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| 410425.png (534×370) |
| Desktop Vs. Web Application |
| Proposal |
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| **Secretary**  : Jeffrey Allen  **Client** : Patricia Roden, Ph.D. |
| **2/13/2015** |

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| This document explains why University of North Alabama should use a desktop application, opposed to a web application, for generating their final exam schedule. |

**Desktop Application Proposal**

It has been requested by the client, Dr. Patricia Roden, to aid University of North Alabama’s VPAA & Registrar using software to automate the process of generating final exam schedules for a year. The Tune Squad proposes the final product be designed as a desktop application because its centralized architecture, comparison of tools each environment present, and the control of the graphical platforms desktops exhibit.

A desktop application is a self-contained program that performs a defined set of tasks under the user’s control. These applications run from a local drive and do not require network connectivity. Web applications on the other hand require an environment where it can connect to another entity through a network. In a meeting on February 10, 2015, the client made it clear that remote connectivity of the schedule generating application is unnecessary. Based on the needs of the client, this is one of the reasons a desktop application is better suited for the job.

If, however, the application was to be designed for the web then the most immediate and significant issue is that web applications operates in a stateless architecture. Interactions that occur in a stateless architecture have no record of previous events. Multiple tools such as frameworks and APIs must be used to abstract processes in a stateless environment to replicate a record of interaction a desktop applications already presents. Inherently, combining multiple tools to create modules in a web application make them less cohesive as the ones provided in a desktop environment.

Lastly, the Tune Squad’s decision is based on the requested graphical nature of the application. In order for an application to be graphical in a web setting it must be supported by graphical browser. Major graphical browsers today such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Internet Explorer update their browsers as often as every six weeks. Unlike desktop applications, unnecessary complexity and cost are introduced in product development and maintenance because the environments in which they run are consistently changing. This also decreases the reliability of a web application because it will be executed in an ever changing environment.

So in conclusion, it has been discussed why the Tune Squad believes a desktop environment is better suited for the application. The centralized architecture a desktop application exhibits will result in a more reliable environment for both the developers and the client. This architecture also results in overall better cost of development and maintenance opposed to a web application.