

I PRO 320
An Online Teachers Community
for Chicago Public Schools

Spring 2008
Faculty Advisor:
Jim Braband

Team Leader: Anthony Smith

Sub Team Leaders:

Rawan Abbasi (Focus Groups/Surveys)
Aleksandr Zelenskiy (Programming/Development)

Team Members:

John Enverga
Linda Goldstein
Usman Jafarey
Min Seung Kim
Evan Kruger
Lory Mishra
Justin Moses
Shruti Pasari

1.0. Revised Objectives

Our objective for this semester is to have a prototype of a web community to be used by teachers. The community will consist of 100 registered teachers and feature a front page, a forum, and a wiki with 50 complete articles. A round of usability testing including 25 teachers will be conducted; the feedback will be used to gain knowledge and to add features in the future.

Our objective has not changed, although we started the semester slowly the team still believes that we can achieve our goals for the semester.

2.0. Results to Date

Our web community so far....

The layout of our website so far consists of a wiki, a forum, and a homepage. The homepage does not really have a lot of content on it yet, but there is an FAQ section. The layout of the website is growing as more pages are added and interconnected into the wiki.

We intend the website to be accessed by all CPS teachers and then hopefully after that, it will spread to teachers nationwide. The forum will have more discussion sections added and our wiki will have more articles. The homepage will have more useful information such as updates to the site. It will have a simple text-focused layout with strong primary colors. Teachers will create content for the wiki and the forum as well as receiving information from them.

The website is not ready to be used by teachers, since it needs to be cleaned up in terms of layout and more “seeding” needs to be done.

The surveys and cover letter so far....

We are using surveys to help in the development of the web community. The 10-question online survey given to CPS teachers consisted of questions about how frequently they use the Internet, their computer experience, what they would like to see on the website, and how they would like to communicate with teachers outside their class.

A cover letter was used in conjunction with the survey. The cover letter was basically an introduction and explanation of the survey. It explained what our project was all about. We also mentioned we are gathering focus groups to further discuss our project with CPS teachers.

A couple of days after issuing the surveys, we had about 30 responses. As of now we do not know how many people the survey has been sent out to or even what schools (but hopefully we can find out from our sponsor, Kevin Hall, as

soon as possible.) However, from the 30 responses received, the teachers seemed pretty interested in the site we are forming, and overall have a positive attitude towards it.

3.0. Revised Task / Event Schedule

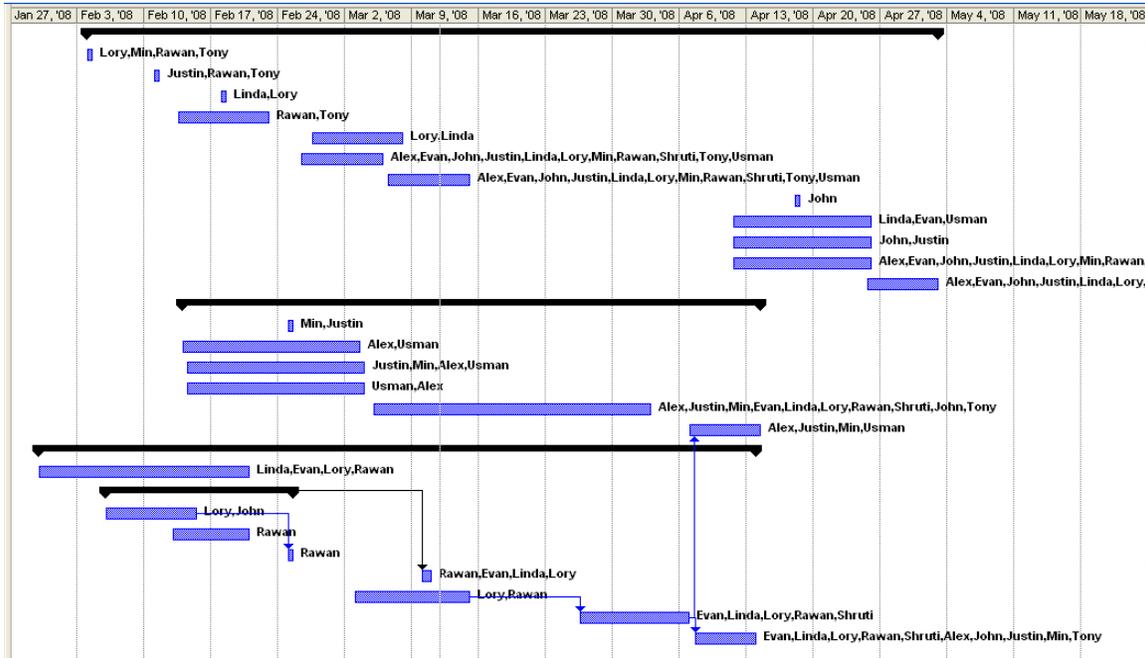
There haven't really been any changes in project tasks. There have been slight changes as to when goals were completed. One cause for the change in schedule is that the surveys were sent out a few days later than expected because of all the modifications that we have done to it. Also, we wanted the survey to be out for only a week, but we now have kept the survey open for another two weeks or so, in order to get as many results as possible. Another cause of the delay was the rescheduling of the focus groups. Also, the site was up and running really quickly – so we were ahead of the schedule in terms of setting up the site.

