

SEVERITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The following 0 to 4 rating scale shall be used to rate the severity of usability and visual problems pertaining to assignment planning (i.e. assignment organization, assignment status, etc):

0 = I don't agree that this is a problem at all

1 = Cosmetic problem: need not be fixed unless extra time is available on project

2 = Minor problem: fixing this should be given low priority

3 = Major problem: important to fix, so should be given high priority

4 = Catastrophe: imperative to fix this

Physical Planner

1. *Legibility* : Assignments are written down by hand, so the user's hand-writing obviously impacts the legibility of the user-inputted data.

Severity: $(1 + 0 + 1) / 3 = 0$

2. *Overview* : If a user wants to check the assignments inputted last week compared to next week, the user would have to flip back and forth between pages since the user can only view one week at a time. This is a violation of "Recognition rather than recall"; the user is forced to recall the previously seen week in order to compare to the currently viewed week. This can lead to forgetting what was planned in previous weeks.

Severity: $(3 + 2 + 2) / 3 = 2$

3. *Search* : If a user wishes to find a specific assignment, there is the worst-case time scenario where the user has to flip through every page to find it.

Severity: $(3 + 4 + 2) / 3 = 3$

4. *Tediousness* : If a user wishes to write an assignment that repeats weekly, or if the user wants to write an assignment on the page with a month view and on the appropriate page on the week view, the user must write down each repeat occurrence of that assignment. This is a tedious and error-prone task.

Severity: $(2 + 2 + 2) / 3 = 2$

5. *Space Limitations* : Space to write down assignment information is limited, so there may be chance of inadequate space given.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 4) / 3 = 2$

Google Calendar

6. *Text customization* : Each "calendar" object uses only one color for the inputted "events". Therefore to have assignments encoded by multiple colors, the user must make multiple calendars. Also, font-size cannot be modified nor is there an ability to highlight certain text.

Severity: $(3 + 3 + 1) / 3 = 2$

7. *Duplicate assignment entries* : There is no prevention of inputting duplicate assignments.

Severity: $(1 + 0 + 3) / 3 = 2$

8. *Lack of assignment status* : There is no dedicated encoding to indicate if an assignment is completed, in progress, or even if it has been started at all.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 4) = 2$

9. *Lack of redo/undo* : System has a cancel function but no apparently ability to redo a rescinded action, or undo committed action.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 3) / 3 = 2$

10. *Only "event" abstraction* : Assignments are not necessarily "events". Assignments have a due date and a degree of importance and priority. They are more of a task rather than an occurrence.

Severity: $(3 + 1 + 3) / 3 = 2$

11. *No linking of related assignments* : A project, or an assignment in general, may be divided into several tasks or milestones. The system does not offer an apparent method of linking these milestones together. Some visual linking would convey the whole picture of the total project, or assignment.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 2) / 3 = 1$

12. *Overflow of events* : When a day in the calendar is filled with many assignments (greater than 4), there are assignments that are not displayed. Their existence is indicated by a message declaring the number of assignments that are not displayed.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 4) / 3 = 2$

Lo-fi Prototype of Proposed Solution

13. *Tweaking of priority factors* : The priority stack view does not offer the option to tweak the weights parameters in the equation that calculates an assignment's priority. So if a user wishes to place more emphasis on due date rather than grade percentage, there are unable to make such customization.

Severity: $(2 + 1 + 3) / 3 = 2$

14. *No indication of how priority is assigned* : The priority stack view does no indicate how the priorities are assigned. There is no equation displayed, nor what factors are taken into consideration, nor what weight is put on each factor.

Severity: $(2 + 3 + 2) / 3 = 2$

15. *Does not convey amount of free time* : No way to detail how much free time one has each day/week/month.

Severity: $(1 + 1 + 0) / 3 = 0$

16. *Lack of a view displaying times during the day* : There is no view partitioning a day by hour, such that a user can view what is assignment is present during 2pm to 3pm.

Severity: $(1 + 1 + 3) / 3 = 1$