

Buddy Team's Evaluation

The Academic Life Tracker app can help students to schedule their deadlines and monitor the course. It can be a great tool, and students have such demands. However, the target or potential user groups of Academic Life Tracker are not only students but also professors based on the functionality of the software. These two groups of users may be harmed by the software, which can lead to several unexpected consequences. For example, missing lectures and tutorials, inability to join courses, privacy breaches, etc.

Reliability is a key issue for the software. From the proposal, the software does not have the ability to connect to any online databases, nor does it have any web crawling feature to help keep track of the integrity and updates of university course information. The lack of this feature makes all the information that will be displayed in the interface entirely dependent on manual input or file import (which are based on manual input as well). Both data import methods carry a high risk of exposing the system to unexpected errors. These errors are likely to cause crashes or display the wrong information. For example, since templates are created and transferred by users, it is foreseeable that some users will accidentally create the wrong course data. The system is also not immune to "trolls" who intentionally share incorrect course data.

This misinformation could lead to additional potential risks. If students export and share their templates without checking the content, they are likely to mislead other users. As a more extreme but possible example, a student incorrectly fills in the final grade percentage as 20 instead of 50, where the professor does not require the student to pass the course through the final. This might induce another student, who receives the incorrect marking scheme and imported it to their APP, to believe that they will receive the credit without writing the final. The consequence will be failing the course if they skip the final exam. From the professor's perspective, they might update the syllabus at any time during the semester, depending on the teaching progress. However, the schedule in the application has no ability to synchronize the professor's changes, especially the important turn-in time for assignments. This delay is very likely to lead to late submission of assignments to the point of losing grades. Furthermore, the inability to "change" a schedule (instead of creating a new one) adds another concern about its scalability.

Another important issue with this software is the privacy protection for the user. This includes the protection of the student's account, the professor's lesson plan, and the marking scheme. Because the software relies heavily on file import and export for schedule and information modification, there is a significant risk of privacy leakage during the import and export of unencrypted information. If the user uses, for example, Microsoft Office files as information carriers during the export process, this export can lead to uncontrolled user downloads or unmonitored data transfers. In addition, the ability to export course schedules and grading schemes encourages students to share course information (even out of the class). This

would lead to the disclosure of course materials or things that the professor considers private (schedules). Therefore, the professor's privacy may be compromised. Due to the lack of detail in the description of file import and export in the proposal, the discussion of privacy risks will end here, but it is clear that this functionality needs to be seriously handled to avoid harm to its user population.

The third harm of the software can be the unnecessary stress it creates for students. The interface is designed with progress bars, grades needed, and prompts for failure to meet grade goals. Too many of these features for motivation may be overlaid to create additional stress for students. Students using the app may ask each other about their marks as the app makes student easier to check grades during the term. For instance, I would hate to see that I need 90% in the final exam to pass a course, whenever I open the APP. In addition, the extra cost of time used to upload the files under a specific template on an additional app will create more potential stress on the professor's work if many students ask for the additional app template.

In conclusion, low reliability, unguaranteed privacy, and extra stress are the potential harms that we sincerely suggest the buddy team pay attention to during the software development. The app will be a great tool for students to succeed if these harms are handled properly.