FOLLOWUP SYSTEM

Ramesh M. Choudhari, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC 29117

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to present the design and implementation of the Followup System. This system provides information about students who have graduated from the department and their current status. Its primary purpose is to collect data on the graduates and to keep track of their progress in the real world. The data collected can be used for analysis purposes. The accreditation board requires data analysis on the graduates and this system is designed to fulfill that requirement. This system can also assist graduates in keeping touch with department by updating the records. The graduate data analysis is an important part of the accreditation report and the system will be useful in compiling such statistics. Thus the system will be useful for the department as well as graduates.

INTRODUCTION

The students are the most important asset and the true ambassadors of an institution. The success of an institution very much depends on the success of the students. In fact, the success of the students is the measure of the success of the institution. The students have been responsible for making institutions famous across the geopolitical boundaries. Traditionally, alumni associations have been keeping track of alumni for various academic and nonacademic reasons and they have been doing a wonderful job. However, recently accreditation boards have started asking questions to the departments about graduates and their success in the field of study. This is becoming one of the important criteria for the evaluation of the academic program. So it has become necessary to collect appropriate data on the alumni of the department for further analysis. The accreditation board requires department to collect data on graduates periodically to perform analysis and to keep track of the progress department is doing in educating students. The accreditation board also requires department to collect feedback from the graduates to make necessary corrections. So, data collection and analysis are becoming important activities for the accreditation. Thus, graduate statistics has become vital for the accreditation of the program. This system is designed to serve this purpose [1][2][3][7][11][12].

The Followup System presented in this paper is developed for the department to create a database of students who have graduated from the department. The system would allow displaying, adding, and modifying information of graduate students whenever necessary. The database created by the system can be used for further query or statistical analysis. Since the system is user friendly and menu driven, it is easy to use without any specific technical knowledge. The system can be used as a tool in tracking the progress of the departments regarding educating their students and the impact the departments have made in the students’ careers. In this paper, the researcher explains the model, architecture, and implementation of the system, as well as gives examples of some outputs produced by the system.
**SYSTEM MODEL**

The system model is essentially composed of three modules: User Interface Module, Processing Module, and Output Module.

**User Interface Module**

The user interface module contains the mouse and keyboard event handlers to collect information from the graduates regarding their username and password in the login procedure and information they wish to share with the department.

**Processing Module**

The processing module consists of several submodules, each one responsible for processing specific tasks, such as performing the security check on the user’s login name and password, accessing the data from the database, processing information entered by the users, constructing necessary queries from user inputs, processing queries on the database, and performing necessary updates for the databases.

**Output Module**

The output module is responsible for tasks such as displaying the results of the queries in the appropriate formats on the screen, providing warning or error messages, as well as saving the necessary user input, and the results created by the processing module [3] [7] [8] [10] [11] [14].

![Figure 1. Procedural Architecture of the System Model](image)

**IMPLEMENTATION**

A prototype of the system is implemented in the Windows environment. The graphic user interface is menu driven, and implemented as menus, using the current GUI techniques. User dialogues are implemented to collect user input as needed. The system has a login procedure as a security measure to prevent from unauthorized use.
The heart of the system is the processing module that is implemented by the main processor. The processor consists of several subprocessors that are responsible for specific tasks such as processing user inputs and performing necessary computations. Security check in login process is implemented using the table lookup procedure. Database processing is done to retrieve the required information about users. Query processing is implemented using the database query processing procedures.

Output module is implemented by the display procedures using data aware controls. It displays the appropriate user information in the user friendly format, which is generated by the main processor [2][4][5][6][8][9][11][12][13][14].

**TESTING**

The system can perform various tasks for users such as View the information, Add the information, and Edit the information. The system also allows the users to Search for graduates and View the contact information. The testing of this system was done on more than one data set. The following screen shots show a typical user session starting with the login menu followed by the Main Menu, View information, Add information, and the Search procedure containing the user dialogue for the search criteria and the results of the search.

![Figure 2. Screen Shot of “System Login”](image)
Figure 3. Screen Shot of “Main Menu”

Figure 4. Screen Shot of “View Information”
Figure 5. Screen Shot of “Add Information”

Figure 6. Screen Shot of “User Dialogue in Search Procedure”
CONCLUSION

The Followup system is useful for both department and graduates in keeping track of the progress of the graduates. The system can provide useful information about graduates for presentation and analysis purposes. The database created by the system can be used for further query or statistical analysis. The system is standalone, user friendly, menu driven and easy to use without any specific technical knowledge. The system is going to be an invaluable tool for the department and graduates.

REFERENCES