Evaluation of Phase 1 Pre-Release Requirements
Monday 10 October 2011

General Observations

1. I like the slide-based style of the walk-through, but it needs an underlying "interesting and engaging story line", as discussed in the CSC 308 notes. Here's a concrete suggestion:

> Start the Scheduler Tool **-- new**
> Select a Term **-- new**
> Generate a Schedule **-- new**
>
> View Schedule **-- existing, reworded**
> View Class Schedule **-- existing, reworded**
> View Instructor Schedule **-- existing, reworded**
> View Department Schedule **-- existing, reworded**
> View Department Schedule, Hovering **-- existing, reworded**
>
> Manage Instructors **-- existing, reworded**
> Add Instructor **-- existing**
> Add Instructor, Filled In **-- existing, reworded**
> Edit Instructor **-- existing**
> Remove Instructor **-- existing**
> Instructor Course Preferences **-- existing**
> Instructor Time Preferences **-- existing**
> Instructor Distance Preference **-- existing**
>
> Manage Courses **-- new**
> Add Course **-- new**
> Add Course, Filled In **-- new**
> Edit Course **-- new**
> Remove Course **-- new**
>
> Manage Rooms **-- existing, reworded**
> Add a Room **-- existing, reworded, repositioned**
> Add Room, Filled In **-- new**
> Edit Room **-- new**
> Remove Room **-- new**
> Classroom Availability **-- existing, reworded**
> Classrooms Preferences **-- existing, reworded**
>
> Filter Views **-- existing, reworded**
> Filter View **-- existing**
> Filter View, Selected Days **-- existing, reworded**
> Filter View, Selected Instructors **-- new**

   a. I put a "Start the Scheduler Tool" slide at the very top, since it should be the slide show entry point.
      i. I understand that Matt S. and Tyler Y. have a version of the top-level UI that isn't yet hooked into the slide show.
      ii. I look forward to seeing this.

b. After the initial screen, I put a couple generation slides at the beginning, since auto-generation seems to be a popular feature with many of the clients we've interviewed so far.

c. I put basic viewing after generation since, for me, it follows better in a story line. The more advanced filtered viewing I left at the end, since it's a level of detail that is better to put later in the story.

d. I added course management and put it before room management, since I believe overall courses are a more important feature.

   i. Based on input from Kaylene, course management slides were supposed to be done Erik W.

   ii. HEY ERIK -- WE NEED YOUR STUFF! If it's an SVN issue, send me your files by mail and I'll commit them.

e. ***IN-CLASS DECISION:*** The consensus is that the preceding proposed story line is fundamentally sound, and Mike S. has updated and committed walkthru/index.html accordingly.

2. Aesthetically, I believe we have CSS prettifying in the plans, correct?
3. There is a question as to whether we should use the standard Poly web style, as defined at Web Authoring Resource Center, or have one of our own.

   a. I prefer the latter, i.e., our own CSS style.

   b. If we do so, we may need some form of graceful transition from the currently WARC-styled scheduler web page.

   c. Another option is to skip the WARC style altogether, including at the top-levels of the Scheduler Project web page.

4. The introductory paragraphs at `requirements/walkthru/index.html` need some wordsmithing. I'll do some in the next couple days and present on Wednesday in class.

   a. A particular need is to explain that we've not yet had time to take into account all of the specific features that were discussed during the initial in-person interviews, but will do so in the next requirements release.

   b. This ties into the deeper requirements analysis discussed in 402 lecture notes week 4.

   c. For this week's release, we'll do our best informally to address specific client concerns, and inform the clients that we'll do more next time.

5. We need to use a consistent prose style throughout.

   a. I definitely prefer the prose convention for CSC 308, that specifies present tense, third person, active voice.

   b. If we don't do this exactly, we still must have a *consistent* prose style.

   Not to pick on any one specifically, I think the following is a good example of why passive voice can be confusing, since it is unclear precisely what the user does to perform a search:

   > *"When a teacher is searched for in the search box, the table is filled with the classes that teacher is scheduled to teach for the quarter."*

6. Are we OK with using CSC department as the data example, or should use a generic set of instructor names?

   a. I'm inclined to go generic.

   b. If we use CSC, we need a compelling rationalization of this to the explanation readers.

   c. ***IN-CLASS DECISION:*** We will use the CHEM department as the consistent example

throughout all of the requirements scenarios and slides. Mike S. is sending a message to the Chem department client he interviewed to confirm that his is OK with their department. We expect that it will be.

