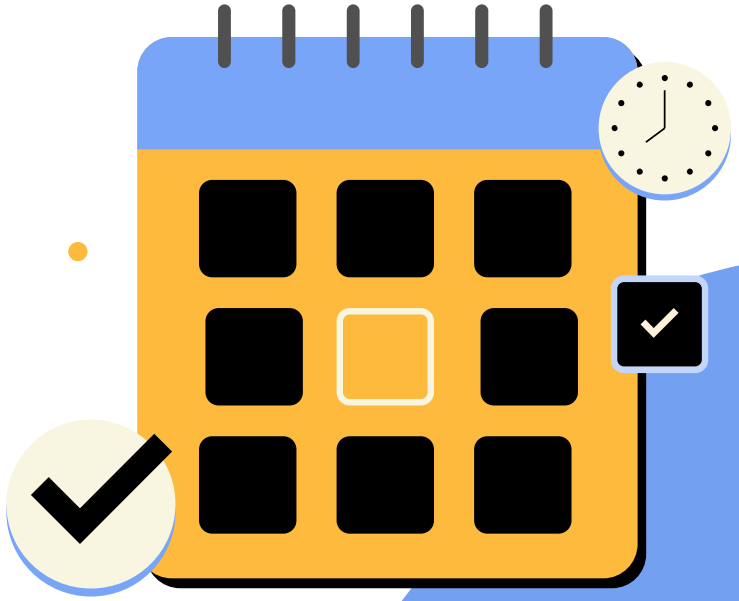
The Slack Scheduler

Haley Carter, Jordan McGuire, Katherine Crocker, Kelly May Sheehan, Maya Giro, Nicollette Higgs



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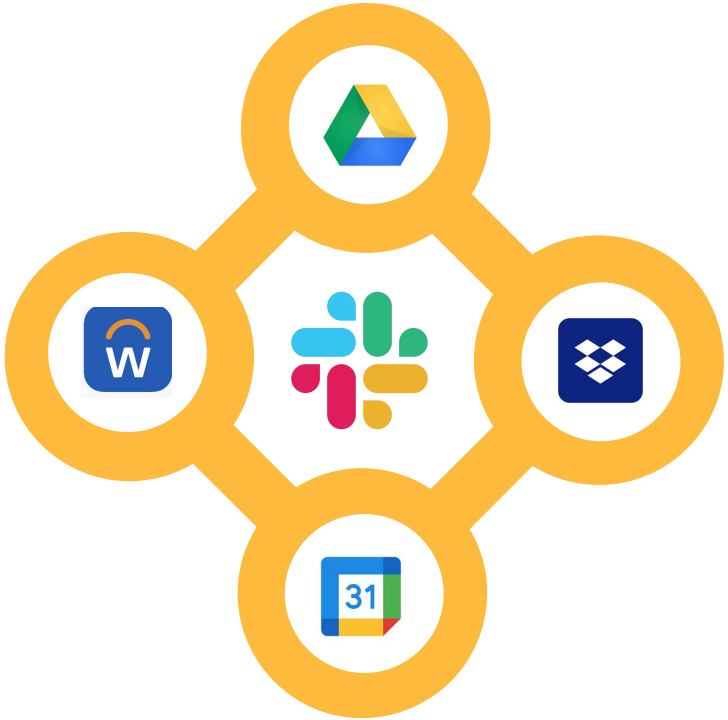
The Problem

A Common Problem

- A common challenge for students is finding time to meet for group projects.
- The process involves several steps:
  - Contacting group members
  - Waiting for them to respond with their availability
  - Picking a time that works for everyone
  - Scheduling the meeting
- How do we streamline this process, especially in the world of remote learning?

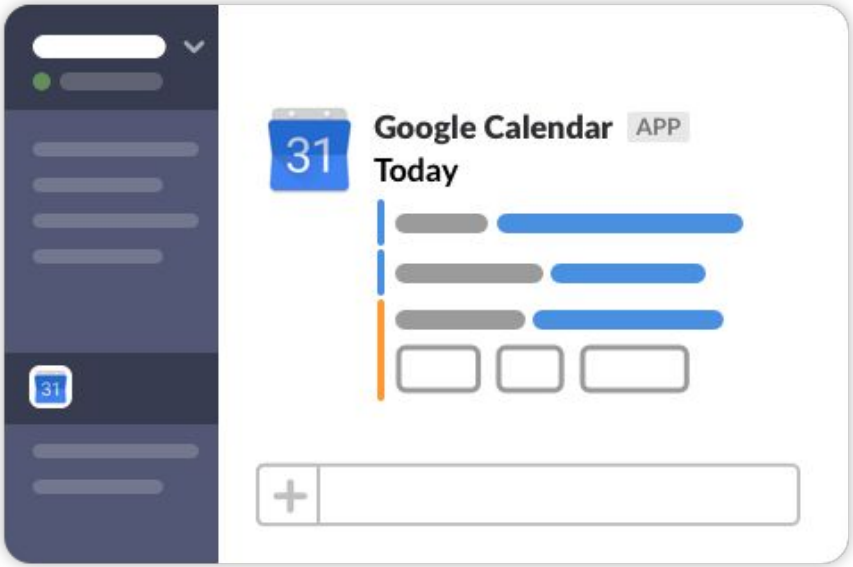
Slack Integration

- Easy to use
- Popular for remote work and learning
- Key features:
  - API: Slackbot
  - Integration: Over 2,400 options for custom apps and software



