

Time Balance

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CSE 440 Assignment 2e

Task Review

1. Categorize Time Spent and Set Goals For Work/Sleep/Social/Personal Time

Every activity on your schedule belongs a category like work, socializing, study, play, etc. For example, going out to dinner would be categorized as social while eating ramen at 2a.m. would not. Similarly, both going to the gym and reading a book could be considered personal. You should be able to define your own categories and categorize each task in your schedule. Similar tasks should automatically be categorized. You should also be able to update the categories of your current time if there is nothing planned on your schedule. The categories of your current task could be automatically inferred from your location, your heart rate, whether or not you have Netflix open, etc. You should be able to set specific goals like spending two more hours a day studying organic chemistry.

2. Share When You Will Have Free Time With Friends and Family

Sharing your schedule with your friends is hard and time consuming. You just want to find time to hang out this weekend, but people's schedules are always changing it's hard to keep track of other people's obligations. You should be able to make parts of your schedule publicly available to everyone and share other parts only with your close friends. You should be able to overlay schedules for different people and get notified when someone's schedule changes. You should be able to import schedules from other services such as Google Calendar or Facebook.

3. Decide What to Do While Waiting, Depending on Time Available

Deciding what to do while waiting is hard because you only have a little time and you are probably distracted by something else. Maybe you're waiting on an important e-mail from your boss and you have to find something to do for fifteen minutes, but you can't leave your office. Maybe you're on the bus for half an hour every morning. Instead of compulsively checking your e-mail or reading BuzzFeed, you should get a suggestion of what to do in the time allotted. The technology should be able to infer what suggestion would be best from your location, your velocity, the current time, etc. You should not get a suggestion to do push-ups while going 40mph on the bus, or a suggestion to read War and Peace in a loud work environment. You should be able to reject suggestions and the technology should be able to infer better suggestions in the future based on what you accept. The technology should also be intrusive if

and only if it knows that you are not in the middle of something. For example, it could remind you to read that light novel in your backpack when you check BuzzFeed on the bus, but not when you're at home.

4. Get Notified When Your Commute/Appointments Change

Busses get delayed, people cancel appointments, and sometimes a wreck on the highway can put you hours behind schedule. These events are simply beyond your control. It is important to know about these changes as soon as possible and to be able to update your schedule accordingly. In the case of a traffic delay, you may have to push some of your appointments back. In the case of a cancelled appointment, you may suddenly have free time to fill with something else. You should be able to fill in new gaps in your schedule with things from your TODO list or even things you have scheduled for a later date.

5. Get Reminded to Have Lunch

A lot of people have a busy schedule everyday. Imagine yourself making breakfast after getting up in the morning, driving kids to school before going to work, replying to emails, and having several hours of meetings at work. It's two o'clock in the afternoon already. Then you finally remember that you haven't had lunch yet. It may cause health concerns to not have lunch on time. In addition, people can't do their jobs efficiently with an empty stomach. Since our design is targeting busy people, this kind of situation can arise frequently. For people who forget to eat lunch when they are busy, a reminder to let the users know that it is time to have lunch would be useful. You don't want to have to set an alarm everyday to remind yourself it's lunch time. For people who are too busy and have no time to eat lunch, our solution is to find some time on their schedule between events in the morning and afternoon, even for just a 20 minutes break. Then, it would remind the user that you can have a quick lunch and be ready for the afternoon.

6. Keep a TODO List of Things That Can and Can't Be Pushed Back

People are dealing with all kinds of events everyday. There are a lot of things on their TODO list. Some are urgent such as an important meeting with an international company. If you can't make to the meeting on time, then they could be flying to another country by the time you get there. You may not be able to see them in months. Some things can be pushed back a little bit and get done at some other time such as gift shopping. One task in our design is a TODO list of things with importance ranking. It is clear that some of the things on your TODO list can not be pushed back. They need to be done before the deadline. The other things are less urgent and can be done later.