Project Proposal

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1. Your motivation and understanding of the task and general problem space.

Just a month into the semester and students find themselves juggling from company to company at the career fair, to land a dream internship or full-time opportunity. Long lines at the career fair are a common sight, especially at the more popular companies which can at times have more than 100 students waiting in line to see the company. In addition to the congestion caused during the fair, students waiting for long times in lines are unable to see other companies and are unable to see the company even if they choose to remain. Notably, it restricts students who have classes during career fair as the waiting drains the available time they have to be at the fair. Moreover, companies may miss out on some extraordinary talent only because the candidate was not able to visit their stall at the career fair, thanks to the never-ending queues.

We aim to simplify this process by taking the career fair queue system to the virtual domain. We plan to provide a practical solution to eliminate the long lines at the Career Fair which will designate meeting times between the students and the companies they wish to see. By providing employers with a convenient interface, they will be able to manage their lines and communicate with the students, devote greater focus to running their booth and be able to engage more closely with students without needing to spend extra attention to managing the line. Students who previously missed opportunities to interact with other companies due to waiting in lines will be able to explore the fair at greater leisure and be able to meet several more companies than they would otherwise be able. Those hitting a choice few companies will have a greater assurance of reaching them at a time they are comfortable with and will be more engaged to see them. Overall, this system will allow those who come to participate in the fair to meet with who they want to look at by giving them more time and the freedom to more efficiently plan out their career fair experience.

2. A description of the important characteristics of the users of the system.

2.1 Students:-

Problems

Students currently face multiple problems while facing these companies.

- Huge queues to meet the most popular companies.
- Inability to interact with all the companies at the fair, often resorting to just submitting resumes at the other companies.
- Lots of wasted time as even if you might want to meet a few companies, you have to stand in the lines for the same.
- Eating into class time leading to frustration.

Solutions

A virtual solution will help by:

- By making the queue virtual, we will be able to give the students more time to visit the companies without a queue.
- Estimated time of when they need to be available for a company helps them plan out the rest of their career fair experience.
- Through a virtual schedule, students will be able to factor in their classroom times and work around them.

2.2 Recruiters:-

Problems

The problems of recruiters are:

- The really long queues and the hustle of the career fair put a lot of pressure on the recruiters, not giving them time to breathe.
- Recruiters don't know how many students will be interested in them beforehand and are unable to anticipate the rush at their booth.
- They often collect paper resumes, which they have to go through, taking up a lot of time manually.
- They usually have a person who is in charge of handling the line, and getting the students to fill up an online form.

Solutions

The virtual system should be able to ease these problems in the following ways:

- Recruiters with a schedule can better manage their time and breaks and taking away the hustle of the long queues.
- Having students queue beforehand lets recruiters know how much interest students have in that particular company, and recruiters can manage their resources accordingly.

- Collecting paper resumes and having a person ask students in the line to fill an online form can be automated in the queueing system by making sure the students fill in the form and submit resumes before they're allowed to be enqueued.

2.3 CoC staff/volunteers:-

Problems

The problems of CoC staff/volunteers:

- Long and unorganized queues require extra staff and volunteer for the career fair.
- Volunteers are forced to close off lines for periods until queue lines are manageable again.
- Volunteers and CoC have to manage and direct students to the appropriate lines continually.
- CoC currently can't collect statistics of the distribution of students to company booths, which could be helpful for analysis.

Solutions

A virtual solution would help by:

- Decreasing the severity of lines would reduce the number of volunteers and staff needed for the career fair.
- Shifts the burden of queue management from the CoC and volunteers to the app
- CoC could gain a holistic view of what companies are being targeted.

3. Data you will need to collect to learn more about your users (e.g., interview data, web content, and ethnographic data).

3.1 Interview Data:-

We will employ interviews with students, recruiters, COC staff and volunteers to understand their concerns and demands. We will incorporate unstructured questions and semi-structured questions to know the interviewee's general opinions as well as specific worries. With students, we will focus on problems they face in the career fair and their suggestions to the potential application. With recruiters, we want to know their thoughts about the app and the chance of integrating the app with their sign-up apps. With COC staff and volunteers, we will learn the feasibility and usefulness of the app.

3.2 Ethnographic Data:-

We will conduct an ethnographic studying during the CoC Career fair(hopefully), focusing on looking at these stakeholders and noticing what works and what doesn't in the career fair. We will be studying all the stakeholders and see what areas are they comfortable with and what areas of the career fair cause frustration, and other ticks that the stakeholders might reveal patterns which they are unaware of.