Scheduling Programs

- **Google Calendar** creates meetings easily within Slack, but still requires the steps of a third-party program:
  - Logging in to your Google account separately
  - Entering your schedule into Google Calendar and having it populate into Slack



Scheduling Programs

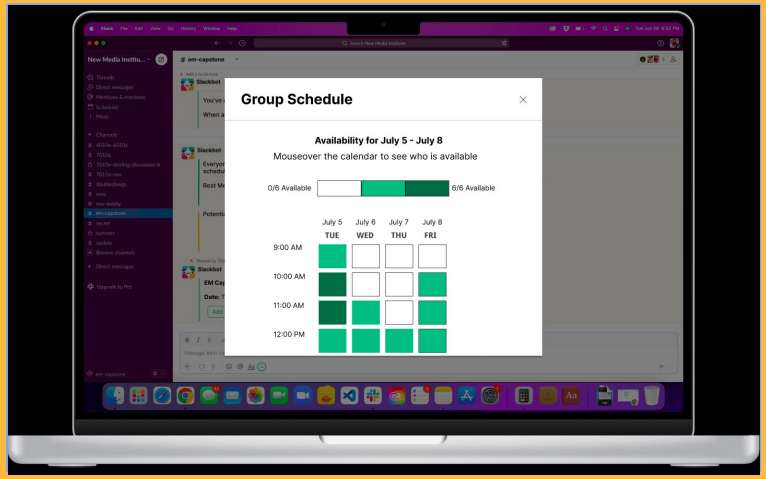
- **When2meet** isn't available for Slack integration, but:
  - It is a simple way to take a survey for best meeting times
  - Effective for large groups
  - Minimalistic and easy to understand
  - Highly visual and easy to process at a glance

2

The Solution

The Slack Scheduler

- **Slack** + **When2meet**
  - Combines the familiarity of Slack with the simplicity of when2meet
  - Uses an automated process to schedule group meetings using Slackbot



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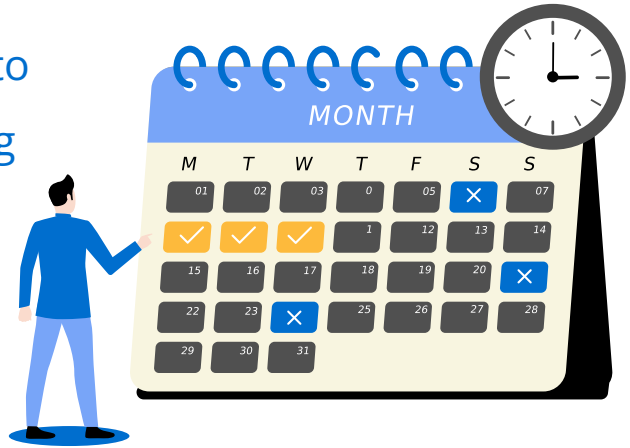
The Sprint

Monday: Defining Our Goal

We want to design a user friendly feature to Slack that enables fast and easy scheduling information sharing



Monday: Sprint Questions

How to make it easily visualized without becoming cluttered or overwhelming on the overlapping times when people can meet?

