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Timetables Are a Waste of Time (Even if You Use a Spreadsheet)

People spend a lot of time creating timetables for students, courses, events, and so on, only to have something change which renders the timetable useless.

/24-7PressRelease.com/ - February 18, 2005 - Or they find that they have missed something out and have to start over again. This wastes the organisers time and reduces the effectiveness of the timetables. People need a quick and cheap way to produce timetables without having to use their spare time constantly maintaining them. It is common practice for people to use a computer to help but they make the mistake of using a spreadsheet or other general purpose application which does not help to ensure they have included everything, and does not significantly help when circumstances change.

Specialist software does exist for creating timetables but this is often expensive- too expensive for small time users or those on very low budgets. And so people struggle on wasting their evenings producing and revising timetables.

Phemisters Software, a new software company, today announced their first product, PhSchedule (PhS) which allows the easy creation of timetables for any purpose. David Smith, a software engineer with the company, said "We were asked to recommend a cheap timetable package but could not find one which met our client's needs. We developed PhS to fill a gap at the low end of the market."

PhS gives the customer the flexibility they need. It allows the customer to specify naming conventions, resource types (e.g. buses, rooms) and then specific resources (a particular minibus, or a particular room). Then the customer can specify the activities and the people involved in them.

David Smith continued: "Our client worked with special needs individuals and required that (for instance) support for non-ambulant service users be included in the software."

PhS creates a timetable satisfying as many of the user's specifications as possible and will compare many possible timetables to find the one which is most complete. Since people always know best PhS will then allow the user to move people within the timetable to take account of their expertise. Customers can create "what if" timetables to compare what a change in (say) resources might do to a timetable, and quick reports summarise each client's activity allocation.

For additional information or to download a demo, visit our web site at <http://www.phemisters.co.uk>

Phemisters has over 20 years experience in the software industry. Based in Livingston in West Lothian they are ideally suited to provide computer support and custom designed software to the Lothians in Scotland. For more information visit our web site at www.phemisters.co.uk.