

Requirement Specification

Group 2

Group Members:

Nico Taljaard (10153285)

Abraham Daniel Pretorius (12022404)

Mathys Ellis (12019837)

Mbulungo Musetsho (10176382)

Verushka Moodley (29117454)

Eduan Bekker (12214834)

Johan Esterhuyse (10043285)

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GitHub repository: Mini project - phase 1 - group 2

1 Introduction

This document is the software requirements specification for a computerised marking system to be used by the University of Pretoria. It begins by addressing the purpose and vision of the project then continues with a general discussion on the background of the project. Thereafter, the architectural requirements are identified with a main focus on the access channel requirements, quality requirements, integration requirements, and architectural constraints. The function requirements follow by discussing the application functionality required by the users of the system. In this section of the document, many diagrams are used to depict the flow of communication and interaction between the users and the system. It will also illustrate the processes that the system will need to complete and the states that the system will under go. The next topic will communicate the open issues on some of the requirements, and the document concludes with a glossary of possibly unfamiliar terms used in this document.

2 Vision

The purpose of this document is to communicate the requirements and proposed solution to the client, Mr Jan Kroeze, who requires a computer system for marking purposes. This document will outline the scope of the project and thus serve as a formal agreement and contract between the developers and the client. It will also serve as a reference and eliminate any confusion that may occur in the later stages of development.

3 Background

The University of Pretoria currently has a manual paper based marking system which has many flaws such as: losing marks is one of the major issues. Our solution aims to assist them by providing a computerised system. The required computer system should aid the marker and lecturers at the university in recording marks of assessments for students, and the maintenance of marks thereafter. It should also allow students to keep track with their marks.

The solution will consist of an application that students, markers and lecturers will use in the following way:

- Markers will receive mark list of students and will be allowed to assign practical marks to the students via the mobile application. Lecturers will also be granted these permissions.

- Students will be able to view a list of their marks via the application

The solution will also consist of a web interface that will allow the following:

- Lecturers can maintain and integrate marks
- Lecturers can request reports with a certain criteria. A graph of some nature or statistics will then be presented
- An audit log will be updated automatically

The solution has the following restrictions:

- Users must be registered - A username and password is required for access to the system
- Marking lists may only be locked/unlocked by lecturers that are assigned to the course. Markers will be allowed to update marks according to the status of the mark list. Students may only view their mark when the mark list is locked.
- No one may be allowed to edit the audit log. Only lecturers have permission to view the audit log.

4 Architecture requirements

4.1 Access channel requirements

- Marker will gain access the mobile android application as well as the web interface can be used.
- Lectures have to use the web interface to administrate their modules and view audit logs.
- Student view all allocated marks through the mobile application as well as the web interface.
- Administrators use the web interface to view audits and control all lectures and modules.

4.2 Quality requirements

- Authentication
 - All users have to login before they are able to access the system using a user name to identify, a password to authenticate where upon the authorized permissions will be granted.
- Audit-ability
 - All the actions of all the users will be added to the audit log.
 - The events consider as audit trails will include:
 - * The login and logout of users.
 - * The assignment of marks.
 - * The modifications of any data.
- Scalability
 - The system should be able to handle multiple running practicals simultaneously
 - The performance of the system should not be dependent on the number of concurrent users
- Availability

The system should be available 99% of the time if the under the pre-condition that the correct authentication information has been provided.

4.3 Integration requirements

Integration channel to be used:

(Priority: High, Requirement: ARQIRQ1)

- SOAP will be used as an interface between different mediums and platforms to interact with the system.

Protocols

(Priority: High, Requirement: ARQIRQ2)

- SOAP will be used to pull reports of marks and audit logs using XML formatting.
- LDAP will enable the SSO ability of the system.

API specifications

(Priority: High, Requirement: ARQIRQ3)

The system has to interface with the following mediums:

- Internal API for Android application.
- External API for data transfer between interconnecting systems. This API uses SOAP transfer the data.

All API's should represent their data from SOAP to:

- XML for interfacing with web servers using WSDL.
- Output marks to .CSV format.

