

Interviewer: Bradley Zust

Interviewee: A college student who is not in an IT/CS-related area of study.

(because the interviewee wished to remain anonymous, their name and our introductions have been removed from this document. They requested the pseudonym "Geoffrey Veryfakename" and so will be shortened to GV for the transcript.)

The Interview itself took about 15 minutes.

Brad: The first question I have is: Looking back at your time in college, do you think you did a good or bad job at Time Management, especially when it came to balancing your personal life/school life, and setting aside time to study/do homework?

GV: I did pretty good with time management up until COVID hit, after that... not quite.

Brad: So you said you were doing good up to COVID, were there any specific time management strategies or anything else you used that you think made you successful until COVID hit?

GV: Well, you see, there's the real kicker, my strategies didn't change very much. My strategy was to: write it down, and then do it later.

Brad: When you say write it down, do you mean like in a plan book?

GV: Yeah, when I got the assignment, I would write it down, and then when I would come back from class I would sit down and do it. The difference after COVID was: sitting down after class, well, I was still in the same chair.

Brad: Ah, so because the places were the same, they didn't register as different to you like they did before.

GV: Yeah, so during COVID I would take a break after class... and the break would last... longer than it should have.

Brad: I understand, I have fallen into the same trap as well. So, my next question was going to be: were there any strategies you tried that didn't work, but you already answered that question. So, were there some strategies that you think would have helped you, but that you didn't actually employ?

GV: Oh, one thing I maybe could have tried was to actually block out time, so that at this specific time I would start this specific thing, because I wouldn't do this, I would just say that after class I will do this.

Brad: So kind of like creating a more regimented schedule?

GV: Yeah, like a more rigid time schedule

Brad: the next question is: Did you use any digital tools to assist you with your time management. So, some examples could be like an online plan book, digital calendars, apps that give you reminders, anything like that?

GV: No, nothing like that, my plan book that I used was a physical notebook that I just wrote stuff down in.

Brad: Alright, we are now at the half point, So I need to explain what my project is. So, my group's project is called Time To Study. It is an application that basically combines multiple things into one, to help college students with time management, as well as managing School Life, Personal Life, and work life if that applies. Where the main element of it is a digital plan book/calendar where you can block off time you have classes, input assignments, and you can basically use the app to generate schedules for you. So if you want it to block off a time every week to study, or it could estimate for assignments about how long you need and put that in. So that you have a more rigid schedule to use that is automatically generated for you. You could generate multiple ones to see which works best for you, and then also that means that with other people using the app, if you want to, you could share your schedule with them to make it easier to do group projects or group studying together. You can find exactly what gaps you have [in your schedule] so you don't have to do the thing where in a big group everyone is trying to meet [but can't find a time]. We are trying to mitigate that.

GV: Just to make sure I caught all of that, the features of your project was like: schedule that gives you reminders to the times you set it to, and you can share those schedules with other people.

Brad: Yes, and based on the classes you input, it can automatically generate schedules for you, with the time blocked out. For example, if you have a class that you think you will need to study for three hours a week for it, you can tell the app that, and it can schedule different times for you.

GV: Oh, so you give control over to the code.

Brad: but, it will generate multiple that you can go and look through, and make personal adjustments to help guide it to what you want.

GV: That sounds like something you would add just because you need to add something, but I actually probably would have used that.

Brad: There are some other things that you can do in the app, like I mentioned the ability to share your schedule if you want to, but there is also things like creating reoccurring events. For example, if there is a TV show that you really really like, but is only on at a certain time, you could make a block for that the schedule doesn't overwrite that time.

Our goal is to ensure that you have a lot of control over what is generated. Also, currently the app we are developing is a web app, meaning that it would work in browse. If we had more time we would also make a mobile app, but right now the version we are making will work on both desktop and mobile, but we don't have a mobile-specific app yet.

GV: That way it doesn't matter if you need everything to be an [mobile] app or hate [mobile] apps.

Brad: Exactly, so that is the overview of our project, and the first question I have that is more specific, which I think you already mentioned, is: Do you think that utilizing a tool like Time to Study would have been beneficial to you in managing your time in college? Why or why not?

GV: Oh yeah, that definitely would have been useful. I just kind of, in regards to what specific time I was going to study, I would just kind of wing it. I'll go "I'll do my homework" and then if I am not exhausted after that maybe I will study a little bit, but mostly I would just cram. So blocking out times to study, would probably be a good thing. Did I answer the question you asked?

Brad: Yes, you did, thank you. So, then the next question is: What kind of features would you expect out of an app like Time To Study? Alternatively, are there any features that I described that you don't think are necessary?

GV: Well, that's a hard question to answer. Well, I would expect to be able to put in a time to study, and then that app tell me when it is that time to study. Honestly something I never thought of is to have the computer design my schedule for me, or at least several schedules for me to choose from. I like that, that's something I would have never thought of.

Brad: Alright, so the next question is if you were going to use Time To Study, what kind of devices do you think you would use it on?

GV: I would probably use it on my phone, just because my laptop kind of sucks. My phone is also just more convenient than mobile.

Brad: Would there be any other devices you may use, or just the phone?

GV: I don't really have any other devices besides my phone and laptop, so yeah, I'll go with the phone.

Brad: Alright! I was just checking in case you had any weird or more specific devices.

GV: Yeah, I don't have anything like a smart watch or anything like that.

Brad: Question number nine is: What, if any, security or ethical concerns would you have about an application like TTS?

GV: Oh, well, if you are allowing people to share their schedules, than I assume it would be possible to hack someone's device, steal their schedule and stalk them or something.

Brad: So you think something like encryption would be important?

GV: Yeah. I don't know anything about how cybersecurity or encryption works, but yeah

Brad: but basically, you would expect that someone wouldn't be able to steal your schedule.

GV: Yeah, I would expect people wouldn't be able to steal my schedule unless I show it to them.

Brad: Are there any other concerns you would have?

GV: Well, I feel like that's the only thing I would have on the app that I may not want people to see.

Brad: Alright, and to conclude, are there any other comments, concerns, or ideas you would like to share?

GV: Honestly... I have no idea.

Brad: That is fine!

GV: The app you designed already had way more than I would have thought to put in it. I am very much not a computer person. If I would have designed it, I would've been like: "okay, you input the times you want the phone to beep at you, and then it beeps at you at that time."

Brad: Alrighty! Well, thank you for the interview. These are all the questions I had prepared. Thank you for your participation!