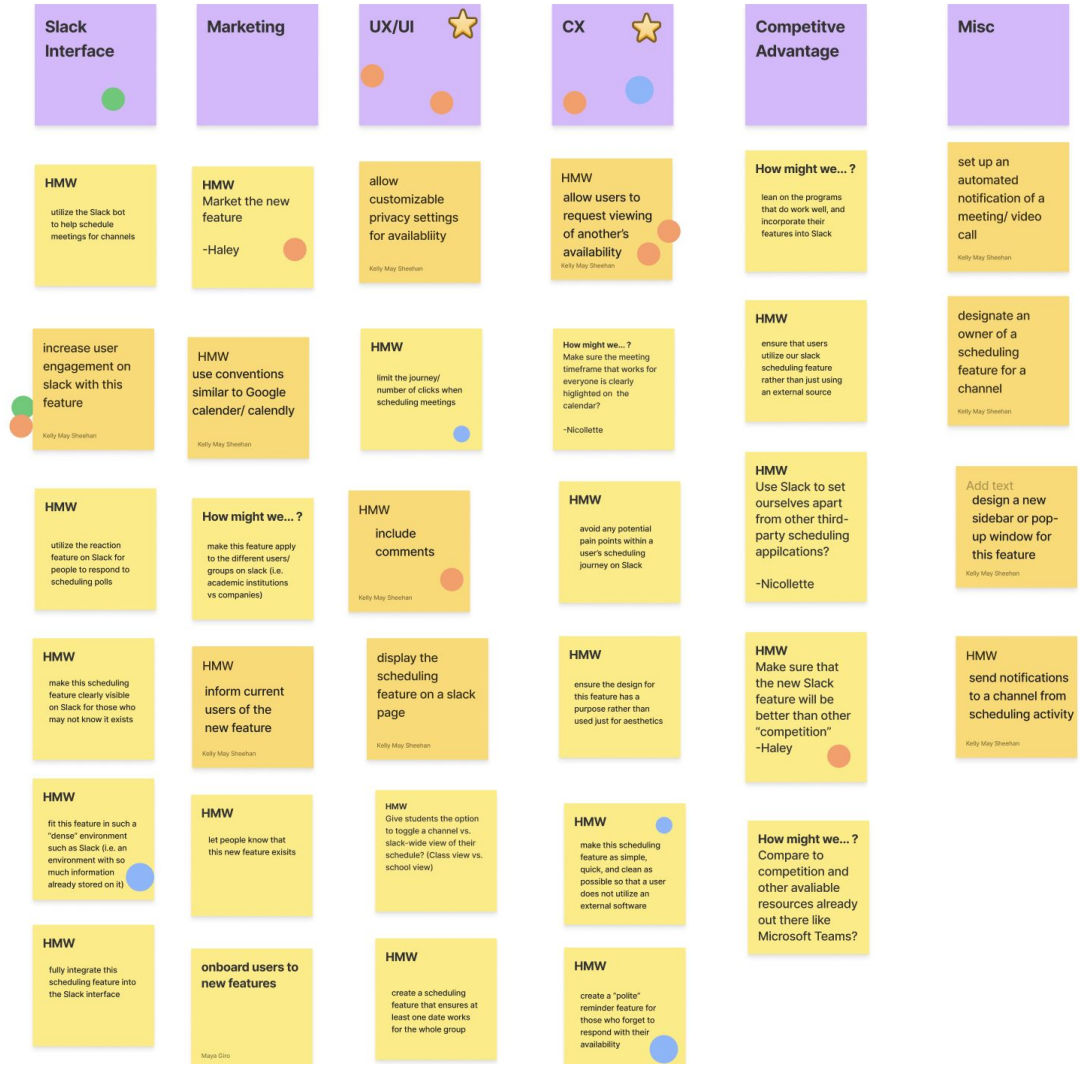
Katherine Crocker

How can we ensure that everyone in a group will input their schedules?

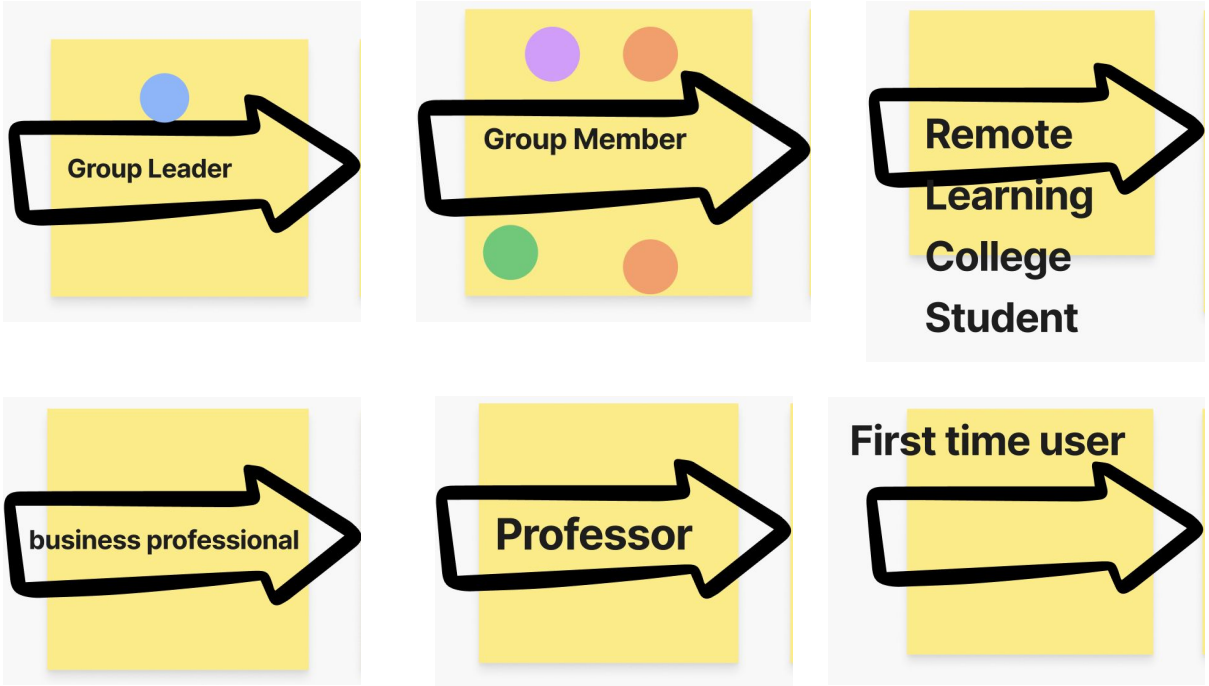
How will this Slack feature/ extension have a competative adavantage over other similar apps?