Quality requirements for integration

(Priority: High, Requirement: ARQIRQ4)

- Performance:
 - People viewing the marks should not need to wait extensively, // however the system can only be as fast as the connection to it.// There for the system cannot be expected to be faster than the connection that is being used.
 - Documentation drawn up from the marks may take between 10 - 30 seconds to be compiled.
 - Markers should be able to update marks within 10 seconds of each other.
- Scalability:
 - The system will be designed with design patterns. These are used so that the it is easy to upgrade the different aspects independently.

- Reliability:
 - A software issue should not arise, but if it does the application must handle the problem and send an appropriate error message to the user. If data has failed to send the application must reattempt to upload the data for a specified amount of time (1 minute) or until such a time that the user aborts data transfer.
- Security:
 - No user, who is unauthorized, may gain access to the system.
 - Authorized users can only access the aspects of the system as allocated to them by the administrator.
 - Security questions, as well as email addresses will be linked to each of the users. This will be used for password recovery.
- Auditability:
 - Each time marks are changed it will be recorded in an audit trail which not even the system administrator would be able to edit.

4.4 Architecture constraints

Technologies which MUST be used (Priority: High, Requirement: ARQ1)

- The system must support the following platforms:
 - Android (API 15)
 - Web browser (with HTML 5 compatibility)
- The system must strictly operate over HTTPS
- The following technologies and languages must be used for implementation purposes:
 - Python with Django (server-side programming)
 - Java (Android Module Development)
 - MySQL (Database)
- SOAP interface must be utilized for this system
- LDAP (account management)

5 Functional requirements

5.1 Introduction

The goal of the system is to provide the client with a secure, scalable and remotely accessible marking and mark management system. The system is comprised of four different facets which are listed below. It is intended to replace the current marking and mark management system employed by the client, which is currently paper and spreadsheet based.

Student mark retrieval facet:

The goal of this facet is to provide the "Students" with a secure and private means to a read-only view of their marks, for the markable items of a specified course on the system. The means by which they will view the markable items will be in the form of a web interface and android application.

Marker marking tool facet:

The goal of this facet is to provide "Markers", assigned to a particular course, with a mobile application to allow them to be able to add and update the mark of a specified student on the mark list for a particular markable item of the particular course. The application will allow "Markers" access to the mark list from any location where an internet connection is available. The application will be in the forms of a website interface and android application.

Lecturer mark management facet:

The goal of this facet is to provide "Lecturers", assigned to a particular course, with a means to manage the marks of each student registered to the course and mark structure of the course. Where the term manage comprises of adding, modifying and removing markable items, mark lists and the individual marks of students. Further the facet also has the goal of providing a means to report on mark related data on different levels of granularity of a particular course.

Audit trail facet:

The goal of this facet is to give the system the ability to track all critical actions that occur on the system independent of any user interference and also provide a read-only view of such trails for authorised users of the system. Where critical actions comprise of adding, updating and removing any data on the database as well as login and logout actions.

5.2 Scope and Limitations/Exclusions

Scope:

The scope is fully depicted through the entire document.

Limitations

- This system should not integrate with the "existing marking system" of the university. It will only be tested within one
- Authentication is verified through an external system and not part of this system specification.

5.3 Required functionality

Course API

(Priority: High, Requirement: FRQ1)

- A course must be creatable.
- Lectures must be added to course by users with correct authorization.
- Lecturers must be able to add markers to the course, as well as be able to assign them to a practical time slot.
- Student information for each student that is assigned to a practical time slot of a course should be pulled from an existing database so that teaching assistants and tutors of the course can find the student to be marked.

Lecturer API

(Priority: High, Requirement: FRQ2)

- A tasks must be creatable for the following:
 - Practicals
 - Assignments

- Class tests
- Tests
- Tasks should also contain the following information:
 - Starting time to open access.
 - End time if a specified time is required, else manual locking is required by lecture.
 - A rubric must be added to show the mark allocation.
- Adjust mark weight allocations.
- Lecturers alone should be able to change marks of his own subjects.
- Assign security roles to markers.
- Move students to a different markers.
- Use the reporting API.

