UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA MALAYSIA

UiTM Student's Timetable Manager for Android (UTiMa)

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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful.

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon Prophet Muhammad.

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INTRODUCTION

1.0. Research Background

With technological advancement nowadays pushing more and more towards mobility, research and development for mobile platform has been intensely rapid, and most of all, the innovation for mobile phones have been the focus of attention. This phenomenon generally inspired the emergence of more advance and powerful *Smartphones* in terms of both hardware and software hitting the market shelves. After its debut in the 1990s era, smartphone defines the way how people connect to the rest of the world (Fran Berkman, 2012). Today, smartphones are packed with uniquely designed features and the pocket – sized devices are really starting to revolutionize the way we live.

According to Nielsen data (March 2012), about half of the mobile phones used in the United States (U.S.) nowadays are Smartphones, and the numbers are still growing. On top of that, the top five Smartphone manufacturers shipped close to half a billion devices worldwide in 2011 (Fran Berkman, 2012).

As Smartphones are attracting lots of attention from consumer nowadays, mobile application development gets the same share of increasing popularity (Priya Viswanathan). Although there are quite a number of platform available, developers tend to choose between the two (2) most sought – after mobile OS' today, the Apple's iOS and Google's Android (Priya Viswanathan). Hence, this occurrence is what inspired the initiation of this research paper and project development.

Due to its importance, timetable or schedule needs to be kept very closely and dearly by ones side at every given moment. Most of the time, they are too fragile to survive the jostling nature of daily activities, and henceforth, becoming a liability. For students, specifically university undergraduates, is in dire need for a proper timetable management. Therefore, by completing this research and project development, it is hoped to provide university students,

which in this case is the Mara University of Technology (UiTM), with a portable and practical timetable manager.

1.1. Problem Statement

At current times, students at Mara University of Technology (UiTM) have no application to build and store their class timetable. Till now, the timetable is only available online via the Integrated Course Registration & Scheduling System (ICReSS, http://icress.uitm.edu.my/).

Through ICReSS website however, students can only view the timetable, and they have to manually jot down or create the timetable using ones creativity. As juicy as it might sound, this increases the tendency of making mistakes and the timetable is not easy to store and to bring along. Furthermore, if changes occur in the timetable, students are not being notified by ICReSS. They need to frequently check, at least until all the subjects gets permanently rooted.

As far as students are concern, most of them have no continuous access to the internet, and although there are Wi-Fi services available throughout the campus, it is often too slow and too far from convenience for students use. And, despite the number of smartphone phone users among students is increasing, the majority of them do not subscribe for additional data plans which still means, zero internet access. Therefore, a system or an application that can run locally without the needs of internet connection is deemed appropriate.

Moreover, the application will notify the users for changes on their timetable, the very next time their device is connected to the internet. What they need to do is just install an updated version of the timetable, and re – register the course.