Monday:
Ask the Experts + HMW

- **Our Experts:**
  - 2 NMI professors
  - 3 EM students
  - Business professional from BCA studios



Monday: Sprint Map Phase 1



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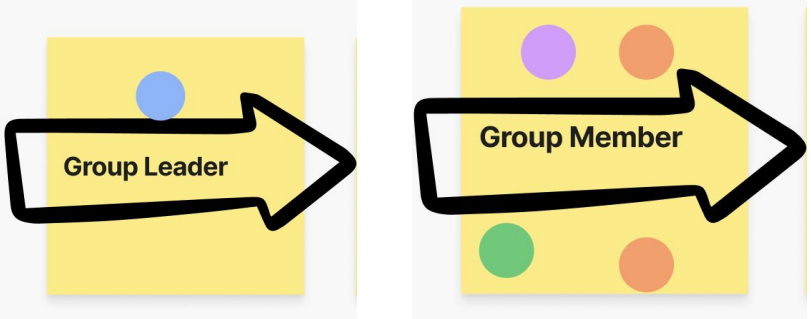
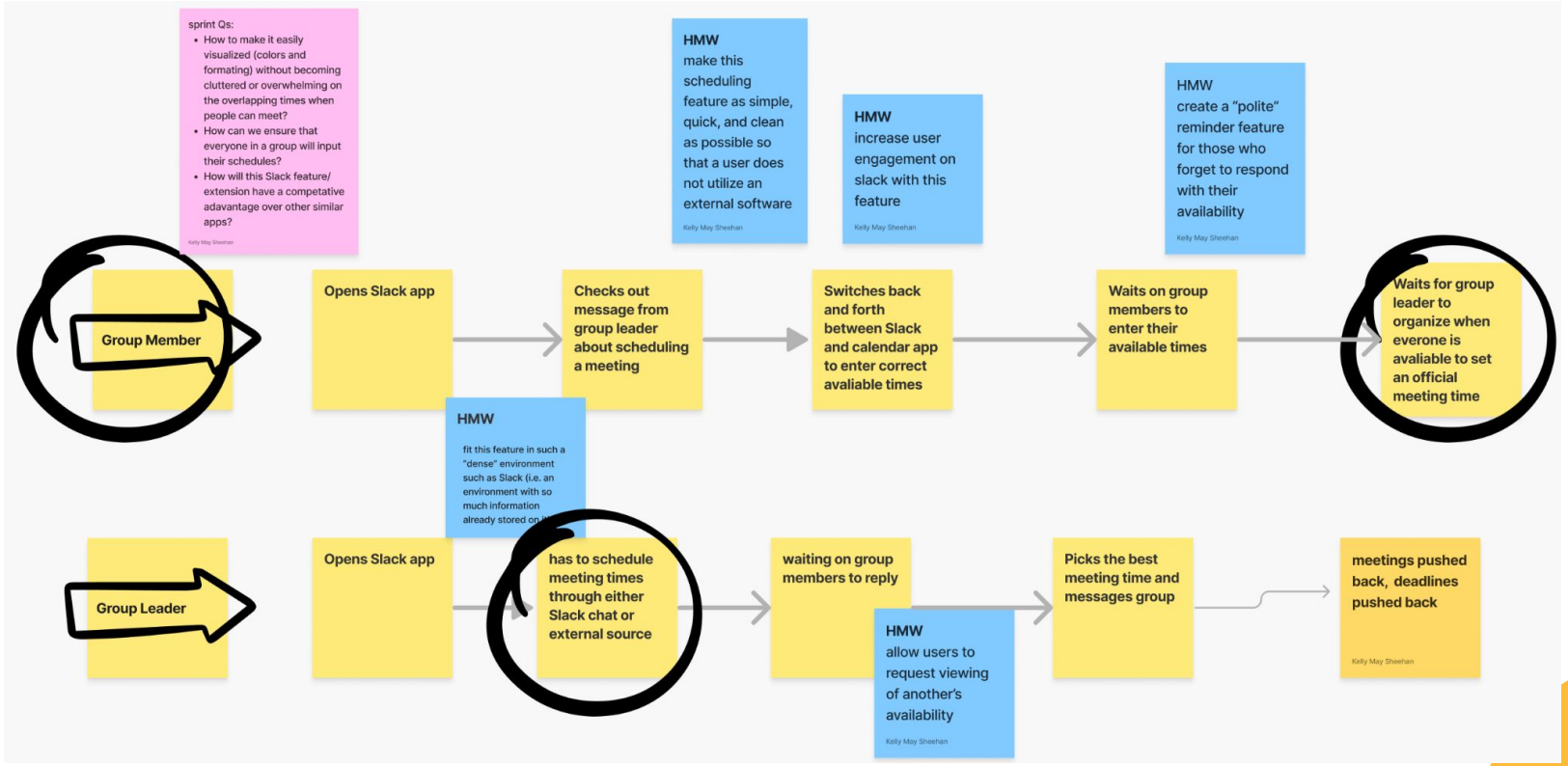
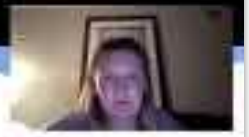


Monday: Sprint Map Phase 2



Tuesday: Lightning Demos!