Auditing API (Priority: High, Requirement: FRQ3)

- Log file for following activities:
 - Marks added by whom and when.
 - Marks changed or removed by who, when and what is the reason.
 - Login and logout activities
- Lecturers must be able view only the audit logs of the course(s) they are assigned to.
- Head of Department alone should assign a user that can view the entire change log.
- No edits to the audit log allowed.

Marking API (Priority: High, Requirement: FRQ4)

- Accessible through mobile application for markers.
- Display all available mark lists for markers to mark.
- Within mark list display all students registered for current session with a search option.

- Search filters should be available for student number, surname or name. The displayed results should contain all the results that match the filters.
- For the selected student the marking rubric should be displayed with type able fields.
- Marks should be submitted to the database directly after mark has been finalized for each student.

Reports API (Priority: Medium-High, Requirement: FRQ5)

- Marks can be exported in a .csv file containing the selected marks for each student.
- All reports should be based on a select set of marks.
- Numeric statistics can be exported about marks.
- Graphical reports should be exported to .pdf file.

Student API (Priority: Medium, Requirement: FRQ6)

- Accessible through mobile application or web interface.
- Landing page displays all courses of current student.
- Course marks should be viewable for separate assessments as well as a progress mark of a particular course.

5.4 Use case prioritization

- **Critical:**
 - Log in [1.1; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1]
 - Create assessment [1.10]
 - Set rubric [1.12]
 - Set constraints [1.13]
 - Set markers [1.14]

- Select assessment [1.11; 2.3; 3.5]
- Mark assessment [2.5]
- Submit marks [2.6]
- Select course [1.2; 2.2; 3.2; 4.2]
- Select student [1.6; 2.4]
- View marks [3.3]
- View overall marks [1.3]
- Export marks [1.4]
- View entire audit trail [4.4]

