

Lab 1: Descriptive Paper
Gabrielle Ramirez, Gold Team
CS 411W
Professor Thomas Kennedy
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1 Introduction

1.1 The Societal Problem

Time management is defined as the practice of using one's available time in a useful and effective way (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Research shows that many people struggle with time management skills. Development Academy conducted a poll and found that 82% of people struggle with time management and lack a time management system while 12.5% feel that they never have their work under control (Development Academy, 2022, as cited in Ariella, 2022).

Lack of time management is also pervasive amongst students in universities. 78% of students reported that they struggled with time management at some point during school, and 53% stated that they struggle with time management more now than in high school. Instructors have taken notice as well with 80% of instructors stating that their students struggle with time management all or most of the time (Cengage Learning Student Engagement Insights Survey, Spring 2015, as cited in College Success Plan, n.d.).

Time management is a skill that if not done well can lead to negative side effects. The most common negative side effects of poor time management for students are lack of sleep, declining academic performance, procrastination, poor diet, and an increased risk of dropping out (College Success Plan, n.d.). These effects can be further exacerbated if the student does not have a community of support. If a student feels that they are alone in their endeavors, then their struggles and the effects of poor time management can lead to burnout, feeling overwhelmed, and a lack of motivation (T. Kennedy, personal communication, Feb 13, 2024).

1.2 The Solution

KnowTime will be a web-application whose goal is to help students develop long-term organizational, time management, and study skills that will help with alleviating the negative side effects students may experience from poor time management. KnowTime will accomplish this by providing students with various features that will help them with better managing their time and increasing feelings of accomplishment and motivation while completing coursework.

These features include: a customizable Pomodoro Timer, a personalized study plan, a grade tracker, a progress tracker, a task board, a calendar with reminders, and a points system. A community forum will be included as well, which will further assist students by allowing them to find relevant resources and a community of support. KnowTime will also direct students to

various academic and mental health resources. The provided mental health resources can help ease feelings of burnout and being overwhelmed while the academic resources, such as tutoring and writing resource centers, can help students accomplish their goals and learn more about the available resources on campus. With these features, KnowTime will serve as a tool that will provide students the resources they need to succeed in their studies.

2 KnowTime Product Description

KnowTime is a web application that will include many features to reduce student burnout and increase organization. We will have a community forum, calendars, task tracking, grade tracking, a points system, and personalized study plans. All these features should ensure a personalized, helpful experience for each student.

2.1 Key Product Features and Capabilities

General Information

Our web application can be used on multiple platforms and will feature a responsive design to encourage consistent usage.

Pomodoro Timer & Customizable Study Sessions

- A customizable timer that can be modified to fit students' needs. Pomodoro timer technique has student set a desired amount of time to study and an amount of time to take a break. After four study sessions, the student takes a longer break.

Progress and Task Tracking

- Track your progress over time and keep your tasks organized.

Points System

- Earn points for completed sessions to unlock sessions to unlock fun avatars.

Grade Tracker

- Students will be able to input and monitor grades over time with our graphing system.

Import School Calendars

- Import calendars from applications like Canvas or Blackboard

Calendar with Reminders

- Receive reminders about upcoming due dates.

Community Forum

- Chat with other people who have similar struggles or have advice.

Study Plan Generation

- Have a personalized study plan automatically generated for you.

Provide Study and Mental Health Resources

- We will direct students to academic, mental, and academic support.
- Our application is unique because of the inclusion of the community forum to help support students during the semester and the customized study plan generator. The points system helps with focus and motivation as well.
- KnowTime will help students develop study habits and better organize their tasks using the features described.
- Our features accomplish this by helping students be more organized with their tasks. Specifically, the Study Plan Generator takes the students' information and creates a customized study plan that will help them make time to work and ensure they are also relaxing. The community forum and resources will provide support for students to help reduce burnout.