Milestone	Original Date	Modified Date	Reason for Change
Survey Sent Out	2/22/2008	2/25/2008	Took longer than expected to get approved by our contact within CPS
Survey Results In	2/27/2008	3/10/2008	Sent out late, also contact suggested to let it go longer
Website Up	3/3/2008	2/25/2008	Took less time than expected
CPS Contact List	3/22/2008	3/14/2008	Should have list of teacher contacts set up before Spring Break to set up interviews
Interview Teachers	3/24/2008	3/28/2008	More opportunities to meet with teachers
Webpage Live	4/13/2008	4/13/2008	Still believe it is a possible goal

4.0. Changes in Task Assignments and Designation of Roles and Team Organization

There have been no changes in our team organization since the project plan was formulated. On each Wednesday the team leaders break up the tasks necessary to be completed over the weekend and assign each member of their team something that needs to be completed by the following Monday. If the team cannot come up with enough unique tasks for a specific week members are to find content for the website. This has provided an initial level of content on the website to allow early teachers to have resources to use.

	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Pred	Resource Names
1	IPRO Office	#####	Mon 2/4/08	Fri 5/2/08		
2	IPRO Games	1 day	Mon 2/4/08	Mon 2/4/08		Lory,Min,Rawan,Tony
3	Project Management WorkShop	1 day	Mon 2/11/08	Mon 2/11/08		Justin,Rawan,Tony
4	Ethics Workshop	1 day	Mon 2/18/08	Mon 2/18/08		Linda,Lory
5	Project Plan	10 days	Wed 2/13/08	Fri 2/22/08		Rawan,Tony
6	Ethics Code	10 days	Wed 2/27/08	Fri 3/7/08		Lory,Linda
7	Midterm Presentation	9 days	Tue 2/26/08	Wed 3/5/08		Alex,Evan,John,Justin,Linda,Lory,Min,Rawan,Shruti,Tony,Usman
8	Midterm Report	9 days	Thu 3/6/08	Fri 3/14/08		Alex,Evan,John,Justin,Linda,Lory,Min,Rawan,Shruti,Tony,Usman
9	Minutes	1 day	Fri 4/18/08	Fri 4/18/08		John
10	Poster	14 days	Fri 4/11/08	Fri 4/25/08		Linda,Evan,Usman
11	Abstract	14 days	Fri 4/11/08	Fri 4/25/08		John,Justin
12	Final Report	14 days	Fri 4/11/08	Fri 4/25/08		Alex,Evan,John,Justin,Linda,Lory,Min,Rawan,Shruti,Tony,Usman
13	IPRO Day	7 days	Fri 4/25/08	Fri 5/2/08		Alex,Evan,John,Justin,Linda,Lory,Min,Rawan,Shruti,Tony,Usman
14	Development	140 days	Thu 2/14/08	Mon 4/14/08		
15	Put Survey Online	1 day	Mon 2/25/08	Mon 2/25/08		Min,Justin
16	Set up web page	17 days	Thu 2/14/08	Mon 3/3/08		Alex,Usman
17	Design Layout for web page	17 days	Thu 2/14/08	Mon 3/3/08		Justin,Min,Alex,Usman
18	Install Software on web page	17 days	Thu 2/14/08	Mon 3/3/08		Usman,Alex
19	Add content to web page	28 days	Wed 3/5/08	Wed 4/2/08		Alex,Justin,Min,Evan,Linda,Lory,Rawan,Shruti,John,Tony
20	Make revisions to web page	7 days	Mon 4/7/08	Mon 4/14/08	29	Alex,Justin,Min,Usman
21	Research Focus Group	#####	Wed 1/30/08	Sun 4/13/08		
22	Create Teacher Survey	#####	Wed 1/30/08	Wed 2/20/08		Linda,Evan,Lory,Rawan