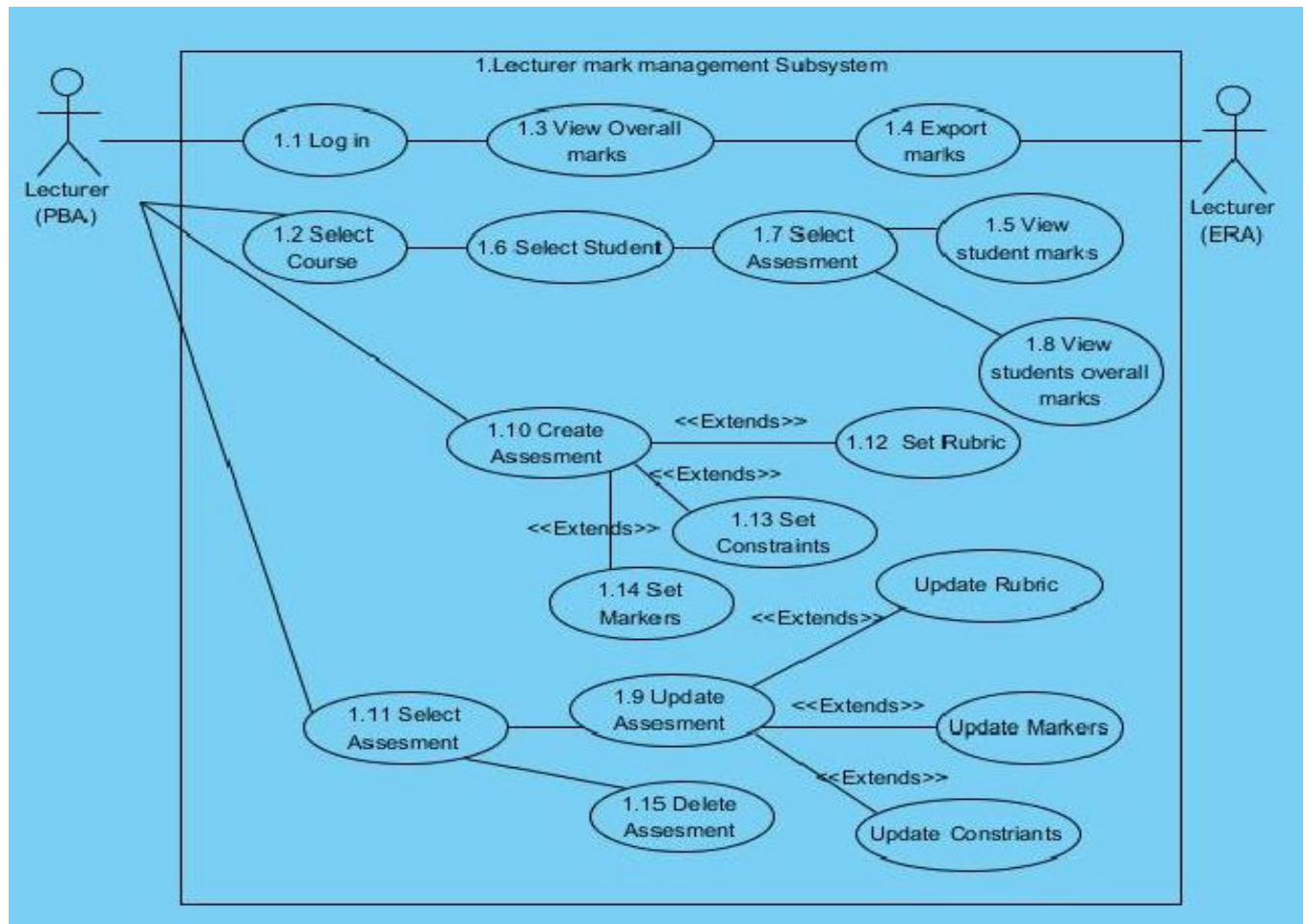
- **Important:**

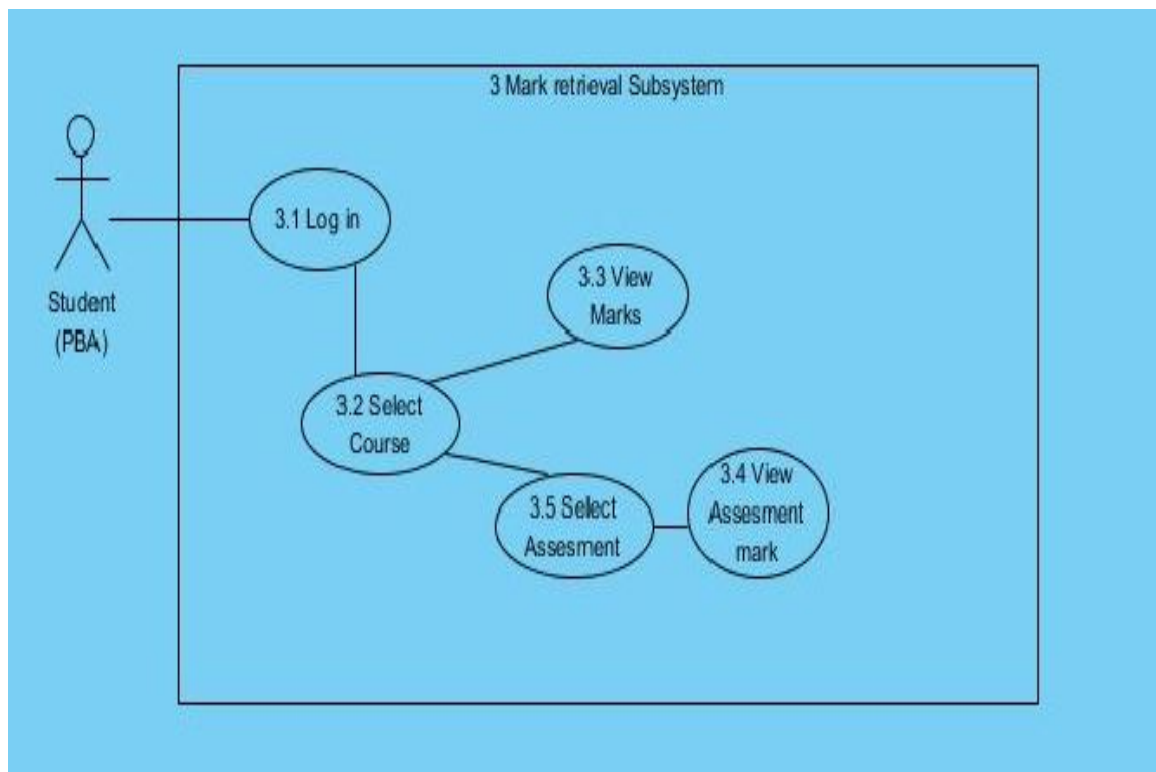
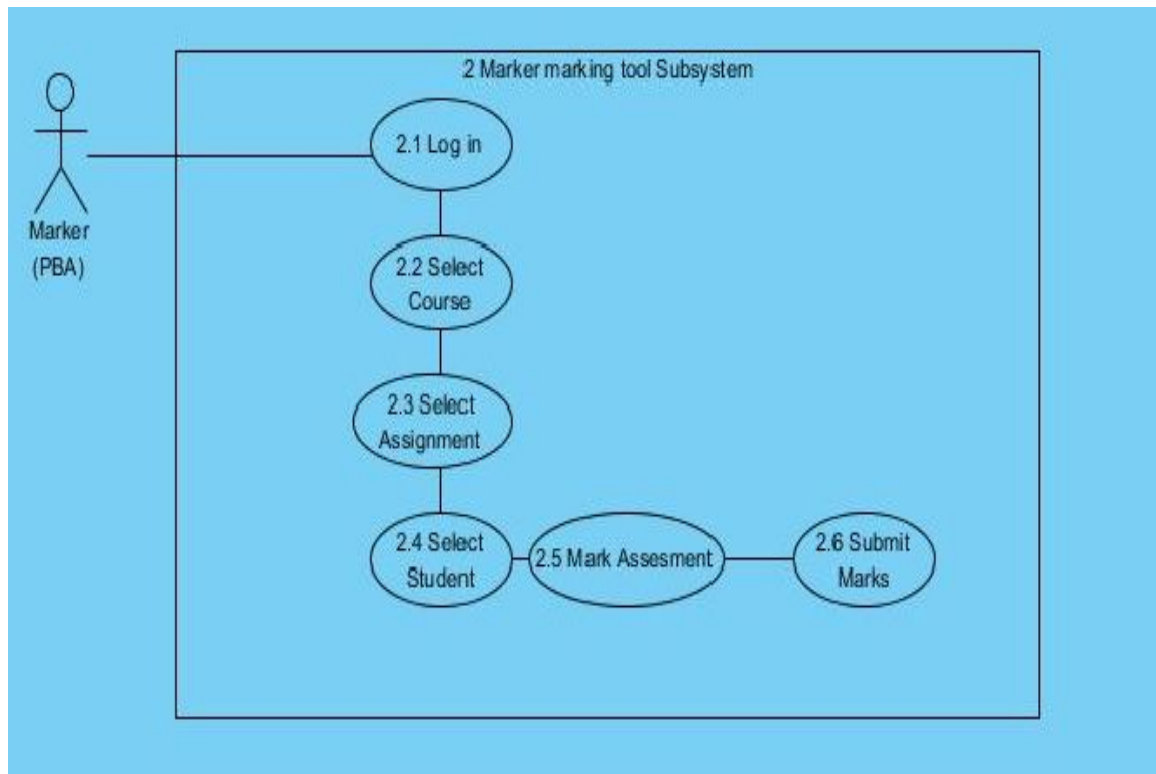
- View student marks [1.5]
- View students overall marks [1.8]
- Update assessment [1.9]
- Update rubric
- Update markers
- Update constraints
- View assessment mark [3.4]

