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CSE 134B - Homework 1
January 20, 2016

Executive Summary

The proposed web-application titled “Check My Class” solves the problem of cataloguing Computer Science courses, their schedules, and the professors instructing those courses. This allows students to keep track of CSE classes they would want to enroll in, as well as compile information about the class and professor for compatibility.

Motivations:

- Before every quarter, students have difficulty in figuring out available CS courses, and WebReg is too clunky to work with.
- Resources are plentiful for information about courses, professors, but it is cumbersome to manage them all.
- There is little to no support for conveniently tracking the history of a course.
- Because WebReg is not available from the hours of 11pm-7am, there is a third-party need for around-the-clock course tracking.
- There is need for a place where students, teaching assistants, and professors can discuss course topics and material, as piazza is not always used or managed consistently in certain classes

Features:

- Browse through a repository of CSE courses taught at the university
- Look at course schedules to find out when courses are being taught and which professors are teaching them
- View ratings of professors teaching a course
- Submit evaluation of a professor for a certain course or courses
- View CAPES of courses taught in previous quarters
- See average course difficulty
- Add courses to quarter schedule for easy tracking of events
- Have a built-in forum for classes so that students can discuss course material and experiences
- Different privileges for professors, students, and TAs, allows them to access different parts of the app
- Add created class schedules to Google Calendar to allow for easy viewing from multiple locations
- Log-in feature that allows for Facebook, Google, and other social media authentication
- A wiki for various TA's that are part of a course, which will include information on them as well as ratings for how well they guide students in the course

Users

The three main types of users for this web application are:

CSE Students:

Students who are taking CSE classes are the primary users of this application. Many students have a problem with finding out what CSE classes to take and when to take those classes. Some CSE courses may not even be taught a certain quarter, which can be hard to determine, as this information is not easily accessible from WebReg itself, and must be found by looking at the department's schedule of classes. In addition, students might not be familiar with the list of prerequisites that are needed for some classes they would want to enroll in. Students would also like to have more information about their potential professor who is teaching the course, as each individual has different preferences about their style of lecture.

Every quarter CSE students must decide which classes he or she will take. Although UCSD does provide a scheduling tool through WebReg, there is a lot more information available online elsewhere about these classes, whether it is professor ratings or CAPE evaluations. Students can use this application to have all of this information in one location, which will allow them to more easily make an informed decision on what class they want to take.

In addition to compiling the available and relevant information about the class, students would also be able to ask questions, collaborate, and leave feedback about those specific classes or professors on our application, giving students a safe space to discuss and receive guidance from their peers. Professors would also be able to join the discussions and answer questions, as well as give more information about the class beyond the online course description.

Since students are the main users of this application, they will have the ability to modify and control the information that is on the site. They will have privileges set where they are able to edit and add relevant information about classes, professors, or TAs.

Collaboration websites such as Piazza or Slack are only available to students enrolled in the class once the class has already started, so this application provides a place for discussion between the users. Rather than discussions focusing on specific assignments or problems, our application gives the user a place to talk about their overall feelings and thoughts about the course.

Professors:

Professors are the secondary users of this application. They would also benefit from the collaboration space that this application provides.

Professors would be able to see the feedback students leave on their courses beyond CAPE evaluations, and they would be able to see how students feel about the course. They would also be able to address student questions and concerns about the course on a non-UCSD affiliated space.

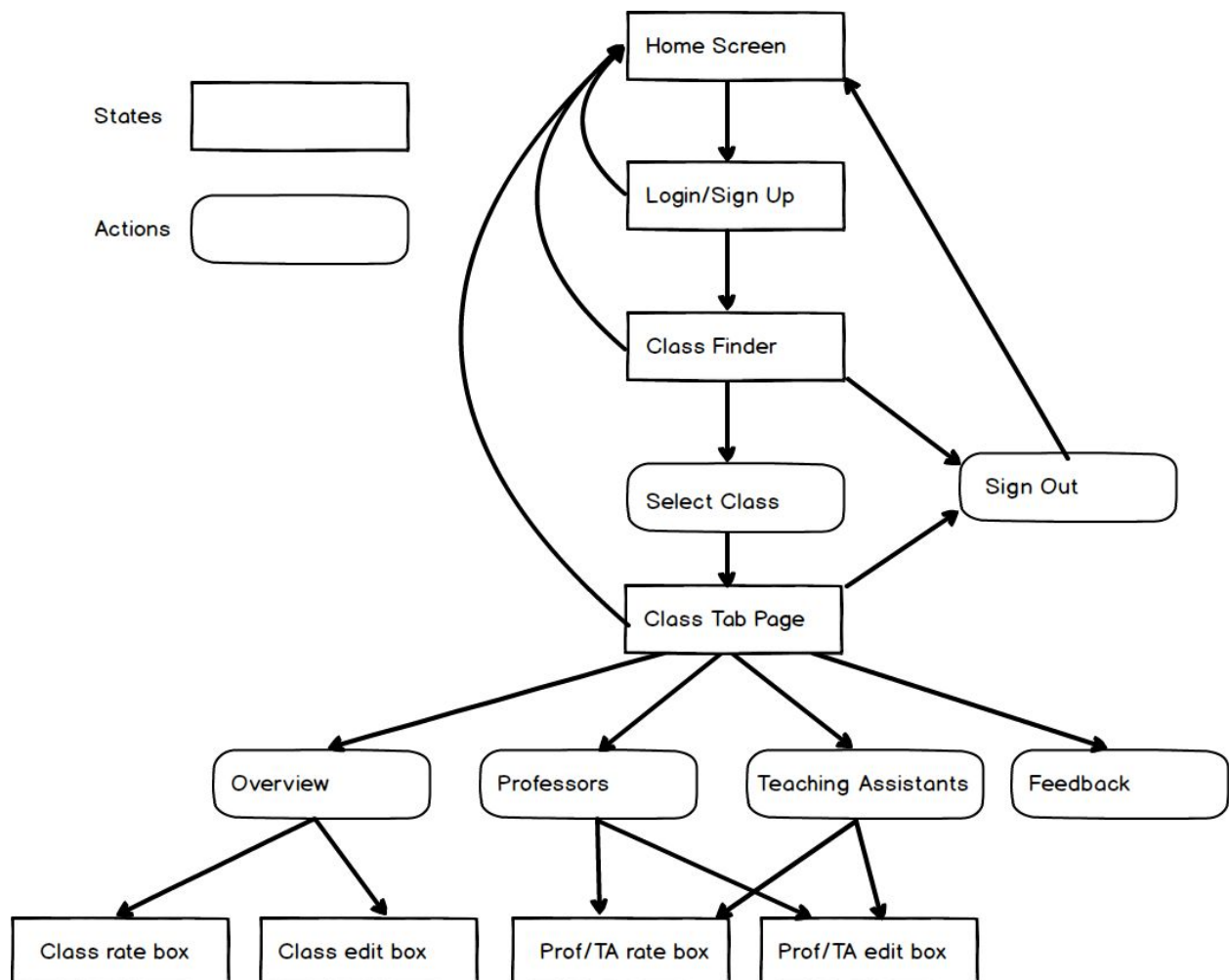
This application would also give professors a means of communicating with students that have yet to enroll or take their class. The students first encounter with the professor is usually the first day of class, so the professor has no chance of selling their class to the students. With this app, professors can ensure that students who take their classes will have a greater

