FocusBot

Help team members to be productive while working remotely

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ABSTRACT

The persistent issue of student inattention detrimentally impacts academic performance, which necessitates effective interventions. This paper introduces FocusBot, an AI-driven tool designed to remove distractions by employing real-time monitoring and personalized feedback, which would foster improved focus and engagement. Our analysis explores FocusBot's deployment within educational settings and its effect on enhancing concentration and academic outcomes, presenting it as a viable solution to the challenge of student inattention. Through FocusBot, we envision an approach towards creating a more productive learning environment.

Related Work

- Supporting the productivity and wellbeing of remote workers: Lessons from COVID-19
- How to Support Teams to be Remote and Productive: Group Decision-Making for Distance Collaboration Software Tools
- Remote work mindsets predict emotions and productivity in home office: A longitudinal study of knowledge workers during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Individual, social and situational determinants of telecommuter productivity
- Workplace flexibility and new product development performance: The role of telework and flexible work schedules

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic made working from home (WFH) popular for employees worldwide. However, this sudden environment change can cause people to be distracted in their homes and get less work done than they would have in the office. A survey was done by Lisa Baudot and Khim Kelly to see how people perceived improvements in productivity during the pandemic, if it was different from times they worked from home before the pandemic, and whether they would prefer remote work over working in the office. They also examined how these three results were related to personal/family demographics, organizational and job-related variables, and supervisory control variables. They found that employees tend to prefer remote work; however, productivity was negatively impacted by child-care access, position level, tenure, and tight supervisory controls. From another study by Dr. Revenio C. Jalagat, Jr. and Almalinda M. Jalagat about remote working in developing countries found

that remote working caused issues including social isolation, laziness, and difficulties in prioritizing tasks, despite literature showing that remote work has enhanced flexibility and better working environments. As a result of this variability between different countries, family situations, types of jobs, and varying supervisors, employees need a new tool to help them stay productive. Our FocusBot will include tools such as being able to list tasks with varying priorities so people can get tasks done more efficiently. Other features like Kanban boards will show which tasks were not completed that should be finished the next day with increased priority. Further, we will have tools such as a pomodoro timer with messages to remind people to stand up and take breaks so they are not sitting down for long periods of time. People can also get notifications each day about tasks to complete and meetings. FocusBot will also be able to shared amongst friends, coworkers, or teams so people can see how much progress others are making and see their activity status throughout the day. This can motivate people to complete their work similar to working in a study group or working in an in-person team. FocusBot will be created with JavaScript, HTML, and CSS.

Software Engineering Processes

Our team has chosen to utilize prototyping as our primary software engineering approach, ensuring the 'Focus Bot' aligns seamlessly with user needs. By initiating with a detailed prototype reflective of user expectations, we aim to ensure the bot's relevance and utility. Once our prototype reaches its desired maturity, we'll transition into Agile development, leveraging both Sprints and Kanban methodologies. Kanban will serve as our roadmap, assisting us in task prioritization and timely execution. Meanwhile, Sprints will facilitate focused collaboration, enabling us to swiftly address and overcome any challenges or blockers we encounter. To maintain alignment and momentum, we'll conduct daily stand-up meetings in our dedicated Slack channel, ensuring every team member is aligned and progressing efficiently. Moreover, weekly meetings will be convened to strategize for upcoming sprints and reassess our evolving priorities.

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