Tackling the Class Scheduling Problem: an Investigation Into Developing a Calendar Suite

Abstract

Valparaiso University’s Computer Science department needed a better way to schedule and visualize courses. A web application serving this request will be built using a web framework connected to a database backend to store critical class information. This web application will be called F.A.R SKED (Fred.Allura.Rene SKED). This acronym represents that one can schedule “F.A.R” into the future, and “SKED” is an abbreviation for “scheduler”. The application will include views where courses can be defined, semesters visualized, classes scheduled, and supporting data managed. To achieve scheduling that prevents calendar conflicts, the MySQL database organizes semester, professor, building, room, department, and course information. As a design decision, our calendar page filters by the aforementioned fields to provide visualization of scheduling availability, and a dynamic way to plan classes in those openings. A problem with achieving our goals was pairing extensive backend logic with this simple-to-use application.

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