Student Grade Reporter

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Abstract

Student Grade Reporter (SGR) is a Java application that allows an instructor to download D2L course grades to an Excel workbook. The application reads the workbook and creates the course categories and assignments for each category. The instructor can add in the percent amount that would automatically send out an email to the student, their advisor and the instructor.

This application would allow the early alerts to be automated for each instructor, as they would be allowed to set the criteria for what constitutes an early alert dynamically. Each assignment grade is distinguished as either missing, failing, or passing. The threshold percentage grade distinguishing passing grades from failing grades can be configured for each assignment. Grades above the threshold are considered passing, and grades below it are considered failing unless they are 0% or blank, in which case they are considered missing. If there are no grade entries of a particular assignment for any students, then that assignment is assumed to have not been graded yet, and will not be included in grade report emails. The assignment threshold values are stored in a per-course configuration file in the user home directory, so that when instructors download their course grades in the future for another early alert, the percentage criteria is still applied for each assignment.

While configuration settings for each assignment are saved between sessions, SGR also allows for further customization control of which assignment grades are actually sent for each individual student. Instructors have numerous options: they can simply choose to send missing, failing, and/or passing grades for all students and all assignments in all categories, or they can choose which grades to send on a per-assignment, per student basis. SGR's graphical user interface is designed to facilitate a streamlined workflow that makes either scope of approach simple and effective.

Once the grades to be sent are selected, instructors can choose to send a grade report to a particular recipient, or to send grade reports to all the recipients in the class. For each recipient, the instructor can choose for the student and/or advisor to be emailed with the report. The email addresses for students and their advisors can be configured in SGR, and are saved in the configuration file. The instructor then must specify their own email account information, particularly their email address and email password. They can choose to save this information so they don't have to enter their log-in information in the future. If they choose to do so, this information is saved as encrypted data in the local computer's settings. Currently, SGR requires that instructors use an email account based on Microsoft

Exchange, such as on the `uwc.edu` domain. However, further features are planned to be added for future SGR versions, including support for other instructor email platforms, such as Gmail.