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## Struggling with Exam timetables?

Exam timetables provide the final structure for academic student evaluation, and a properly created and managed timetable can greatly improve both student satisfaction and overall performance. There are, however, many factors that complicate this task. These include resource utilisation, complex subject choices and the availability of off-campus venues for exam sessions in the evenings or on weekends. Even cultural factors like religious time constraints can cause serious problems for exam timetablers.

### o!Exam

o!Exam has been developed for the South African market to cater for all these factors, and more. Our software allows full control over the collection of data and requests, and then creates an optimised timetable based on factors like student paper spread, work distribution, cross-venue splits and venue utilisation. Specialised blocks can be defined to allow you to block out specific times or venues for groups of students or subjects. Locks can be used to place specific papers on a fixed day and time.

### Free Trial

To demonstrate the power of our product, we are offering an opportunity for institutions to compare the quality of an existing timetable with one created by o!Exam.

Institutions can send us the data required to create a timetable for an exam that has already been scheduled and finalised. Abacus will then use o!Exam to create a new timetable for that exam. We will provide a detailed comparison report between the two timetables, and allow the institution to compare it to the timetable that was actually used for the exam.

Typical results include a dramatic reduction in students that write papers on the same or consecutive days, or even a shorter exam period. Timetables created with o!Exam have no clashes as all student subject registrations are taken into account.

*Institutions that wish to participate can contact us for full details regarding data formats, terms and conditions.*

## The shape of things to come

### Version 2.51 to prepare the way for Version 3.0, coming soon.

Integrear Abacus is proud to announce the release of an intermediate version of our timetabling software, o!Timetable and o!Exam, so that our customers can enjoy some of the benefits of Version 3.0 before it is released.

o! Version 2 has been in use for more than 3 years by a number of tertiary institutions around South Africa, all of which have different needs and requirements for their timetables. During this time, we have been improving and expanding the functionality of our software according to suggestions from our clients, as well as adding our own improvements to cater for special needs. Among the improvements was the design of a new user interface for our Optimiser, which includes new settings for optimisation criteria, and a simpler 'one-window' approach that enables users to see all relevant information from one location, using an intuitive tabbed interface.



Example screenshot of the new user interface

## Version 3.0 features and improvements

Version 3 is due for release soon, and will provide our clients with more inclusive error and problem checking, better memory management, faster solution generation and superior optimisation. All of this will be available from a new, more intuitive graphical user interface, for complete control over the entire timetabling process.

Our international partners, ILOG, have recently released newer versions of their Solver and CPLEX optimisation libraries, and we are adapting o! to make the best possible use of these improvements.

## Abacus News

We are proud to welcome Ivan Meyer to our team. Ivan has a background in applied mathematics, and was responsible for creating class and exam timetables for the North West University (Formerly the University of Potchefstroom). Ivan has extensive experience in using the o! suite of products, as well as the complex processes and problems that timetablers face.



We also have a new webpage that can be found at

<http://www.integrear.com/content/O!New/index.htm>

Here you can view the latest news, as well as general information like screenshots and technical specifications for our entire product range.

## About Us

Integrear Abacus is currently the market leader in providing timetable solutions to higher education institutions in South Africa. Our o! suite of products consists of

- o!Timetable for the creation of class timetables.
- o!Exam for the creation of exam timetables.
- o!Booking for web-based venue bookings and management.

Our o!Timetable clients include

- North West University
- University of Johannesburg (Formerly RAU)
- University of the Western Cape
- Durban Institute of Technology
- University of the Free State
- Tshwane University of Technology

Our o!Exam clients include

- North West University
- University of the Western Cape
- Durban Institute of Technology
- University of the Free State
- Tshwane University of Technology

Our o!Booking clients include

- North West University
- University of the Western Cape
- Durban Institute of Technology
- University of the Free State

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