it makes 300 minutes, or 5 hours and I sometimes do this 1 to 3 times per year, to reduce the time lost for me so it would be very nice if you created something that automated this procedure.

Atahan Öztürk: Then there needs to be a program that automatically converts a transcript from the e-okul format to the IB format, error free?

Mustafa Aydos: Yes. I don't know how would you do it but you would need to create a program or an application that could take the values from e-okul and outputs a word or pdf document.

Atahan Öztürk: Yes, thank you.

Mustafa Aydos: You too.

Last interview - Feedback

Interviewer: Atahan Öztürk

Interviewee: Mustafa Aydos, Vice Principal

Time: 11:00

Date: November 22th, 2018.

Interview done in person

Atahan Öztürk: Hello Mr. Mustafa, as we have talked before, I made an application that can convert e-okul transcripts into IB formatted transcripts. I gave you the program, and you successfully used it, and it met all the success criteria. What are your comments, the parts you liked about the program, the parts you didn't like?

Mustafa Aydos: First of all I would like to thank you for creating this program. This program was needed a lot in our school. There was a huge time waste before this program because students had to manually enter the data by hand, by looking at the old transcript. At the same time we had to fiddle with the word document to make the tables look the required way. The program saved all that wasted time for the students. And likewise for us, we had to check every document, but before the program every student had their own style of word, tables and mistakes. They wrote the names of some of the lessons wrong, some of the arrangements were in the wrong order, so checking all those different documents was hard for us. But now everything comes from the same program, formatted the same way, which made our lives so much easier. So this program filled an important hole in our school.

Yes there are places where the program could improve. Our school should have seen the IB as a two year program and should have foreseen some of the problems with it. It is like this, if we entered the name of a lesson differently in the 12th grade and in the 11th grade, the program had difficulties matching those two lessons and we had to enter the exception by hand. For example, if you enter a lesson as *information technologies* in 11th grade and enter the same lesson as *informational technologies* in 12th grade the program thought they were different at first and put them differently. We shouldn't have named the lessons differently.

Other than that problem that we fixed later, the program worked very well.

There can be one improvement made however. The excel documents we took from excel needs to be in a specific format for the program to work.

Atahan Öztürk: Yes, the program can accept only one type of file.

Mustafa Aydos: So sometimes students took the wrong file and had to come to us again to take the correct file again (the students have to request these files from the administration). So if the program could be made to work with other files too that would eliminate the resending the correct file need. When we give students the wrong files the program gave error messages, if it could accept them all there won't be any errors.

These were all the things I saw, so if we were to give this a success percentage it was a 98-99% successful program. It helped us a lot, and it probably helped your friends even more.

Atahan Öztürk: Thanks a lot again, for all your help and for answering all of my questions during this project.

Mustafa Aydos: Thank you too. I wish you well.