

CRITERION A: PLANNING

“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail,” – Common Proverb

DEFINED PROBLEM

Anybody who wishes to succeed requires a fitting combination of plan, action, and review. Every step is dependent on the one before it, therefore, planning is one of the most important stages of success. Unfortunately, a majority of people have trouble with this stage. Planning is extremely complex, involving utmost decision-making skills pertaining to a hierarchy of desired priorities, hierarchy of chronological priorities, and the most difficult part: a combination of the two.

However, this is just a description of the convolution of one plan. There are numerous plans that people follow simultaneously. In addition to these plans, there are spontaneously and regularly occurring events and tasks. Prioritization of all these tasks and events becomes extremely difficult, and the scheduling of those priorities becomes nearly impossible. There has never been a perfect agenda, and there never will be. An agenda will always be susceptible to change, and cannot be followed as originally created. There will be early advances, delays, and completely unexpected occurrences. Erring humans cannot strictly follow an agenda. Consequently, not only does the agenda have to be flexible, but also, be constantly updated as the actions are executed and reviewed. As a result, people begin an agenda and soon abandon it.

This is the problem. People who wish to succeed cannot efficiently create, follow, and update a sustainable agenda. Examples of these people, my end-users (clients), are students and employees.

RATIONALE

My plan is to create a product that would help the user to efficiently create, follow, and update a sustainable agenda. Many calendar and agenda programs only allow people to create and move time slots. My calendar/ agenda program, called the Adaptive Time Contrivance Originator, would not only establish events, but also, assist in the adaptive prioritization and timing of tasks. There are two main versions of the product. First is the text-based prototype that will test all the algorithms as proof of concept. The next version is an independent Windows application that contains the entire project with a graphical interface.

GOALS (CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS)

The program must be able to:

- Allow the user to input dates and times for static events
- Categorize static events and dynamic tasks
- Assist the user in prioritization of dynamic tasks if desired
- Assist the user in timing of dynamic tasks if desired
- Inquiring the user about the tasks' properties such as
 - Task category/ classification
 - Perceived priority of a task category and subcategories
 - Perceived priority of a task relative to
 - Its subcategory
 - Its category
 - All tasks
 - Preferred times of tasks and task category
 - Phases/ parts of a task
 - Task completion habits (such as study habits, work habits, etc...)
- Use inquired information in assistance
- Display all events and tasks in both a calendar graphic and an agenda graphic
- Allow the user to update progress of dynamic tasks
- Allow the user to add, change, and remove both static events and dynamic tasks
- Change the prioritization and timing of dynamic tasks when any changes are made
- Update the calendar and agenda with a new schedule whenever changes are made