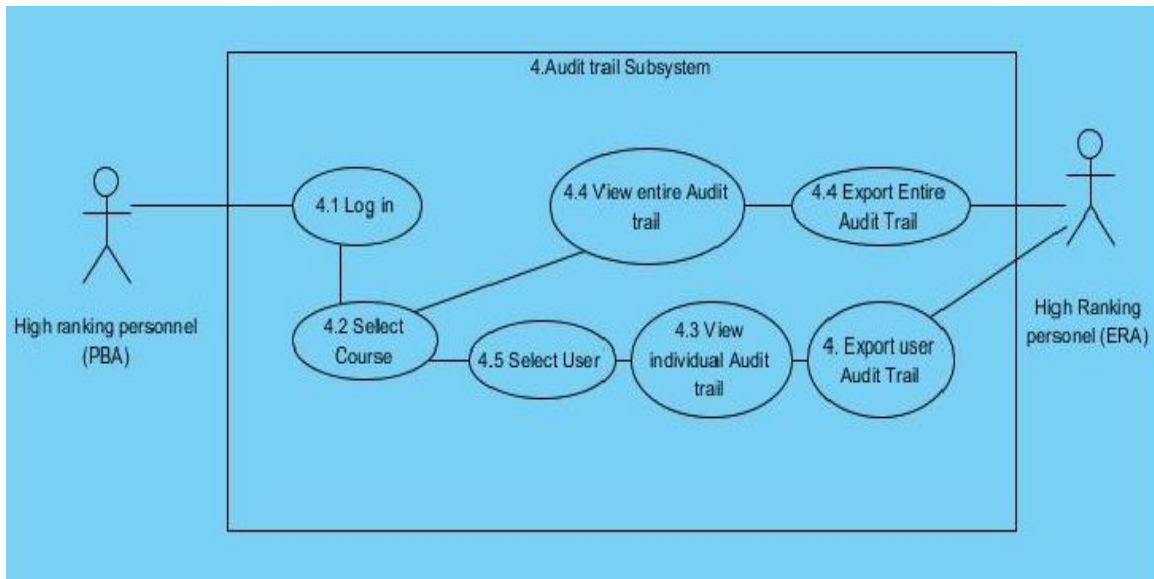
- **Nice-to-Have:**

- Export entire audit trail [4.4]
- Select user [4.5]
- View individual audit trail [4.3]
- Export user audit trail

