# Module CO550WBL Web Applications

## Assignment CW1A – Team Project Design

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1. The project idea

This project consists of a web application for the teachers and students of the Digital and Technology Solutions degree. The application provides a user interface in which the users can visualise a calendar that displays a series of events related to the modules of the degree. Users need to create an account and log in to gain access to the calendar, where it is possible to visualise the existing events or create new ones. Furthermore, the application also features the possibility for users to easily edit and delete events that they have created. There is also a profile page for each user, in which they can access and edit their personal details, as well as view a list of the events they have added to the calendar, filtered by month and year. This list provides a simplified view of the main details for the events, as well as an option to visualise all the information for a single event and update any details.

1. Background

The idea for this project originates from the need of a unified location in which to easily display information about the timetables and deadlines for the Digital and Technology Solutions degree, as well as details for the attendance to the onsite lectures. Currently, the information about the timetables and deadlines for the modules of the degree is available in a module guide file, and attendance is communicated via different messaging channels (social media or email). The disadvantages of the current methods arise from the difficulty of updating the timetables document, as it is recorded in a static file and would require the teacher to create and upload a new one each time there is the requirement to do any changes to it, and additionally, it would need every student to download a new copy of the document. Furthermore, keeping record of each time a student or teacher is unable to attend a lesson can also be quite inconvenient.

With the web application proposed in this project, the aim is to solve these problems by developing a data-driven solution in which teachers and students can keep all this information in a single place. In the first place, the web application would enable its users to keep track of all the information related to the different modules of the degree in a simple way. Secondly, any changes to the existing schedule would be effortless and instantaneous, improving the current need to work with static files. Lastly, the application would enhance the communication between teachers and students, providing the option for users to notify others of any changes in the schedule.

1. Using web applications

The reasons why a web application is suitable for this project are many. In the first place, creating a web application to give access to the schedule information provides availability of this data in a single place with only a couple of clicks, and across a variety of devices. It also has the added benefit of allowing the users to interact with the information in the website in an easy way, which is something that is expected in websites nowadays, as explained by Offutt (2002) we now refer to the visitors of a website as *users*, implying interaction. Moreover, a web application is extensible, and therefore allows the solution to grow and meet new requirements that can arise in the future. Additionally, using a web application that is data-driven has the advantage that we only need to install a web browser to access all the information and services that it provides (Richardson and Ruby, 2007, p. 2), therefore, removing the necessity for each person to install their own calendar applications, add and maintain updated the data across different users manually.

1. References

Offutt, J. (2002) ‘Quality attributes of Web software applications’, *IEEE Software*, 19(2), pp. 25-32. doi: 10.1109/52.991329.

Richardson, L. and Ruby, S. (2007) *RESTful Web Services.* Sebastopol: O’Reilly.