

Tasker: A Task Tracker Website

My idea for the semester project is a task tracking website. In the past, I always used a text file on my computer's desktop to keep track of what assignments were due on what day. This method works, but lacks many useful features such as being able to look back at past assignments and what day they were due. After I learned a substantial amount about Web Development during my past Co-Op where I developed and maintained 4 websites that performed various tasks, I knew that this would be a superior way to help manage my time. Basically, my idea for this project would be to continue building a website which enables a user to add, update, and query assignments or tasks that they have posted to the site. I currently have a fairly simple implementation that I use on a daily basis, but I would like to expand on the user interface aspect which I have not focused too much effort on.

This project would target users who are organized and would like to keep track of their assignments in the cloud so they can be viewed from any device. It could also be useful in a work environment where employees have multiple items that they need to complete and want the ability to organize and re-prioritize them as various different tasks pop up.

The interface that I am currently envisioning includes a simple home page that displays a table with the user's assignments. There would also be a menu at the top of the screen that has drop down menus where users would be able to perform various tasks. I also envisioned various other pages such as one with statistics that provide information as to which categories have more tasks and other useful time management information, and possibly a log-in screen that would allow multiple users to use the same interface. I currently have back-end support for updating assignments already programmed, but have not figured out a good implementation to allow users to update their tasks with new due dates, descriptions, etc. During this semester, I would like to explore this aspect of the UI and add other useful abilities while still keeping the user interface extremely useful, simple, and organized. I believe this is probably my best option for a semester project because it allows me to focus on the things that I have not really devoted a lot of time to, the user interface and the interaction between users and my website. The following is a list of ideas that I would ideally like to implement during the course of this semester:

- Integrate an 'update task' feature
 - Allow users to change due dates and descriptions as a timeline or project's scope changes
- Explore Table Column Layout Satisfaction
 - Do users have a preference as to the ordering of the columns?
- Re-ordering task priorities via 'draggable' elements
 - Users can make tasks more visible by moving them to the top of the screen

- Statistical Aids for time management
 - Number of tasks per category (charts)
- Different Menu/Toolbar Layout
 - Circular Menu for Adding, Updating, and Querying with JavaScript pop-up windows for each task?
- Possibly a log in page or way to allow multiple user access
 - Potentially just use a specific URL for each “user.”

For screenshots of my current implementation, please visit my course website:
<http://ccs.neu.edu/home/mrodrig/IS4300/IH1/IH1.html>.