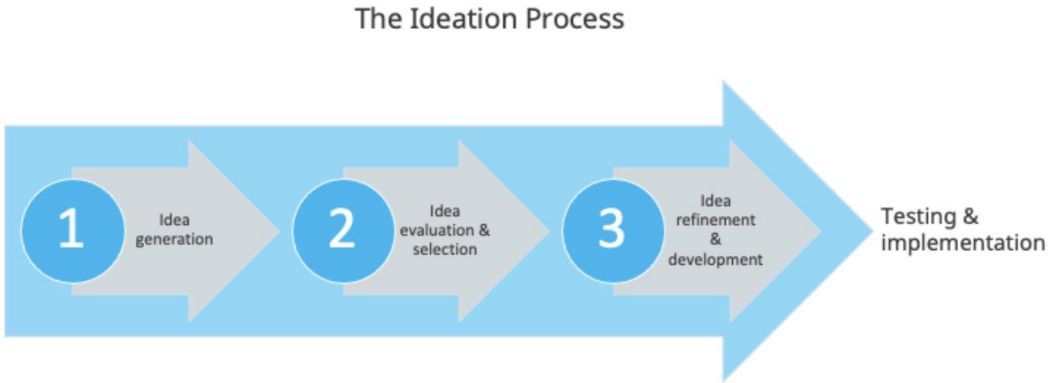


Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

- Each team member show off their inspiring products & experiences

Tuesday: Time to Get Sketch!

- Tuesday begins with ideating!
  - Idea generation
  - Idea evaluation & selection
  - Idea refinement & development
- But first…research!

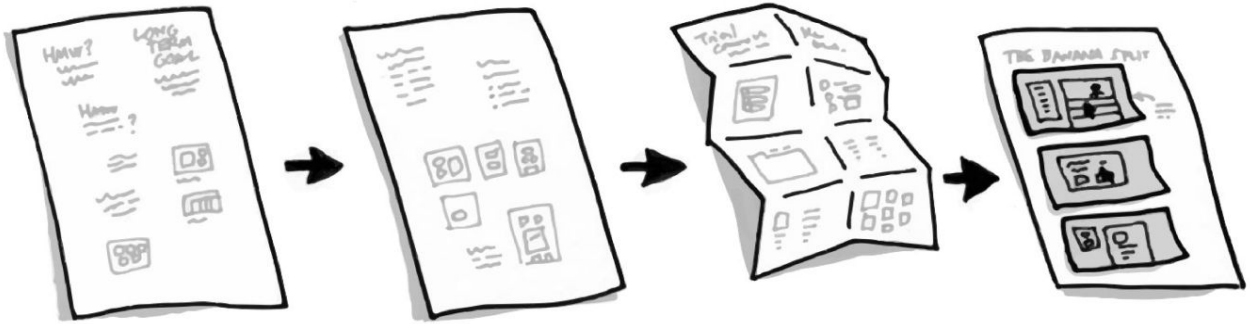


Tuesday: Lightning Demos!

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Each team member show off their inspiring products & experiences

Tuesday: The 4 Step Sketch / Solution Sketch!



Notes:

- Team members write down everything on their mind regarding the problem

Ideas:

- Team members doodle interesting ideas & solutions

Crazy 8:

