

# Ulysses: Scheduler of the Mind

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## 1 The Project

- A web-based tool created to schedule volunteers for an event
- Created for use by the Odyssey of the Mind competition
- Organizers can easily create jobs, time slots, and manually schedule volunteers
- Scheduler algorithm schedules volunteers to jobs automatically

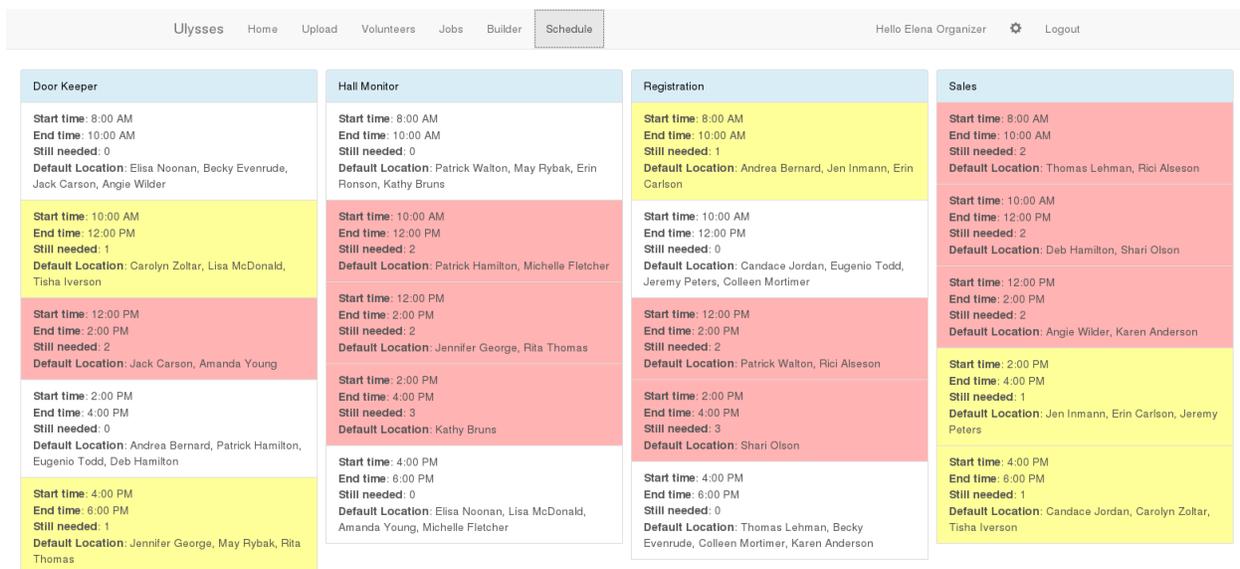


Figure 1: A generated schedule with some slots full, partially full, and mostly empty

## 2 The Tools

- JavaScript with MongoDB, Express, Angular JS, and Node.js (MEAN)
- Grunt build system, Bootstrap, Yeoman AngularJS-Fullstack Generator
- GitHub and Git for version control, Atom and WebStorm for writing code
- Protractor, Karma, and Jasmine for end-to-end and unit testing
- Pair programming and agile software development practices

### 3 Project Statistics

- Four main iterations over a period of eight weeks
- Worked in teams of four through seven
- Over 15,000 lines of code and more than 250 commits