23	Distribute Teacher Survey	#####	Wed 2/6/08	Mon 2/25/08		
24	Find contacts for survey	10 days	Wed 2/6/08	Fri 2/15/08		Lory,John
25	Write cover letter	8 days	Wed 2/13/08	Wed 2/20/08		Rawan
26	Send out followup email	1 day	Mon 2/25/08	Mon 2/25/08	24	Rawan
27	Analyze results	1.33 days	Mon 3/10/08	Mon 3/10/08	23	Rawan,Evan,Linda,Lory
28	Find contacts for focus groups	#####	Mon 3/3/08	Fri 3/14/08		Lory,Rawan
29	Focus Group Meetings	10 days	Wed 3/26/08	Sun 4/6/08	28	Evan,Linda,Lory,Rawan,Shruti
30	User testing of web page	6 days	Mon 4/7/08	Sun 4/13/08	29	Evan,Linda,Lory,Rawan,Shruti,Alex,John,Justin,Min,Tony



5.0. Barriers and Obstacles

Major Obstacles Encountered To-Date and Their Resolution

The major obstacle the team has faced was not defining steps to reach our final goal. Although we had a general idea of how we would achieve it, we did not break it down into individual tasks that could be assigned to team members, this left individuals with little or no work to do at times. To solve this, the group and our advisor, Professor Braband, came up with a list of tasks that individuals could be working on if not assigned anything specifically. This has allowed the group to find content to add to the website.

Anticipated Major Challenges that Lie Ahead (and Consideration of Alternative Paths for Assuring Successful Completion)

The major challenge that lie ahead will probably be meeting up with teachers to get their feedback on the website. It will be difficult to find a time that several individuals on the team will be able to meet that is also convenient for teachers. It will also be difficult to travel out to some of the schools not being close and not having a convenient means of transportation. An alternative to going out and interviewing teachers for their feedback, it can all be done over the Internet. The disadvantage to this is that it can be difficult to have a conversation and collect the necessary data. If we actually meet with the teachers it will be easy to ask follow up questions and get a better feel for what the teachers actually want. We plan on allowing users to leave feedback on the web page to give the group ideas for improvements to be made in the future.

Another major challenge will be getting teachers to use the website and having the teachers be the major contributors to the community. This is the long-term goal of the I PRO and may not be completed this semester. As of now we have the ability to send out a message to teachers in CPS that this exists, but to get individuals to use a web community they have to see it as a resource that is useful. There is not an alternative to having users join the website, but we could change how we target teachers to join.

6.0. Midterm Presentation Slides

Maximum of 12 slides for 10 minute presentation (These are in a separate file.)