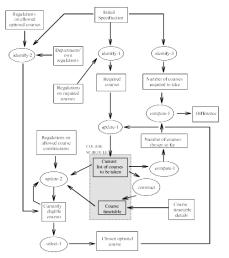
Course Selector

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Helping students choose valid combinations of courses

Description:

- ◆ Students in the Department of Business Studies at the University of Edinburgh have wide flexibility in their course choices
 - ♦but timetable clashes rule out some courses
 - ◆and Department regulations require some outside courses to be taken for 2 or 3 years.
- ◆ Directors of Studies used to spend 15-20 minutes explaining this to each of 50-60 students.
- ◆ Course Selector is a knowledge based system that advises on legal course combinations and sensible course choices.



Model showing inferences & domain knowledge

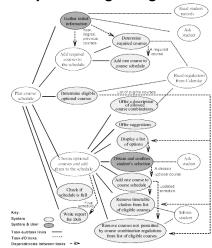


Benefits:

- ♦ Students no longer needed to navigate through the 800-page University Calendar.
- ◆ Automatically found timetable clashes (including one between two required courses for a joint degree).
- ◆ Directors of Studies now spent 5 minutes per student in the first week of the academic year instead of 15-20 minutes.
- ◆ Students can keep a disk of course choices from previous years to reduce the input required in later years.

Technical approach:

- ◆Knowledge acquired from one interview and from the University Calendar.
- ♦ Knowledge analysed and system designed using KADS methodology.
- ◆ System implemented using CLIPS, "stripped down" for delivery on student lab PCs.
- ◆Used 'negative truth maintenance' course Y was marked as *un*available due to clash with course X, unless course X was deselected.
- ◆Entire project took 8 man weeks.
- ◆ Success due to good methodology and structure-preserving design.



Model showing control & interactions



AIAI and the University of Edinburgh Management School http://www.aiai.ed.ac.uk/project/courseselector/