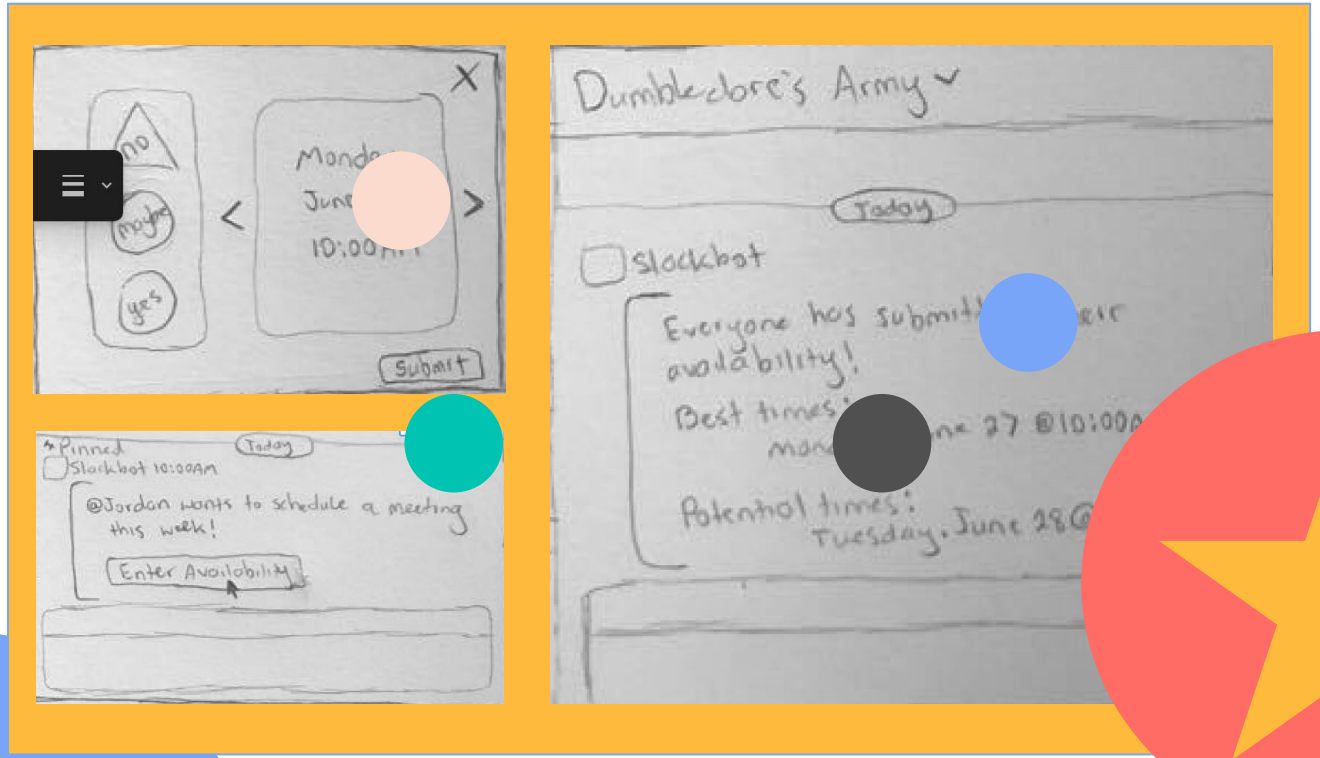
- Team members sketch 8 ideas

Solution Sketch:

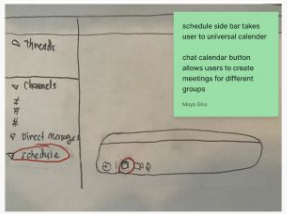
- Polished, self explanatory, works of art! (3 panel drawings on a sheet of letter paper)

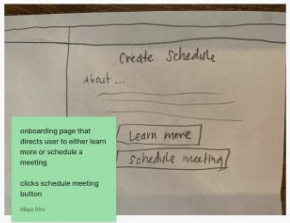
Tuesday is DONE! 🎉🙌

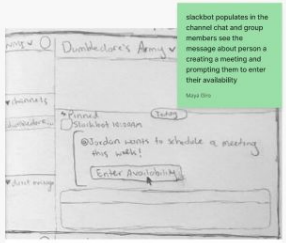
Wednesday: Heat Map!