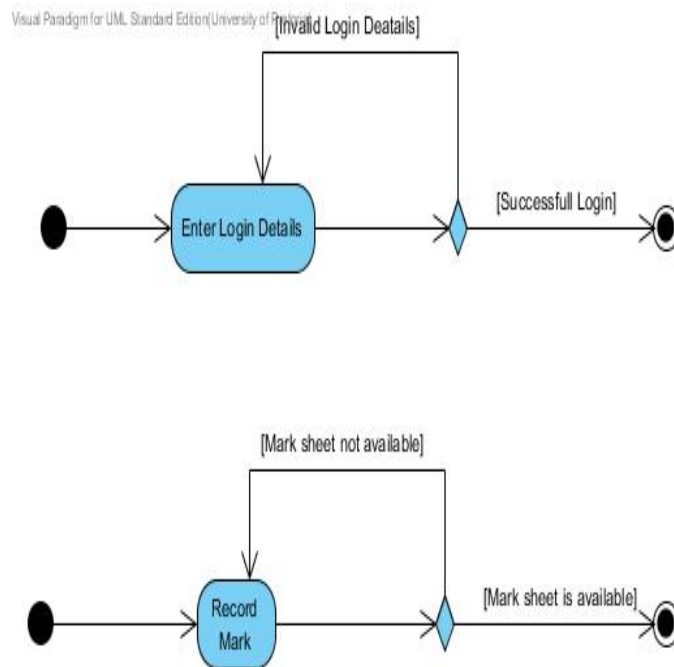
5.5 Use case/Services contracts





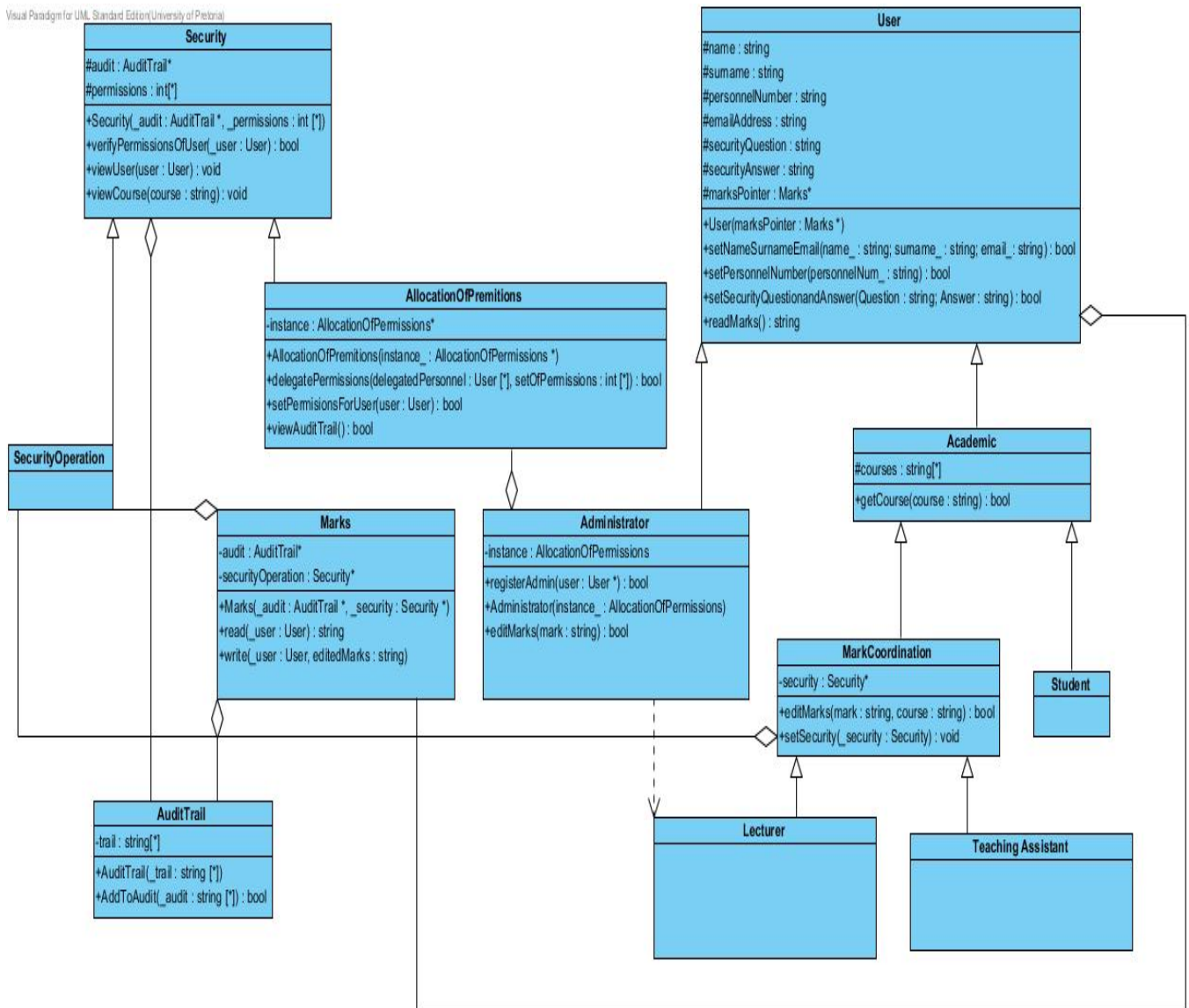


5.6 Process specifications



5.7 Domain Objects

Visual Paradigm for UML, Standard Edition (University of Pretoria)



6 Open Issues

7 Glossary

- Student - Entailing all students register at the university for specific modules.
- Marker - A grouping of including Teaching Assistance and Tutors, which have permission to assign marks.
- Lecturer - Co-ordinator and/or module presenter.
- Markable item - Including tests, class tests, assignments, practicals.
- Mark list - List consisting of all students registered for a specific module.
- Course - A module presented at the university.
- Web interface - Browser client.
- SSO - Single Sign On.
- LDAP - System used during SSO for authentication.
- SOAP - Simple Object Access Protocol.
- API - A sub-section of the overall system.
- HTTPS - Secured HTTP connection.
- HTML 5 - Standardised version of HTML.
- PDF - The format used in statistics exports.
- CSV - Column Separated Values, used for import of marks and student information.
- SOAP - Simple Object Access Protocol
- WSDL - Web Service Definition Language
- Android - Mobile operating system used.
- Django - Web framework used for the systems back-end.
- Python - Programming language used in Django.
- Java - Used by Android to program application.
- MySQL - Language for database structure and queries.