Product evaluation and future product development

Client Evaluation:

Along with handing over the product to Mr. Atul, a last interview was conducted on the 12th February 2017.

Evaluation of the Specific Performance Criteria (set in Criterion B):

The teacher, user, or administrator is able to successfully able to sign in to their account with their respective usernames and password.

Ans. This criteria has been met, all of the usernames and passwords are working and lead to the correct page. If the username or password is incorrect, then a messagebox is displayed with an error message.

All the events coded are working properly and for each event taking place, there is an action. These events include:

Clicking on the Print Button results into the specific job printed on a piece of paper.
Ans. Print Function is currently disabled due to some bugs with the software development program itself. This is because the Visual Studio version required for the ReportViewer is 6.8.9, however, the version on which the whole application was coded is 6.8.8. Therefore, the feature doesn't work on the current version, and in order to make it work, the application will have to be coded again in the 6.8.9 version. Despite of that, there is still a print function, which prints out the windows form that the user desires to print.

Clicking on the Submit Button results into submitting the input from the user and organising the data into tables in database.
Ans. Clicking on the submit button on the interface results into the submission of the attendance, which can be viewed in the database table. The submission of attendance works for every advisory team and teacher.

Clicking on the DropDown Menu results into different choices provided to the user that can be made (i.e.: Choosing a date, changing the attendance marked by default, choosing a grade level, choosing a student…)

Ans. The dropdown menu list is mostly used for the administrator account, where the administrator can choose to display records and roster by choosing a team from the dropdown list. The DropDown Menu works fine and displays the appropriate information needed.

All the computed calculations and formulae involved are working properly resulting

into correct mathematical answers (i.e.: counting total number of days, calculating the average class attendance, calculating total number of days attended).

Ans. The computed calculations include the accurate counting of the number of days present, absent, or late for each student. This aspect is addressed and is functioning well, where the attendance count is updated for each student based on the teacher's input.

The administrator is able to perform queries of any kind in the databases such as searching the attendance for different grade levels, students, or advisor.

Ans. Along with the application itself, the administrator is given access to the database as well. Through the database, the administrator can change the attendance for a particular student and also view the records. The queries are working and the administrator can also filter the data based on the different records.

The administrator is able to access and edit different tables and forms (i.e.: teacher profile form, student profile form).

Ans. In the database itself, through queries, the user is able to access different tables and has the right to edit and modify records. However, the user is not able to edit the records through the application interface itself, which is one of the desired features for future development.

The administrator is able to view the teacher or user who has submitted the attendance.

Ans. No. This is one of the additional features that can be added to the product to make it seem more direct. If the administrator wants to know which teacher has marked a particular attendance for a student, then this would be helpful. However, administrator can do the same by looking up the appropriate team, and since there is only one teacher who marks the attendance for this team, the admin will know the user who has submitted the attendance.

Navigation to different tables and forms in the database is easy, it is structured in logical manner and clicking each one of the forms leads to the correct database entry.

Ans. Navigation in both the database and application is very direct, simple and user friendly. Clicking on the appropriate buttons and forms lead to the appropriate functions. Additionally, the simple interface of the application is one of the main strengths of this project, as mentioned by Mr. Atul in the feedback interview.

Recommendations for further development of product

As addressed in question 3 of the questionnaire, Mr. Atul believes that the following changes can take place:

- Migrating to a web-based version, with mobile first approach would add more value.

- Redesigning the UI for mobile device use, with easy to use buttons and bigger text.

- Ability to add more advisories / teams.

- Customisable and exportable reports.

- Optimizing the code and queries further, to make it more efficient.

As mentioned above, Mr. Atul wants the attendance program to be exported to a website, where teachers can access and take attendance accordingly through their devices. This is because one of the reasons for the proposed solutions was that the application is on a server, accessible through different devices and platforms (justification of chosen solution in criterion B). Therefore, this would be one of the areas of development.

Additionally, at the moment, the administrator (Mr. Atul) is only able to add students to the advisory groups. In other words, the coding is only applicable for the current advisory groups, and when the administrator adds students, they will have to add radiobuttons and separately code to record the attendance. Considering that the school is growing and more students are going to be joining, the program needs to be suited to this condition, and requires the ability to add more teams without the need of coding separately. This also shows that the program is not suitable for long-term usage.

One of the most important features of the program is the reports generator. This feature is missing in the application due to the incompatible version of the feature and Visual Studio 2012. According to Mr. Atul, the printing feature can ease the process and improve the functionality much more.

Although not directly mentioned in the questionnaire, Mr. Atul was concerned with the redundancy of the coding behind the program. In terms of functionality, the program is great, however, Mr. Atul believes that the code can be shortened, so that less memory of the devices is used.

Word Count: 281 (excluding the bullet point text in question 3 reference to the questionnaire).