IPRO 363: Language Link
Midterm Presentation
Problem Statement

IIT’s lack of a foreign language department and other language-learning resources leaves students in need, especially given our diverse population and study-abroad program. Furthermore, cultural socialization and interactions are at a minimum.

Solution

IPRO 363 sets out to create Language Link, a networking site that:

– connects students according to language learning specifications using a matching algorithm
– encourages students to meet with each other to learn languages, based on the immersion theory
– integrates cultures and builds friendships on campus
Team Structure and Goals of the Project

- Write and format full site map and web content
- Secure server space
- Write code for and design home page, log-in page, profile pages, logo, and legal script
- Build and thoroughly test matching algorithms
- Promote the project, keeping constant contacts with relevant individuals and organizations, including international and study abroad centers
- Facilitate student testing of site and prototypes
- Complete full prototype - with registration and matching features - for IPRO Day

Introduction - Project Team - Design Team - Development Team
Project Team
Completed Work

• Organization of Team and Work
  – Project Plan
• Promotion
  – Initiated contact with the International Center and IIT’s contact in Paris
  – Implemented promotional project with TechNews: “International Student of the Week” column
• Site Research and Progress
  – Creation, distribution and analysis of survey: Researching specific language interests, investigating possible matching, gauging socialization interest
  – Compilation of links for language learning
Project Team
Plans for the Future

• Organization of Team and Work
  – IPRO Day Preparation

• Promotion
  – Continue TechNews articles
  – Maintain communication with contacts in International Center and abroad for advice, tips, and critique
  – Brainstorm new ideas for further Language Link outreach

• Site Research and Progress
  – Compile links and resources for important languages (Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese, English, etc.)
  – Develop Privacy Policy and engage in conversation with IIT legal council
Design Team
Completed Work

Process
- Plan
- Map
- Feedback
- Prototype

Language Link
Introduction - Project Team - Design Team - Development Team
Design Team

Plans for the Future

• Continue seeking feedback

• Concept vs. development/time

• Avoid feature creep

• Maintain pleasing aesthetics
Development Team

Completed Work

- Researched and identified potential development environments.
  - CakePHP – MVC structure
- Determined underlying data-structure model
- Created a MySQL database to reflect our model
- Programmed admin interface
- Obtained an account on an IIT web-server
Development Team
Plans For The Future

- Programming client-interface for essential features (e.g., Homepage, Search)
- Implement design team specifications
- Matching algorithm:
  - Essential matching characteristics
  - Non-essential preferences (survey)
- Testing
- Security
- Programming additional features (e.g., Event suggestion, Progress tracker)

Upload and host site from our account on the IIT web-server
Looking Ahead

• Connecting to the diverse community at IIT
• Mastering fundamentals of website design
• Understanding and applying CakePHP operations

Completing a functional and visually appealing prototype
Questions?