Lab 1: Descriptive Paper

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1 Introduction

1.1   The Societal Problem

A major societal problem that affects many people is poor time management and tracking progress. This is especially prevalent in students. In an article written by Ariella, it stated that 82% of people struggle with time management and only 20% of people think that they are effectively managing their workload (Ariella 2022). These problems can lead to serious mental health issues such as feeling overwhelmed, lack of motivation, and burn out (T. Kennedy, personal communication, February 13, 2024). In a study conducted by Cengage, the surveyors found that 78% of college students struggle with poor time management and of that demographic they found that 9% of these students always struggle with time management ("Where Has the Time Gone?," n.d.). Some of the effects of poor time management can include poor academic performance, loss of sleep, procrastination, and dropping out of school ("Where Has the Time Gone?," n.d.). Students struggle with poor time management, tracking progress, and many would benefit from a community of support.

1.2   The Solution

The product KnowTime will help to solve the problem of poor time management and tracking progress. A major component of this web application will be a pomodoro timer which will help students with managing their time. It will also include a grade tracker. This will be graph that shows the change of grades from when the student starts using the app until the end of the semester. KnowTime will have a progress tracker that will help the student to see how long they have been working on an assignment. The community forum will help a student to connect with other students in order to help each other. A point tracker will allow the student to collect different avatars. Other items that will be part of KnowTime will include a task board, acalendar, a study plan generator, and mental health and study resources. KnowTime will help students to learn how to manage their time in a more productive way.

2 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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