

The Deadline Crusher

Team Project

A productivity-focused web application
designed to help students **crush deadlines early**

Team Members

- Landen Tomlin – Team Leader
- Josh Day – Backend Development, Database Design
- Tanner Andrews – Frontend Development, Calendar & Time Tracking
- Xander Murphy – Frontend Development, UI Customization

Project Description

The Deadline Crusher helps students manage assignments, deadlines, and daily responsibilities in a structured and motivating way.

The application combines:

- Smart task organization
- Calendar-based planning
- Gamified customization rewards

Problem Domain

Many students struggle with:

- Managing multiple deadlines across courses
- Knowing which tasks are most urgent
- Planning work over time
- Staying motivated to complete tasks

Traditional to-do lists lack prioritization and engagement.

Our Solution

The Deadline Crusher solves these problems by:

- Automatically organizing tasks into smart lists
- Visualizing deadlines using a calendar interface
- Rewarding productivity with unlockable customization options

Core Features Overview

- Calendar / Time-Based Checklist
- Smart Lists & Custom Views
- Gamified Customization & Rewards

Built using a **3-tier architecture**

Feature 1: Calendar / Time-Based Checklist

Owner: Tanner Andrews

Description

A calendar interface that helps users plan and track tasks over time.

Requirements

- Interactive calendar interface
- Tasks associated with due dates
- Upcoming and overdue indicators
- Time tracking per task

Feature 2: Smart Lists & Custom Views

Owner: Josh Day

Description

Automatically generated task lists and customizable views.

Requirements

- Auto lists:
 - Today
 - Upcoming
 - Overdue

Feature 2 Requirements Cont.

- Filters:
 - Tag
 - Priority
 - Due date
- Sorting options
- Search bar
- Save and pin custom views

Feature 3: Gamified Customization

Owner: Xander Murphy

Description

Users unlock visual customization rewards by completing tasks.

Requirements

- Unlockable fonts, backgrounds, and themes
- Progress tracking tied to task completion
- Customization menu
- Persistent unlocked rewards

Non-Functional Requirements

- Three-tier architecture
- Web-based application
- Responsive UI (desktop & mobile)
- Persistent user data
- Scalable and maintainable codebase
- Intuitive and consistent interface

Data Model Overview

Core Entities

- User
- Task
- Custom View
- Customization Item

Relationships

- A user has many tasks
- A user can save multiple custom views
- A user can unlock multiple customization items

System Architecture

The Deadline Crusher uses a **three-tier architecture**:

1. Presentation Layer
2. Application Layer
3. Data Layer

Each layer is independently maintained and scalable.

Presentation Layer (Frontend)

- JavaScript with **React**
- Component-based UI
- Handles user interaction and rendering
- Communicates with backend via REST API

Application Layer (Backend)

- Node.js runtime
- Express.js framework
- RESTful API endpoints
- Handles business logic and validation

Data Layer (Databases)

- **MongoDB**
 - Document-based storage
 - Mongoose ODM for schema modeling
- **SQLite**
 - Relational data storage
 - Object-relational database access

APIs & Data Access

- RESTful API design using Express
- JSON-based client–server communication
- Mongoose ODM for MongoDB
- SQLite APIs for relational data
- Supports both document and relational models

Testing Strategy

Acceptance Tests

- Users can create and complete tasks
- Calendar displays tasks correctly
- Smart lists update automatically
- Customization unlocks on completion

Testing Strategy (Continued)

Integration Tests

- Frontend communicates correctly with REST API
- Filters and sorting work together
- Custom views persist across sessions

End-to-End Tests

- Task creation → completion → reward unlock
- Saved views reload correctly
- User data persists across reloads

Schedule & Milestones

Sprint 1

- Project setup (React, Node.js, Express)
- Core task CRUD functionality
- Smart lists (Today / Upcoming / Overdue)
- Initial calendar UI
- Database schema design

Schedule & Milestones

Sprint 2

- REST API expansion
- Time tracking functionality
- Filters, sorting, and saved views
- Customization unlock system
- UI polish and testing

Technology Stack

Frontend

- JavaScript
- React

Backend

- Node.js
- Express.js
- REST API

Database

- MongoDB with Mongoose ODM
- SQLite with relational APIs