

Welcome to Language Link!

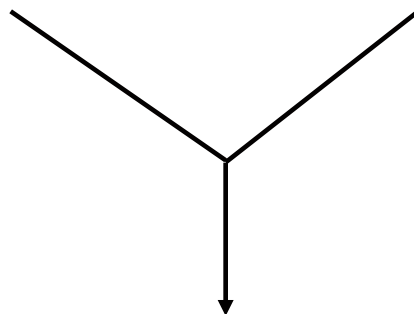
I PRO 363

Language Link

The Problem

84% of students at IIT want to learn a new language

30+ languages are represented at IIT from the students we surveyed alone



The idea for Language Link was born:

Bring students together to study languages from each other.

Language Link's Journey

- IPRO 2.0 beginnings
 - Idea Shop brainstorming
 - Online research of competitors
 - Project Plan drafting
- IIT surveys
 - Gauging student interest
 - Determining idea's merit
 - 75% of students feel that learning from native speakers is one of the two best ways to learn a language

Objectives

- Create full site map and web content
- Secure server space
- Write basic code and design for website
- Link students based on language-learning needs
- Promote the project
- Develop working prototype that matches students with login and registration features
- Test prototype and gain initial feedback

Ethics

- Collaboration with Kelly Laas Center for the Study of Ethics in the Profession
 - Uncovered several potential issues with social networking
 - Developed two of the more pertinent case studies
 - Privacy issues and stealing of information
 - Moderation and addressing user reports

Team Structure

Monica Samelson MBB
Project Team Leader

- Nattasha Viñas BIOL
- Ian Hooke ARCH

Project Team

Design Team

Erik Johnson PSYCH
Design Team Leader

- Dilyana Stoyanova ARCH
- Diago Dias BUS
- Colin Johnston CHEM
- Ashanti Balouki CS

Simon Freedman PHYS
Development Team Leader

- Mitch Miller PHYS
- Jacob Cole PHYS/CS
- Michael Ou CS

Development Team

Professor Laura Batson
Faculty Advisor
Monica Samelson
Team Leader

Methodology

Three groups formed to maximize efficiency

- Surveyed student population
- Sought support and suggestions from organizations on campus
- Researched supplemental resources
- Promoted project through TechNews

Project Team

Design Team

- Wrote site map
- Designed login, welcome, home, inbox, and organizer pages
- Wrote HTML code for design overlay on development background
- Continuously sought professional feedback

- Located suitable development environment
- Coded for social network
- Developed Matching algorithm
- Developed database Engineering

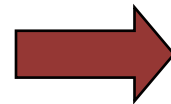
Development Team

Problem-Solving Techniques

Challenge

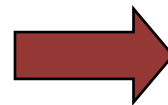
Method

Gaining effective communication between all subgroups



Weekly brainstorming sessions

Little knowledge of web design procedure



Research, professional guidance, and continual gathering of feedback

Subgroup cohesion and communication



Gantt chart and constant communication via email, dropbox, etc.



Profile [Friends](#) [Inbox](#) [News and Resources](#)

Hal Jordan



Tutor rating: ★★★★★

Language Link Awards:

Country of Origin:
USA

Location:
MSV@IIT, Chicago

Languages of interest:
Tutoring: *Italian, Spanish*
Learning: *Russian, Arabic*

Major:
Aerospace







Hobbies:
I'm very into aerospace and get a kick out of flying in my free time.