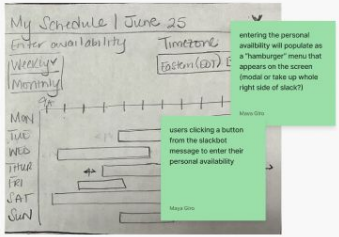


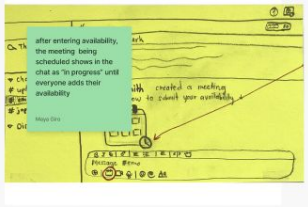
Wednesday: Storyboard

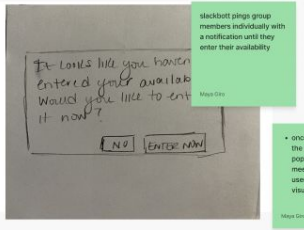


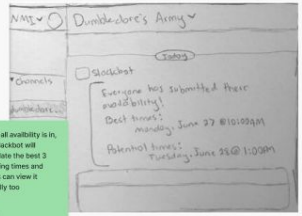


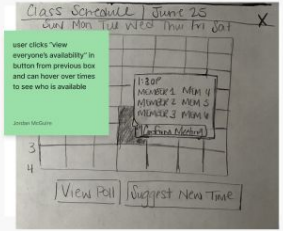


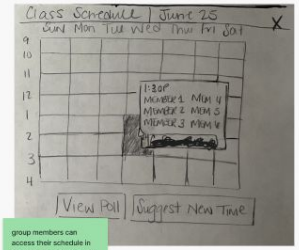


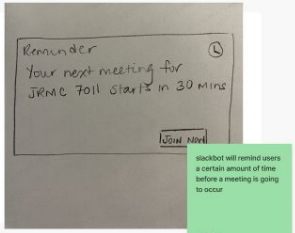




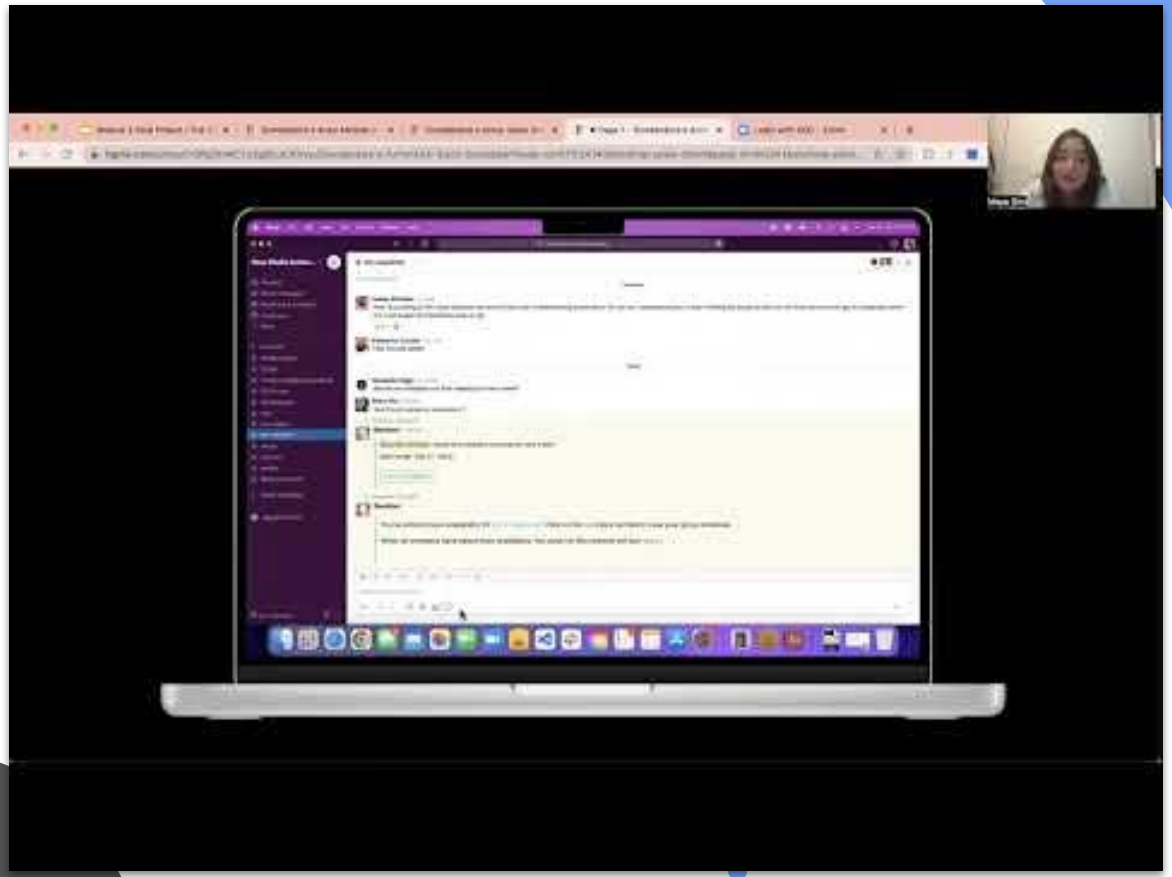








Thursday: Prototype



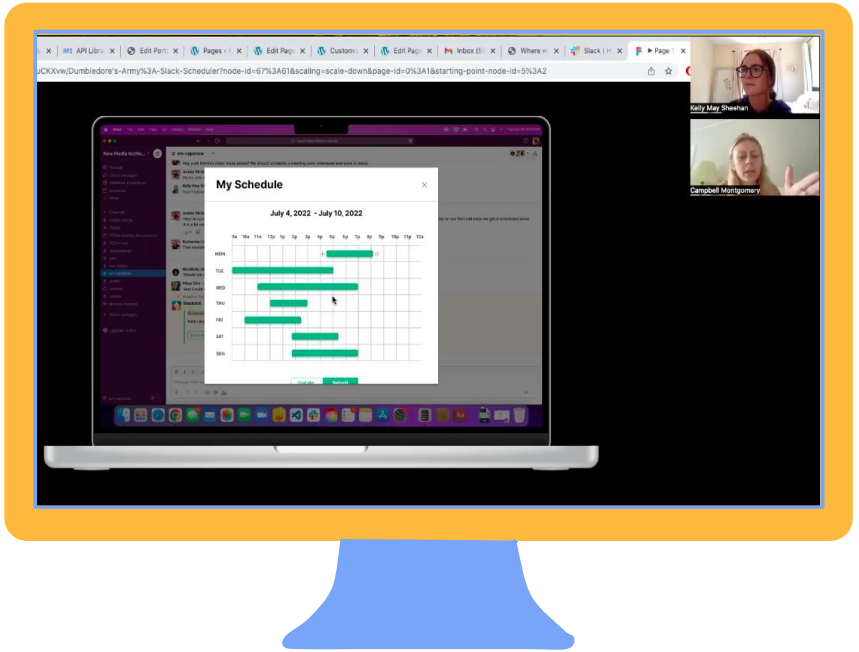
Friday: User Testing

The Set Up:

- Zoom interview, share screen for users to walk through prototype

Focus Areas:

1. Learn More/ Schedule Start Page
2. Scheduling a Meeting
3. My Schedule
4. Red/ Green Clock
5. Group Schedule



Friday: Taking Notes

she was a bit confused about someone having to initially start to schedule a meeting so everyone can enter in their availability

-- if slackbot's role was made more clear, this woudl have been better, maybe if a learn more option was carried over throughout the steps

Kelly May Sheehan

2 - negative

"What's a channel?"