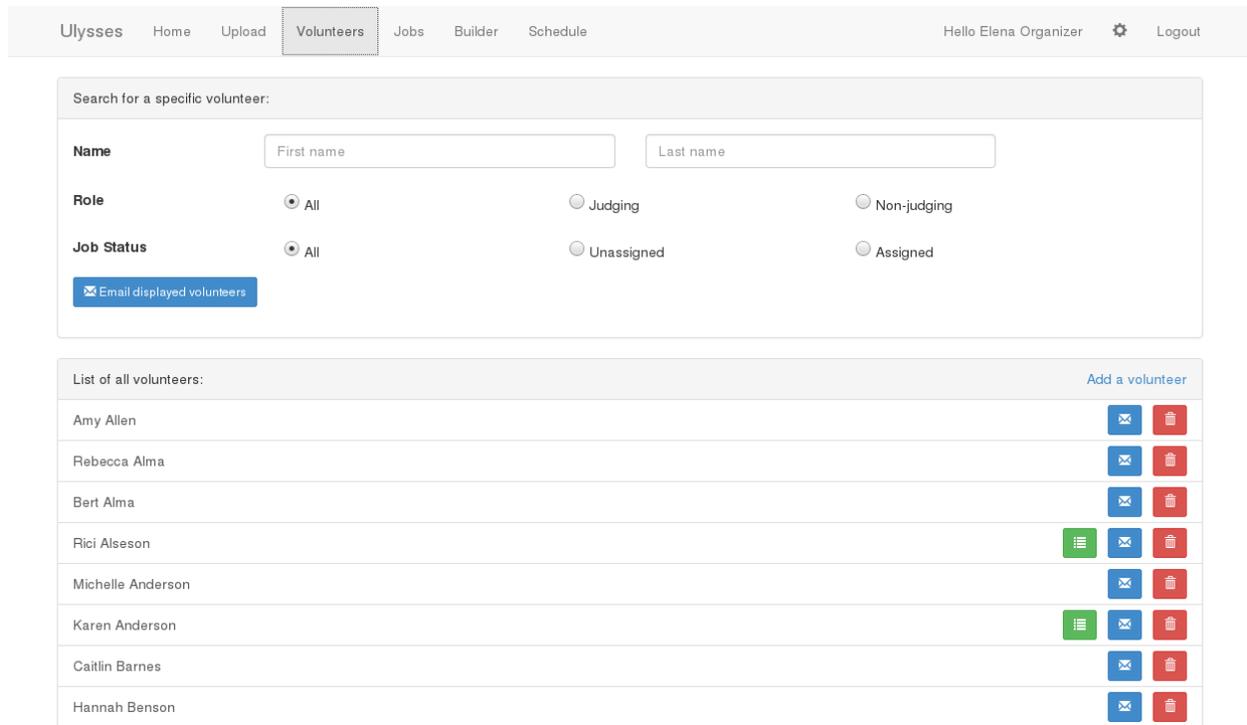


Figure 2: The list of volunteers with schedule viewing, emailing and sorting abilities

### 4 My Contributions

- Generated initial project, planned the layout and nature of time slots and jobs
- Designed and programmed the master schedule view
- Developed editing abilities and design of the volunteer detail page
- Implemented the ability to assign locations to jobs and volunteers to certain locations
- Helped implement the scheduling algorithm to schedule volunteers to the organizer-defined time slots while checking for conflicts
- Wrote initial end-to-end testing of the website along with a guide on how to add more end-to-end testing

# 5 Implementations

The screenshot shows the 'Create time slots' form in the Ulysses application. The form is titled 'Create time slots:' and has a 'Create Single Time Slot' link in the top right corner. The form fields are as follows:

- Job Title:** Door Keeper
- Start Time:** 8:00 AM (dropdown menu)
- Shift Length:** 2 Hour (dropdown menu)
- Slots To Create:** 3 (input field)
- End Time:** 2:00 PM
- Volunteers needed:**
  - Lower Green: 2 (input field)
  - Upper Blue: 1 (input field)

A 'Create Time Slots' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

Figure 3: Adding multiple time slots to a job and defining volunteers needed

The screenshot shows the 'Slot Info' and 'Volunteers assigned to this time slot' sections in the Ulysses application. The 'Slot Info' section is titled 'Slot Info:' and has an 'Edit Number of Volunteers Needed' link in the top right corner. The 'Volunteers assigned to this time slot:' section lists three volunteers with their names and locations, and a red trash icon next to each name. The 'Add a volunteer to this time slot:' section has a green message: 'You have successfully added a volunteer to this time slot.' Below the message are two dropdown menus: 'Pick a volunteer' and 'Pick a location', and an 'Add Volunteer' button.

**Slot Info:**

- Job title:** Door Keeper
- Start time:** 8:00 AM
- End time:** 9:00 AM
- Volunteers needed for slot:** 5
- Volunteers still needed:** 2
  - Lower Green: 1
  - Upper Blue: 1

**Volunteers assigned to this time slot:**

Rici Alseson: Lower Green	
Tisha Iverson: Lower Green	
Thomas Lehman: Upper Blue	

**Add a volunteer to this time slot:**

You have successfully added a volunteer to this time slot.

