

Interview#2

Observations by Margaret

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Firefox

23 y.o.

Senior, CS in College L&S

Born in Iran, raised in Germany (15 ys), 6 years here

Pleasant Hill

Transfer from DVC in Pleasant Hill

Commute by car

Laptop- Windows

No deal or research

No outside extracurriculars

Job for CyberOnics – industrial automation

Ie. Gas stations

How far in adv schedule planned?

About a semester in advance

Has an idea what classes we want to take

Check out Ratings for each class

HKN: ratings for professors

Tentative schedule of teachers for next semester

Ie. Want to take 8 courses this year

Usefulness of the course

Talk to jobs

Useful for industry?

Ie. Computer Security / DB

Talk to profs

Useful to have two theory classes for graduate school

Ie. AI

Philosophy

Always interested in this subject

Choose Profs with highest ratings in those 8 classes he wanted to take

Ie. Database Prof

Computer Security – no prior knowledge

Talk to fellow students – what they think about course and professors

Ie. Took AI

Professors

- Willing to adjust schedule to take class with certain professors

Schedule

- Look at times

 - Too early

 - Traffic

 - Course conflict with another class he wants to take

- Best match in consecutive days

- Balanced week

 - Certain days focused on certain course

SCHEDULING

Uses paper or Excel

Has an idea for what he wants to take

Now needs to narrow down

Uses schedule.berkeley.edu

For all classes

- Write down day/times for lectures, discussions

Look at lectures

- Wants a spread out schedule

- Rather have spread out than classes all on same day

Look at discussion sections

- Want balanced week.

- No overlaps

Look at course load of classes

- Word of mouth

- Look at other activities

 - Ie. No work so can focus at school

Balance course load

- 188 – harder towards end

- 186 – earlier is harder

1st week

- Look at syllabus

- Look at projects – time commitment

- Reevaluate schedule

Usually not on waiting list / at top of waiting list

Usually has back up courses

- Another class he wants to take

CS handout

- Sections: Applications, Theory
- Provided by department
- Word of mouth

Storage of schedule

- Uses Outlook

- Location of class
- Color code label for lectures / discussions: Must Attend
- Job/Grad School: Green
- Midterms: purple
- Urgent events: more contrasting colors
- Repeats until end of semester
- Likes Outlook because can label with “must attend”, etc.

- Used to use Excel

- Would like to have ability to choose different colors for different classes

Carries around computer, wants to go towards paperless

Office hours

TELEBEARS

Phase 1: sign up for more impacted courses

- 186: Prof has very high rating
- Computer Security

Waiting list

- See what the chances of him getting into the course
- If didn't get into class, would take substitute class

Can delete whole series in Outlook

How important are degree requirements?

- Not anymore
- When transferred, already fulfilled requirements
- Thought process
 - Have to take 7 courses
- Know how many tech courses he has to take
- Always used the CS handout to see what classes to take

When we introduced our project...

- Writing program that takes in courses and finds best scheduling possibility
- Don't like classes

Late in the afternoon
No class before 11am, after 4pm
Gives back a schedule according to the requirements
Give classes, give requirements
Creates best schedule

1 to 5 questions

Graduation requirements? 5
The priority! you need to graduate
Distance between classes
Don't like walking back and forth
Moffitt to Cory: late to class
Would you consider not taking a class cuz it's in some far location? 1
If I could get there on time, would do it
If can't, won't do it
How do you get around campus?
Parking structure
Walk around
No bus pass; rarely use transit
How much do you carry with you?
Keep books in car
If light, take "focus books" for the day
If heavy, only take the most important "focus" book
How often do you go back to your car during the day?
0 – 2
How long are you here during the day?
16-18 hours / day

Improvements?

Need Course Control Number for Telebears
Always must have schedule and Telebears open in two browsers
Ie. Add class: Go to schedule; copy CCN, past into Telebears

How do you check your graduation requirements?

Make sure he didn't fail
He knows how many more classes he has to take, if he didn't fail

Went to L&S office Advising office

Go over requirements sheet and transcript

Have you ever used DARS? Never

How often do you look at your schedule?

Daily, many times a day

Check email and check schedule

- Set reminders for important events / unusual events
- Doctor's appointment, resume critique, etc.

How often do you share your schedule with other people?

- When making plans with other people
- List the hours can come to work, send to employer

Automated class signup – “Telebears sniping software”

- Great! Always miss initial Phase I appointment

- Problems?

 - What if it puts you on a waitlist?

 - Would you want to change to a class you can get into?

 - A default way to sign up for classes?

 - Priority list

 - Try to get into a course

 - Add to wait list in Phase II

Further suggestions?

- Bad if everyone used that software – defeats the purpose of “getting ahead”

Distance between classes / Uphill

- Knee pain – hard to get from Moffitt to Cory

Construction on campus

- Getting to northside / Soda is much more difficult

Route Planner

- It would be very nice to know the estimated time to get from A to B

Set up only or also maintenance?

- Love to keep track of grades

- Projects due dates; task reminders

- Allow to put weight on midterms, projects.

 - Both are due on same day, but cuz A affects your grade more than B

 - Ie. Phil paper vs. CS midterm

 - CS midterm is more important than Phil paper

Blackboard

- Never used those features

- Never knew about them

- UI failed

 - Too cluttered

 - Tables/forms

Neat

Example of good UI:

CNN.com

Top story on top

Categories with a few headlines

Not so good UI:

n-tv.de

not so good

Too many pictures

Task reminders on a sidebar

Finds finals schedule online

Don't use planner cuz everything's online

Automated access to rating

Small menu pane to get to different sections

Yahoo! Calendar

Don't like web-based

Because don't always have internet access

Something synchronized online and on-computer

Special feature

Share scheduling?

Not really useful

Lunch breaks

English:

Nourfoundation.com

European websites are much more cluttered