7. We need to use consistent terminology throughout:

   a. **Instructor**, not Teacher (simply for consistency)

   b. **Course**, not Class (simply for consistency, either will do)

   c. **Location**, not Classroom (to avoid potential confusion with lecture room versus lab room versus some other kind of location altogether)

8. I very much liked the consistency among the management UIs that is present in a number of the scheduler tools form previous 308 work, e.g., http://users.csc.calpoly.edu/~gfisher/classes-archive/308-f07/afternoon/requirements/ or http://users.csc.calpoly.edu/~gfisher/classes-archive/308-f09/afternoon/requirements/room-add.html *IN-CLASS DISCUSSION:* Michael H. mentioned that he and other requirements team members have discussed a form of uniform editing for instructors, courses, and locations. What they've come up with is a direct-edit tabular view, with object-specific column headings. I look forward to seeing this.

9. *Clerical* -- I think the slide blurb would be better to the right of the figure.

Walk-Thru Files

The following file-specific comments are in addition to the general discussion above.

FilterOn.html
1. Images are broken.
2. Needs to tie in with viewing section of the slides.

FilterSomeOffScroll.html
1. Needs a blurb and consistent look with other slides.
2. 'Read More' link is wrong.

ScheduleView*.html
1. This is not yet in the consistent slide-at-a-time walk-through format.
2. The first slide appears to have all of the content that is then displayed in the individual slides.

ScheduleViewClassFilled.html
1. What happens if there is more than one section at the same time? This is a fine detail, but there's nothing immediately in the display that helps me understand how it might be handled.
2.

ScheduleViewEmpty.html
1. Needs blurb and consistent look.
2. Should be the first single slide in the View section.

ScheduleViewFilled.html
1. Not linked in the slides. Is this correct?

ScheduleViewFilledDept.html
1. *Definitely* needs a blurb, since it's unclear what colors mean.
2. 'Read More' link is wrong.

ScheduleViewFilledDeptHover.html
1. I like the hover idea.
2. As noted for the previous slide, the colors should have some meaning, or at least an explanation of why they're different.

database-room-add.html
   The description of the "Add button in the bottom center" does not seem to apply here.
1. The look and layout comments from the room-main slide apply here.

database-room-advanced.html
1. The look and layout comments from the room-main slide apply here.

database-room-main-filled.html
1. Look is not consistent (clerical).
2. Definitely needs a blurb to describe the screens.
3. My impression is that this UI is too complicated for a first entry point, and not consistent with the instructor management UIs. I suggest having the 'Room Availability' dialog come up separately, rather than by default in the initial display.

database-room-main.html

index.html
1. *Clerical* -- needs a CSS.
2. I suggest subdividing it into labeled subsections: Generate, View, Instructors, Courses, Rooms, Filter.

instructor-*.html
1. These have the basic necessary features.
2. The add and remove slides should be consistent, either both showing or not showing the instructor list
3. Per comments elsewhere, they need to be made consistent with the other management UIs.

instructor-pref-*.html
1. Even the slide blurb should describe the user action that leads to the UI being displayed.
2. In course prefs, I'm not sure about the drag interface, as opposed to a simpler two-column list with courses and keyword or numeric pref value (or radio buttons).
3. I like the times pref tab.
4. I like the distance pref tab.

template.html
1. *Clerical:* Needs to be removed for the walk-through index.
2. Visio is a good tool, but it would be nice to have the look and feel be a little less Windows-like. Is there a Visio setting to do this?

FilterOn.html

• The images are broken here.

Detailed Requirments Scenario Files

IN-CLASS DECISION: We decided that we will *NOT* include the detailed requirements scenarios in the Phase 1 release this Friday. This includes removing the 'Read More' link on all of the slides. Therefore, addressing all of the comments below is deferred until *AFTER* the Phase 1 release.

The following file-specific comments are in addition to the general discussion above. To summarize, the most important to-do items are these:

• Use a consistent prose style, with the 308 conventions as the default.

• Use a common UI look for all slides.

• As discussed in 402 Notes Week 3, have a consistent relationship between the blurb on the slides and the beginning sentence or two in the scenarios.

Again, since we will not release the detailed scenarios for Phase 1, work on them is deferred until after Friday 14 October. This deferral applies to all of the evaluation comments that follow below.

database-instructor.html
1. Clerical: The prose style needs to be fixed.

    a. Use present tense, no "will". E.g., "In this view, the user sees a list of instructors."

    b. Use third person. E.g., "To add an instructor, the user clicks the 'Add' button."

2. Basic content looks satisfactory. To refine further, we need to

    a. Make sure we have all instructor attributes mentioned in any client interviews, in particular the supporting documentation supplied by some clients.

    b. Make the instructor information in the scenarios consistent with the existing data model in the Java model code.

database-room.html
1. As noted above, I think the 'Room Availability' frame should be accessible with a user click, not part of the initial display.
2. The prose style needs to be made consistent. Again, I suggest the 308 conventions