**Pick a volunteer:**

**Pick a location:**

**Add Volunteer**

Figure 4: Adding volunteers to locations in a certain time slot

Ulysses Home Upload Volunteers Jobs Builder Schedule Hello Elena Organizer Logout

Viewing Volunteer: [Enter Editing Mode](#) | [Back to volunteer list](#)

**First Name:** 
**Job Preference 1:**

**Last Name:** 
**Job Preference 2:**

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Assigned jobs:

**Job title:** Registration  
**Start time:** 8:00 AM  
**End time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** Default Location

**Job title:** Door Keeper  
**Start time:** 2:00 PM  
**End time:** 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Default Location

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Child's Times:

**Description:** Division I, Problem 4  
**Start time:** 11:45 AM  
**End time:** 12:45 PM

Figure 5: The layout and editing abilities for volunteer details with list of assigned jobs

```

149 // next, loop through volunteers and check for team conflicts
150 Team.query({}, function(teams) {
151   volunteers.forEach(function(vol, i, theVolArray) {
152     vol.commitments = [];
153     if(vol.childTeam.length > 0) {
154       // create array of child team / division stuff to look through
155       var array = vol.childTeam.split(',');
156       array.forEach(function(item, index, theArray) {
157         item = item.trim();
158         item = item.replace(/#/, '');
159         var memberNumber = item.split(' ')[0];
160         var problemNumber = item.split(' ')[1].split('/')[0];
161         var divisionNumber = romanize(item.split(' ')[1].split('/')[1]);
162         theArray[index] = {member: memberNumber, 'problem': problemNumber, 'division': divisionN
163       });
164     }
165     // loop through each value in the array and check for a team conflict
166     array.forEach(function(item) {
167       teams.forEach(function(team) {
168         if(team.problem == item.problem && team.division == item.division && team.teamNumber == item
169           var startTTime = subtract35Minutes(parseInt(team.longTime.replace(/:(\d+)-/, '')));
170           var endTime = add45Minutes(parseInt(team.longTime.replace(/:(\d+)-/, '')));
171         }
172         if(startTime < 600) {
173           startTime += 1200;
174         }
175         if(endTime < 600) {
176           endTime += 1200;
177         }
178       }
179     }
180     //console.log("Old: ", team.longTime, "new: ", longTime);
181     vol.commitments.push({'start': startTime, 'end': endTime});
182   }
183 });
184 }
185 //console.log(array);
186 theVolArray[i] = vol;
187 });
188 });
189 // now add slots to commitments
190 Slot.query({}, function(slots) {
191   volunteers.forEach(function(volunteer) {
192     volunteer.slots.forEach(function(slot) {
193       slots.forEach(function(slot2) {
194         if(slot == slot2_id) {
195           volunteer.commitments.push({'start': slot2.start, 'end': slot2.end });
196         }
197       }
198     });
199   });
200 });
201 //
202 });
203 //
204 });
205 var volunteersCopy = [];
206 var duplicatedSlots = []; // slots that we need to add volunteers to
207 var final = []; // our final list of volunteers tied to slot ids and locations
208 // loop through each slot and create a new list of slots tied to locations
209 slots.forEach(function(slot) {
210   slot.locations.forEach(function(location) {
211     for(var i = 0; i < location.needed; i++) {
212       duplicatedSlots.push({'locationID': location.locationID, 'slotID': slot._id, 'start': slot
213     }
214   });
215 });
216 shuffle(duplicatedSlots);
217 // find a volunteer for each slot
218 duplicatedSlots.forEach(function(slot) {
219   var vol = self.findVolunteer(volunteers, slot);
220   if(vol) {
221     final.push({'volunteer': vol, 'slotID': slot.slotID, 'locationID': slot.locationID});
222   }
223 }
224 var index = volunteers.indexOf(vol);
225 if(index > -1) {
226   volunteers.splice(index, 1);
227   vol.commitments.push({'start': slot.start, 'end': slot.end});
228   volunteersCopy.push(vol);
229 }
230 }
231 if(volunteers.length == 0) {
232   volunteersCopy.forEach(function(vol2) {
233     volunteers.push(vol2);
234   });
235   volunteersCopy = [];
236 }
237 console.log("Final: ", final);
238 // Loop through and organize final by slots
239 slots.forEach(function(slot) {
240   var data = [];
241   final.forEach(function(element) {
242     if(element.slotID == slot._id) {
243       data.push(element);
244     }
245   });
246 });
247 var vols = slot.volunteers;

```

Figure 6: Code for the scheduling algorithm written via pair programming