3 - Positive
Yes, she understood the purpose of the red clock vs. green clock.

Nicoliette

She thought this would be very helpful for her graduate classes and very necessary to schedule a meeting in a group! Very positve remarks!

Kelly May Sheehan

2 - neutral

Skipped the tutorial

Our Findings

- Users will skip the “Learn More” button but then get confused later on
- The “Channel” dropdown was confusing when scheduling a meeting
- Some confusion on the process of scheduling a meeting and seeing everyone’s availability

Solutions

- Keep with the description of the feature & add “Learn More” options throughout the process
- Add a definition next to “Channel” in parentheses → (the groups you’re apart of)
- Include a description of the process in a pop up box next to the Scheduling Page

Our Findings

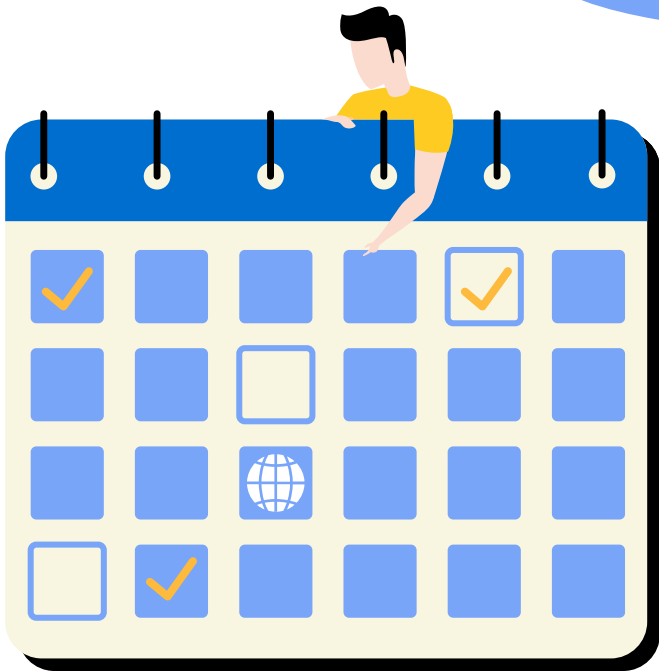
- Understood the red/ green clock symbols, but some had a hard time finding it
- Group Schedule Page was well understood besides colors (white/green)
- Unsure about the extent of the “Polls”

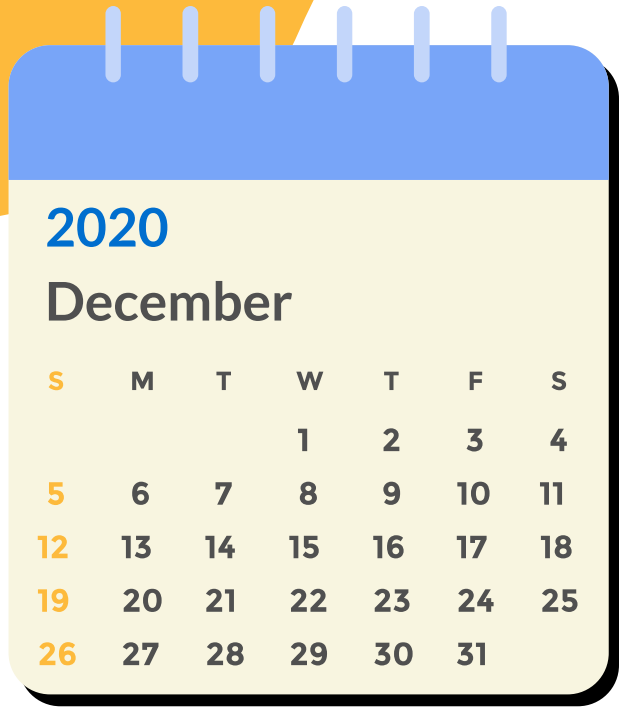
Solutions

- Add an animated arrow pointing from Slackbot’s last message to the Red Clock/ animate the clock
- Include definitions of the colors
  → white = unavailable
  green = available
- Include a prototype of “Polls” and include a pop up box to explain it

Conclusion

- We believe the Scheduler has great potential to solve the issue of organizing group schedules and creating meetings within Slack.
- With a few adjustments, and more testing, the prototype may become a reality!





Thanks

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