Favorite Movies and TV:
Iron Man 2, Robocop

Favorite Books:
Lord of the Rings

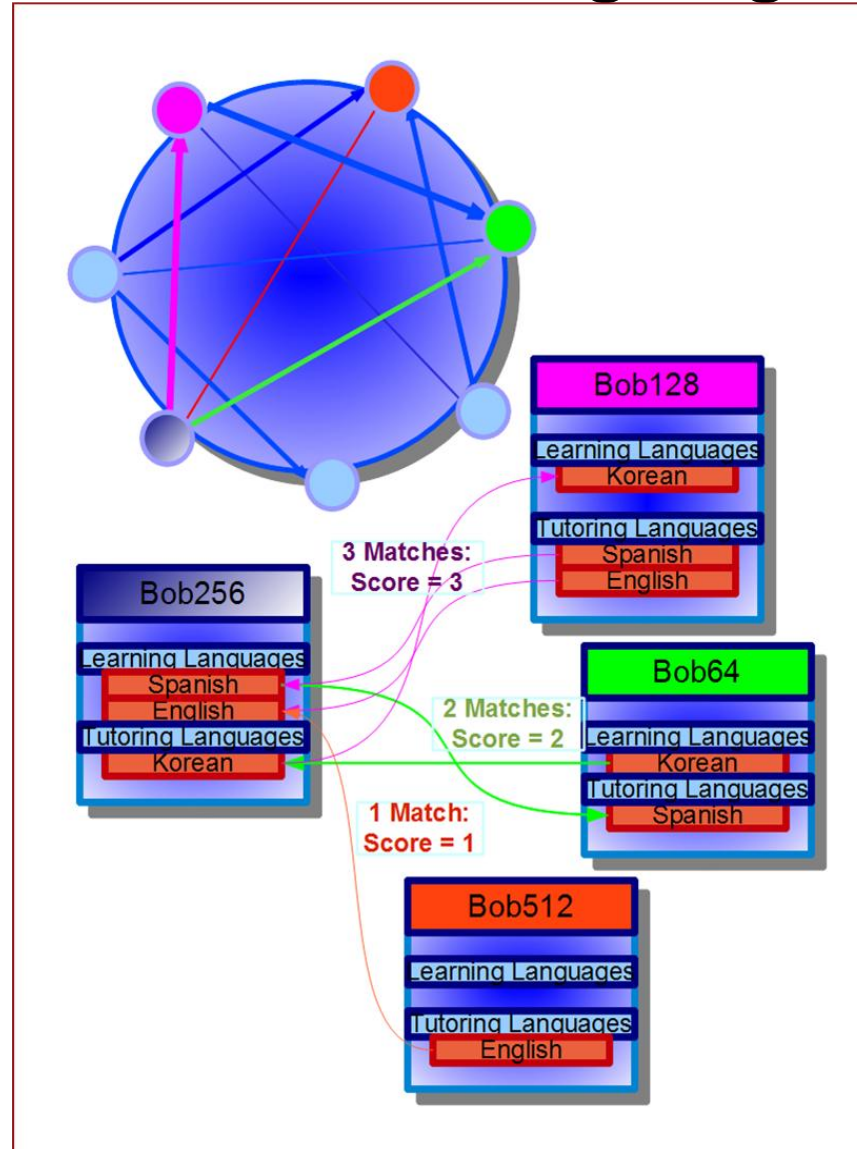
4.00PM – *Bruce Wayne listed Italian as "Want to Learn"*
3.22PM – *Language Link named excellent IPRO*

Suggested Links

	Bruce Wayne (85% match) Tutoring: English, Chinese Learning: Italian, Greek	<i>Message now!</i>
	JJ (80% match) Tutoring: English, Arabic, French, and more Learning: N/A	<i>Message now!</i>
	Oliver Queen (76% match) Tutoring: English Learning: French, Spanish	<i>Message now!</i>
	Zatanna (63% match) Tutoring: English, Russian Learning: Farsi	<i>Message now!</i>
	Sharon Parker (40% match) Tutoring: N/A Learning: Swedish	<i>Offline</i>
	Grodd (8% match) Tutoring: N/A Learning: N/A	<i>Offline</i>

[More Links](#)

Design of the Matching Algorithm



I PRO 363 : Language Link

By **Monica Samelson**
TECHNEWS WRITER



(Photo courtesy Monica Samelson)

Gabriela is from Monterrey, Mexico! And we'd like you to meet her!

What is your name? Gabriela Barrera
And what do your friends call you?

Gaby

Where are you originally from? Monterrey, Mexico

What is your major and what year are you at IIT? 4th Year Architecture

Besides English, what languages do you speak? Spanish, French

Can you please say a few common phrases in your native language?

How are you? - ¿Cómo estás?

Where is the bathroom? - ¿Dónde está el baño?

Do you speak English? - ¿Hablas inglés?

Are there any specific traditions or customs relating to your culture that you would like to share?

Yes, it's called Rosca de Reyes. On January 6 we cut up a hollow oval cake with a little toy somewhere in it. Whoever gets the piece

with the toy has to throw a party in February with lots of tamales.

What brought you to join us at IIT? Chicago and architecture

Is there a particularly enjoyable experience you've had here that you would like to share? Yes, the blizzard!

Interview conducted by Ian Hooke of I PRO 363. Looking to find someone to learn a new language with? Keep your eyes open for Language Link next semester, pioneered by I PRO 363. Email ipro363@googlegroups.com for more information, but here's a general round-up.

Language Link is a new I PRO that's building a website for IIT that can work to match up students according to their language learning needs, as they hope to be part of IIT's up-and-coming foreign language program. The website will work sort of like a dating site - using a matching algorithm to match up people according to various factors, such as language proficiency, classes, extracurricular interests, and desired languages.

Promotion

TechNews International Student of the Week column

Gaining feedback:

- Survey to gauge interest
- Survey to develop site
- Focus group to incorporate suggestions

Campus contacts:

- Office of International Affairs
- International Office
- Study Abroad Office
- I PRO in France



Future Work

To further improve Language Link we hope that the teams of future semesters continue developing the site in the following ways:

- Chat and messaging features
- Improvement of algorithm
- Further integration with IIT's international organizations
- Calendar feature that incorporates all of IITs culturally-themed events
- User rating system
- Language learning progress tracker
- Launch of site

Conclusion

Our team successfully developed an aesthetically-pleasing prototype site with a working algorithm that matches users based on their language needs. We also promoted our website and did extensive research in order to develop a diverse user base to maximize the site's potential.

We did this in the hopes that Language Link will fulfill its mission to help IIT students:

- Learn Languages
- Integrate Cultures
- Build Social Connections

Welcome to Language Link!