2.2 Major Components (Hardware/Software)

Hardware:

- Desktop Computer
- Database Server

Software:

- Integrated Development Environment (IDE): Visual Studio Code
- Version Control: Git through GitHub
- Backend: Python with Django
- Frontend: HTML5/CSS, JavaScript, and Bootstrap 5
- Testing Frameworks: PyTest and Jest
- Documentation Tool: Pydoc and JSDoc
- Database: PostgreSQL
- Web Server: Django
- Operating System: Docker

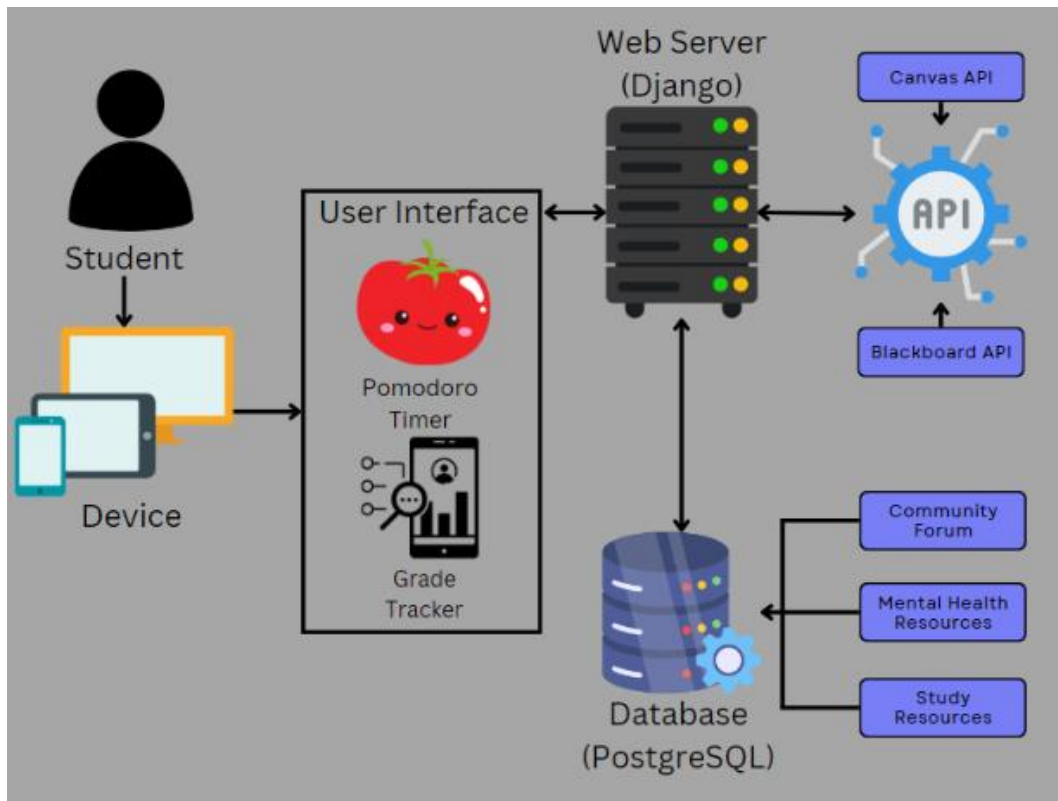


Figure 1: KnowTime MFCD

3 Identification of Case Study

3.1 Who This Is For

This product is for students who struggle with time management.

3.2 Purpose

This tool helps students develop study habits and time management skills while providing a community to support them.

3.3 Who Else Benefits

Students or other individuals who just want to be more organized.

4 Glossary

Grade Tracker: Grade tracking will be based on user-inputted grades. It will look at their grades, and the time spent studying, which may be entered by the student or automatically generated if the task was completed during a study session within the website.

It will then generate a graph correlating time spent studying with the grade they received. They will also be able to filter this graph by tags. This will allow students to view a particular class to determine how they can improve. The student will set a goal for the grade and view how they are progressing over time.

Pomodoro Timer: The Pomodoro timer technique was created by Francesco Cirillo in the 1980s while he was a university student. To follow this technique, the student sets a timer for 25 minutes to complete a task. Once the timer goes off, the student takes a 5-minute break and then continues to work again for another 25 mins. After four sessions, the student takes a 15–30-minute break (Scroggs 2022).

Study Plan: A study plan will be generated based on various factors that will be entered by the student. Examples of information entered that will be considered are assignment due dates, exam dates, and times that the student has specified they are busy. Study plans also consider time spent on similarly tagged tasks and the need for breaks between tasks.

Task: A Task is any assignment that the student needs to complete, whether that be a homework assignment, an exam, or just making time to study or gather materials. Tasks can have multiple tags and are created by the student in the web application.

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