understanding of what the course is about before deciding to enroll, which will lead to less students dropping in the first few weeks.

Teaching Assistants:

Teaching Assistants are the tertiary users for this application. Although TAs do receive some feedback from the end of quarter TA evaluations, TAs would be able to benefit from the direct feedback left by students on this application. TAs would also be able to give relevant input and feedback that would be beneficial for the students, while also dispelling any rumors or negative comments left about the course or professor.

Flow Chart Diagram



Wireframe

Home Page - CheckMyClass

◀ Log in

CheckMyClass

Tired of WebReg? Sick of having to search everywhere for information on a class?

With CheckMyClass you can:

See who's teaching

Check professor reviews

Get class schedules

Find class ratings

Read student feedback

Join discussions on a class

Update with your own feedback

And more...

Interested?

Sign up now!

Log In/Sign Up - CheckMyClass

Home

Check My Class

First Name

Last Name

Email

Sign Up

Log In

Q e.g. CSE 134B

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CSE 127 - CheckMyClass

Home

Sign Out

Overview

Professor

TAs

Feedback

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CSE 127

Course description

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in the principles of computer science. It covers topics such as algorithms, data structures, and complexity theory. The course is taught by Professor X, who is a leading expert in the field. The course is offered in the Center 112 and is available for the next quarter.

Prerequisites

CSE 120

CSE 101

CSE 105

Difficulty: 8.9

Usefulness: 7.4

Overall: 8.9

RATE

Location: CENTER 112

Offered next quarter?: Yes

Rating

Time

CSE 127 - CheckMyClass

Home

Sign Out

Overview

Professor

TAs

Feedback

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CSE 127

Professor X

Grading Difficulty: Hard

Helpfulness: Great

Overall Rating: 8.3

RATE

TA Portrait

Email:

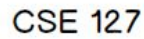
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Sign Out



RATE

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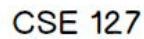
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RATE

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Sign Out

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SUBMIT

Sign Out

Overview

Professor

TAs

Feedback

Location

Offered next quarter?

Edit here...

Class edit box

Image

Email

Office Hours

Description
Edit here...

TA and Professor edit box

Difficulty	<input type="text"/>
Usefulness	<input type="text"/>
Overall Rating	<input type="text"/>
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Class rate box

Grading Difficulty	<input type="text"/>
Helpfulness	<input type="text"/>
Overall Rating	<input type="text"/>
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TA and Professor rate box

Strength, Weaknesses, Risks, Execution

Strengths:

- Able to have all relevant class information in one space, rather than having multiple tabs open
- Provides students a space to collaborate and ask questions about specific CSE classes, professors, and TAs
- Gives access to course scheduling outside of WebReg; does not have time restrictions
- The ability to edit and control the information shown on the app can help it thrive, as can be seen in other websites such as Wikipedia

Weaknesses:

- Since there is no integration with UCSD enrollment, students will need to actually register for their classes through WebReg
- Existence of other collaboration boards, such as Piazza, Slack, etc.
- The application's health and growth is reliant on quality user input
- Potential of garbage reviews makes for a weak application/resource

Risks:

- Managing all user reviews and filtering out garbage/unwanted user reviews and feedback
- Keeping course information updated so that it matches any changes in the UCSD course schedule
- Inappropriate user feedback and comments
- Students, professors, and TAs will need to actively use this app for collaboration and discussion to occur. If professors and TAs do not take to the app and participate, then students will not be able to use this app as a way to easily communicate with their instructors
- Providing proper privileges to the different users, so that users won't be able to edit/delete content that is not their own

Execution:

- Developing a web-application
- Organizing available information to be used for our application
- Finalizing functionality scope of the application
- Adding extra features that will benefit our user base (TBA)