

Finding the best application for students to manage time and organize assignments

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Prepared for: Dr. Standifer
Prepared by: Kealyn McCardle

Executive Summary

This report investigates the feasibility of four applications designed to manage time and organize tasks. In the digital world, students and professionals have taken to trading a calendar for an app to track their responsibilities. The goal is to find the app best suited for students. The categories considered for each app included:

- Time and ease of setup
- Time required for upkeep
- In-app features
- Effectiveness

These metrics were chosen to best describe and evaluate the app for its intended use. Effectiveness was the metric I used to describe likelihood of the app becoming a useful habit in the user's life.

Introduction

I researched four different apps to recommend the best one. The apps were Todoist, Calendly, myHomework, and Google calendar. These were chosen based on popularity and search engine optimization.

My participants are college students between the ages of 20 and 28 years old. These individuals all have jobs in addition to being either full-time or part-time students. My participants were volunteers and were chosen to reflect the lifestyles of modern students.

Methods

I used each app personally for 2 weeks as well as conducted a user test for each app.

My usage

For each application, I tracked how long it took for me to set up and begin using the app. I also was aware of how long it took me to upkeep and organize the tasks. I took notes on in-app features to determine which one had the most to offer. I finally decided which app I was most likely to keep using.

User Test

The user test was organized as such: For each app, two people were asked to use the app to manage their time for 3 days and complete a survey. The [survey](#) gathered numeric and commentary data to analyze each app. The survey took ratings on each category.

Results

Spectrum: The participants were asked to rate on a scale of 1-5, 1 being the best, and 5 being the worst for each category. See the survey for more information.

Calendly

Calendly was a middle-of-the-road option from my gathered data. Average in ratings for time for setup and upkeep, Calendly seemed to be a fine option. The users who rated this app were happy with the in-app features but admitted to the unlikeliness of them continuing use of the app.

Todoist

Todoist was shown to be difficult to set up because of a cluttered interface. Adding additional tasks to the app seemed easy but the features received an average rating of 3. The likelihood of continued use of this app was the lowest among participants.

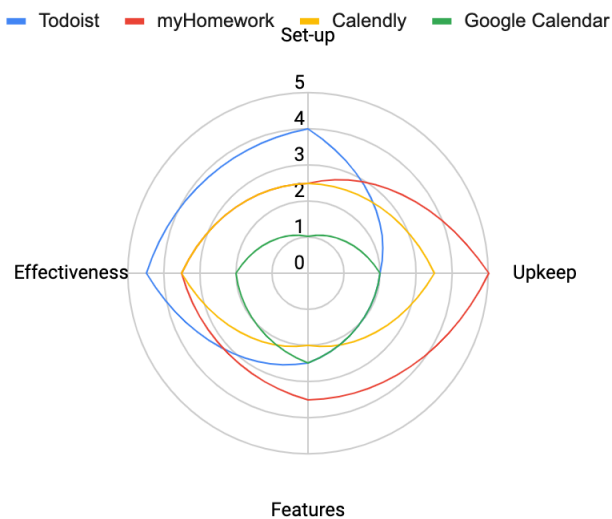
Google Calendar

Google calendar is one of the most well-known and used apps for managing time. Google calendar was rated easiest to set-up on account of being able to link existing Google accounts to the calendar. Adding tasks was also efficient and the users were satisfied with the features. Google calendar received the highest likelihood for continued use.

MyHomework

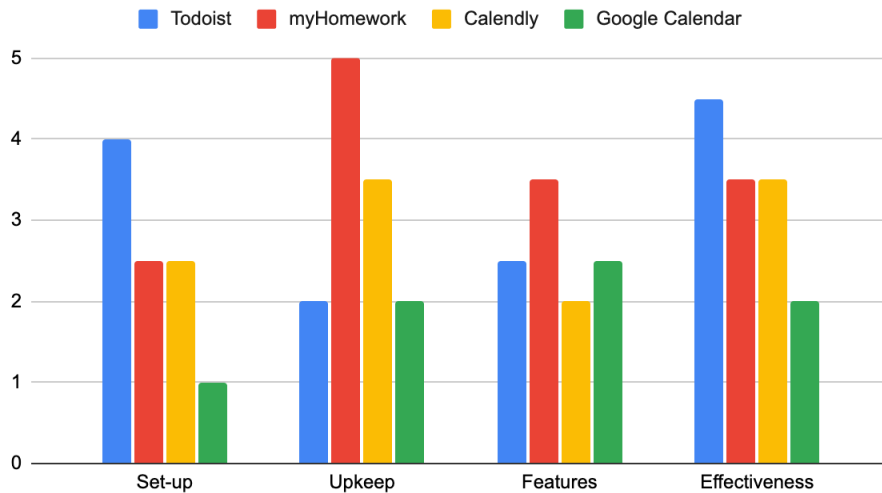
MyHomework was reported to be easy to set-up but received the worst ratings in time for upkeep. Both the users and I found it difficult to organize tasks. In-app features were satisfactory, but the likelihood of continued use was low due to the difficulty of upkeep.

Todoist, myHomework, Calendly and Google Calendar



The chart above shows the different categories and how the apps measured up against each other.

Todoist, myHomework, Calendly and Google Calendar



The chart shows the ratings in each category for each app.

Recommendations

Based on my collected data, I have chosen to recommend Google calendar as the best option for students to organize their time and assignments. Google calendar was my personal favorite for each category and, per the user test, was rated the lowest in each category (low rating = better performance). Google calendar was the fastest to set up and the easiest to keep up with. The features met the users' needs. Google calendar is my recommendation for students wanting to manage their time.