COMP 3004 - Deliverable 2

Alacrity Development - Schedula:

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Demo Summary:

During our demo we will be displaying the major functionality of our application through two user scenarios. Two students will begin their schedule building process by selecting a semester and then searching for and selecting the courses they would like to take. This aspect will not be simulated and will be performed by querying an XML file and retrieving the relevant course information. Once this step is completed, the users will begin optimising their schedules by selecting preferable times of class (i.e morning, afternoon, and/or evening) and specific periods of time when they have other commitments. This also will not be simulated and will generate schedules strictly according to these specifications. For this demo, only these two optimisation features will be displayed, however we are currently working on more which will be outlined further during the status report. Now, the users will click generate and a maximum of ten possible schedules will be displayed in a calendar view. The calendar view interface is an open source project from GitHub. We decided to use it purely for the cleanness and user friendliness of the graphics.

The user scenarios we will be covering will be very similar to those from deliverable 1. The first student is heavily involved in sports and will make use of specific periods of time when he has commitments, such as practice, games etc. The second student is very new to university and is mostly looking for ease and lots of options to browse through.

Status Report:

In regards to our first deliverable, our progress is very much on track. Our algorithm and user interface have been seamlessly combined for this demo. The only functional property, that we listed, that will not be included in our demo is the ability to select specific days in which a user would prefer to not have class. However, this will be included in our final application. Our main focuses for the next month of development are algorithm efficiency, schedule optimisation and enhancing the user interface. Our algorithm team will continue work on the first two and our UI team will implement these features and continue work on the latter.

Among others, a feature that will be included is the ability to select the preference of taking online sections of a course. We will also be factoring in the time difference between classes to optimise a student's schedule. For example, a student lives off campus and does not like waiting around for class. She has one class in the morning and must take one of two tutorials later that day: one in the afternoon and one in the evening. If no other classes are to be considered for that day, our algorithm will select the tutorial in the afternoon, as it requires the student to spend less time waiting. Our goal of the application is to make a difficult task much simpler. This is why, over the next month, a great deal of effort and care will be placed in the UI's cleanness and user friendliness.

Component Diagram: