

CourseApp on your Android

Wonder Document

By

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Introduction

Our plan is to develop an android mobile application which allows the users to browse the available courses on department of informatics at University of Oslo. There is also hope to be able to eventually subscribe to the desired courses through the StudentWeb with our application, but this will be dependent on the level of cooperation from StudentWeb developers as we might be needing a direct access to the database.

Background

The background of our group is kind of different from each other, but what we share is a common motivation for production and development. We are from different study groups(Nano-electronic, Robotics and one of us takes free courses). What we all want here is to learn more about Android development world and learn how to use all the possibilities around it, either in later at work or in our master thesis.

Target Users

Our target users are first of all students at department of informatics at university of Oslo as they are the ones who actually use the current outdated system. This target group is a very good opportunity for us to expand our application between them as :

- High number of Android smart-phones among students at IFI
- Their passion about trying new applications
- Their understanding about the development process which can bring lots of useful feedback to us

Goals & Methods

As we know, a good percentage of the mobile phones sold in Norway have Android as the operating system. Our prime goal is to make it simpler for the users to navigate and do their planning of the courses to take on a “better” layout than the built-in browser provides.

In the first phase, the plan is to get an insight in the android world of programming as a this is new to a few of the group members. We will also be exposed to open-source framework and we need to know which of its parts to use, so there should be quite some considerations and discussion to be made in order to come up with a reasonable application for a phone.

We will primarily be testing our application on Samsung galaxy S and Sony Ericsson in order to check the application’s behaviour on different screen resolutions

We have thought to run this project in 4 different phases. Phase number one is planning & designing an imaginary GUI for our application with our ideas about what we should have and how should it look like. After we agree on the design and the content we would enter the 2nd phase. Phase two will be the start of developing and we are hoping to have a functional rapid prototype(beta version) ready for testing. Here is where our 3rd phase would begin where we are planning to test our rapid prototype(beta version) on a small group of target users and get feedback from them on different tests of our application.

- Functionality
- User friendliness
- Design
- Lack of services on rapid prototype(beta)?

The forth phase would be using the actual feedback and test results to work on an actual functioning product that the students at IFI can work with it.

Technology

The plan is to use the Spring open-source framework, and java as the programming language. Eclipse is our IDE for our android application project, as it is the most recommended tool available. We have also chosen the “debug on phone” method as there is no testable emulator for time being for Android on PC. We are also wondering about using XML and SQL based database system if necessary. We also should contact developers at StudentWeb to see if we get direct access to their database. There is a possibility to change things according to their needs.

Existing solutions

There is actually no application available to ease the course choosing process for IFI students that we are aware of. The existing outdated available system requires that you have the names of the courses you want to take, search them in database and then add it to your list. We think this is just too difficult and outdated and it should be changed to a much easier system that you can use an application with some easy buttons to navigate yourself through the whole process.