Problem Statement

The group(s) that we plan to serve are students as well as people visiting the University of Washington. It is a common problem that people receive their classes, or have a meeting in a certain building and are unable to effectively navigate where the specific class is located. Currently, if you have a new class you must go to MyUW, look at your schedule, find the specific class, copy the abbreviated class name as well as figure out the full name of the building and then after all of that paste it into Google Maps. We are attempting to cut those steps down and make it so that the user does not have to go through multiple apps and steps to get to a single building.

Sometimes, the ten-minute passing period is not sufficient for students to arrive at the next lecture hall on time. Especially during those rainy days or even snow days, running between buildings creates more risks of slipping accidents. For freshmen who are not familiar with the campus, navigating by map is a very inconvenient way of walking in the crowds. It is this lack of information that makes the University of Washington’s not only daunting, but also confusing. By solving this problem, we can save students time on the way to lectures and make the campus safe for walking even in the worst scenarios.

The current existing solutions that are available for students are the Google Map and the School Online Map which is run by the UW. The disadvantage to Google Maps is that it cannot recognize some abbreviations such as GWN for Gowen Hall. The second issue with Google Maps is that it only considers the road as path and ignore all the in-building routes. Which leads people walking on either busy streets or roundabout routes to get to the desired location. For the issue on School Online Map, it cannot show any route since it is primarily a web-based directory. Finally, neither of these show adequate information about the buildings to show where in the building the classrooms are, or the best entrance/exit to use. These may seem like simple and easy hurdles to get around, but for someone with no prior knowledge of the campus, it becomes a very time-consuming problem, that they should not have to deal with.

There are obviously ways to improve these solutions on their own, but it is our goal to take those improvements and include them a single place for both students and visitors to use. One place to find exactly where classrooms are, as well as the most practical and time saving route to get there, will be beneficial for all those on campus.