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CMU Balance

Design Your Space at Carnegie Mellon

Project Design

CMU Balance is a web application designed to encourage undergraduate students to use their academic resources and manage their time more effectively. The site is sponsored by the Fifth Year Scholar Program and allows students to:

- 1. Register for EXCEL online
- 2. Create calendars that integrate their courses and extracurricular activities
- 3. Analyze weekly time use compared with recommended best practices

CMU Balance also serves as a management solution for the EXCEL Collaborative Learning Group Program. Program administrators can set up EXCEL sessions quickly, monitor the sessions more closely, and have more streamlined communication with the EXCEL Leaders.

CMU Balance relies on many current CMU online resources, including Google Apps, Schedule of Classes, and works in collaboration with ScottyLabs, a student organization that extends CMU resources and makes them more widely available within the community.

Project Features

Course Master Availability

Times	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
11:00	0	0	1	0	No room
11:30	0	0	1	1	No room
12:00	0	0	1	1	No room
12:30	0	0	0	0	No room
1:00	EXCEL (0)	1	1	0	1
1:30	EXCEL (0)	1	1	2	0
2:00	0	1	1	2	0
2:30	0	0	1	2	0
3:00	0	0	1	2	1
3:30	0	0	1	1	1
4:00	1	No room	1	1	1
4:30	1	2	1	1	0
5:00	1	2	No room	EXCEL (1)	0

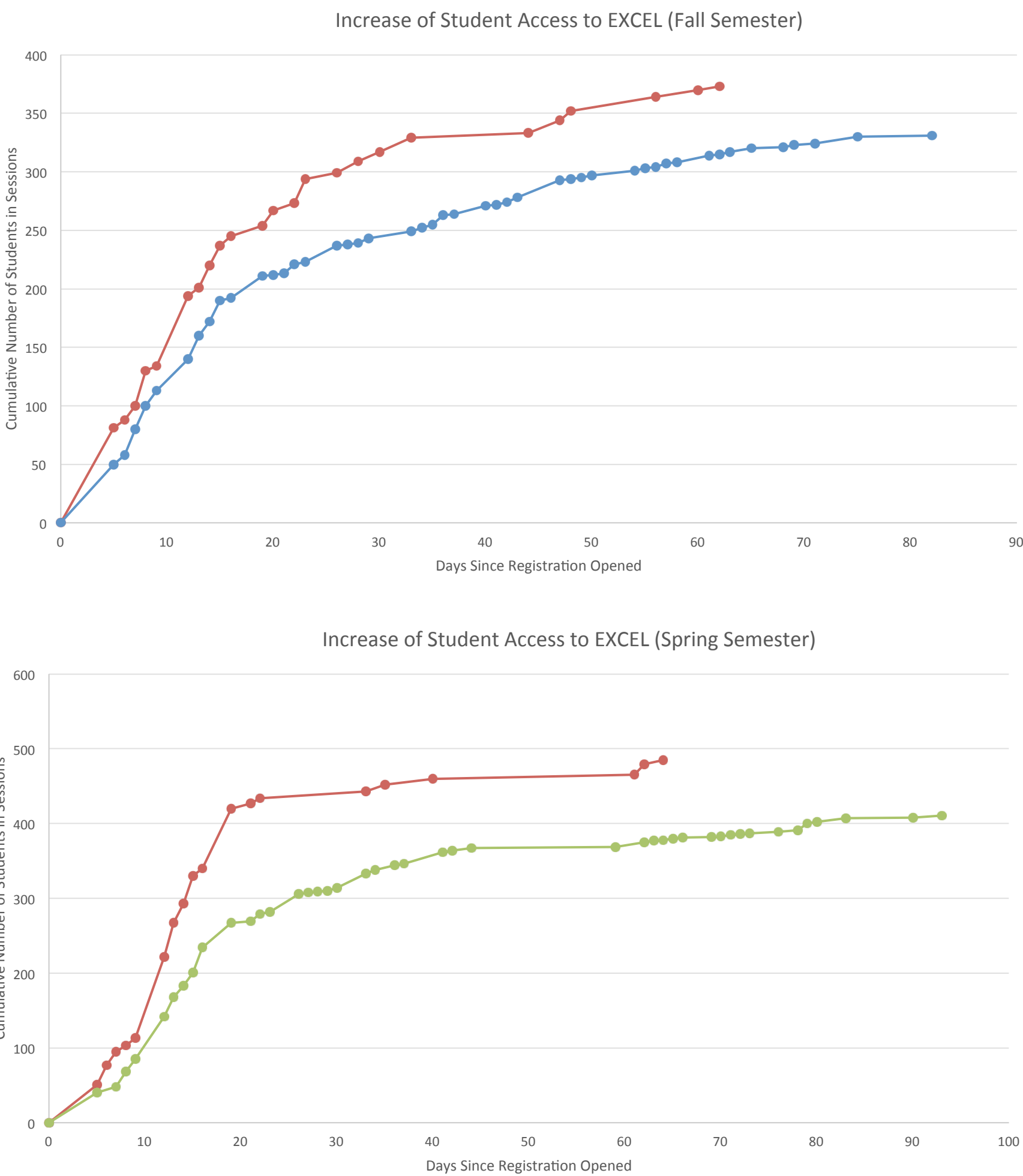
Student Availability

Times	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
11:00	Busy	Class	Busy	Class	Busy	Class
11:30	Busy	Class	Busy	Class	Busy	Class
12:00	Busy	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class
12:30	Busy	Class	Class	Class	Class	Busy
1:00	Busy	Class	Class	Class	Class	Busy
1:30	Busy	Class	Free	Class	Class	Busy
2:00	Busy	Busy	Class	Free	Class	Busy
2:30	Busy	Busy	Class	Free	Class	Free
3:00	Busy	Busy	Busy	Free	Free	Free
3:30	Busy	Busy	Class	Free	Free	Free
4:00	Busy	Busy	Class	Free	Free	Free
4:30	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy
5:00	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy	Busy

Attendance Records

Student	Status	Minutes	Sessions	No Shows
Breeanna Ebert	Confirmed	130	2	0
Mia Han	Confirmed	130	2	0
Hannah Preston	Confirmed	60	1	0
Melodee Li	Confirmed	130	2	0
Sandra Sajeev	Confirmed	130	2	0
Hale Konopka	Confirmed	130	2	0
Sarah Park	Confirmed	130	2	0
Roshan Nair	Confirmed	130	2	0
Praxis Bays	Confirmed	130	2	0

Project Evaluation



The data in the charts above show that with the help of CMU Balance, not only did the volume of students in the program increase, but also the rate at which students were entering the program and using the resources increased as well. This shows one of the many areas in which the online system assisted the department in being more efficient in its operation.

Lessons Learned

- Number of EXCEL groups increased by 43% from the 2014-15 academic year to 2015-16, when CMU Balance launched. This is both a result of the increase in the number of students in the university and an increase in access to the resources through CMU Balance.
- The site helped to ensure that more enrolled students were active participants by ensuring that inactive students could be identified quickly and that access to sessions increased for waitlisted students.
- Communication between EXCEL Leaders and the Supervisors is much more streamlined and efficient.
- Access and visibility of resources encourages students to enroll.
- Custom technological management solutions can greatly impact academic lives of students, faculty, and staff.

Future Plans

- Integrate the time management tools with the academic support resources available on the site
- Allow students to share their schedules with friends
- Sync schedule with student Google Apps account
- Work with advisors to integrate this tool into first-year programming

