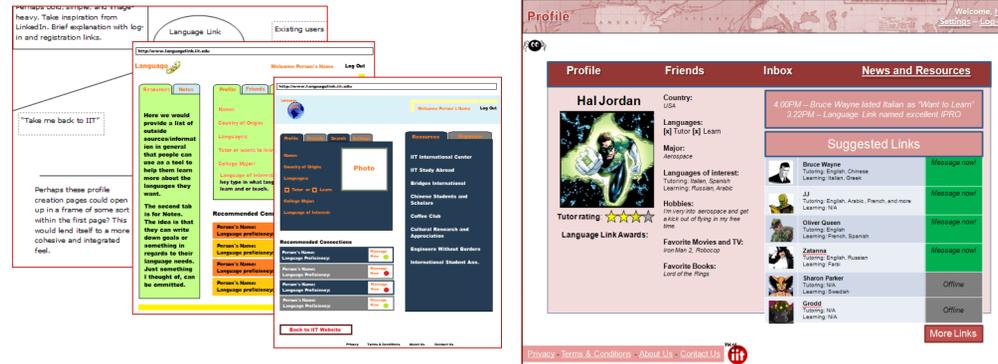


Professor Laura Batson, Monica Samelson, Ian Hook, Nattasha Viñas, Erik Johnson, Ashanti Balouki, Diego Dias, Colin Johnston, Dilyana Stoyanova, Simon Freedman, Jacob Cole, Mitchell Miller, Michael Ou

THE PROBLEM

84% of surveyed students want to learn a new language
 Languages represented on campus: **30+**

DESIGNING THE SITE



From map...

...to prototype

OBJECTIVES

SPRING 2011

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

BACKGROUND



Brainstorm.
 Prototype.
 Develop.

Team Structure
 Three teams to maximize efficiency

Project Team
 acts as a liaison between the team and users
 • Surveyed student population
 • Sought support and suggestions from IIT contacts
 • Researched resources
 • Promoted through TechNews

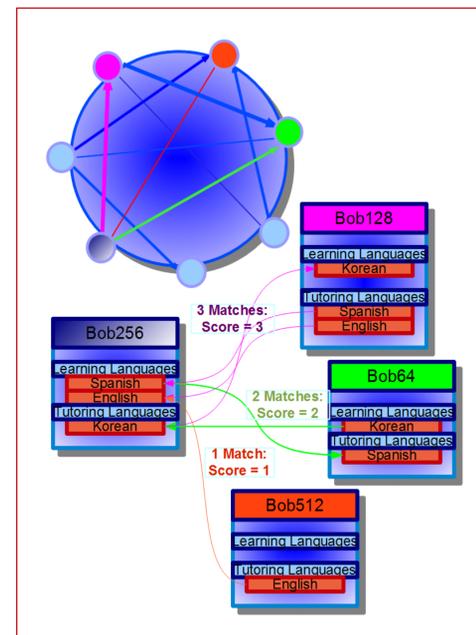
Design Team
 develops usable and aesthetically pleasing design
 • Wrote site map
 • Designed login, welcome, home, inbox, and organizer pages
 • Wrote HTML code for design overlay on development prototype
 • Continuously sought professional feedback
 • Designed aesthetic prototype

Development Team
 builds, codes, and maintains site
 • Located suitable development environment
 • Developed matching algorithm
 • Designed database engineering

Link. Learn. Live.

MAKING IT WORK

REACHING OUT



Design of the algorithm

I PRO 363 : Language Link

By Monica Samelson
 TECHNEWS WRITER



Gabriela is from Monterrey, Mexico! And would 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 Hoske 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 via TechNews

CONCLUSION

In order to work towards connecting IIT students to learn languages and integrate cultures, this semester I PRO 363 developed and designed a functional prototype of Language Link, with a working algorithm that matches users based on language-learning compatibility.

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
- Development of algorithm to match according to additional user characteristics
- Further integration with IIT's international organizations and events, including calendar feature
- User rating system
- Language learning progress tracker
- Full transfer to IIT server followed by launch and management of site