

I^PR^O 320
An Online Teachers Community
for Chicago Public Schools
Spring 2008
Faculty Advisor:
Jim Braband

1.0. Objectives

- A. 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.

2.0. Background

- A. The target customer and sponsor for our initial teacher web community is the Chicago Public School system. CPS consists of over 600 schools and 400,000 students. CPS has consistently not scored well on standardized tests and this project will provide an opportunity for teachers to learn from others by sharing their resources and effective practices.
- B. The problem is to develop a resource that will be used by teachers to share experiences and ideas. It is our plan to design and test a web community for teachers.
- C. The Internet is the main technology source that will be used to build the online community and improve teacher's communication amongst each other.
- D. In the past teachers have been required to attend conferences and professional development seminars in which they may network and learn from other teachers' practices. Although this is probably the most direct way to communicate with other teachers, it can be very time consuming and requires a good deal of planning. Teacher web communities exist and appear to be an effective method to allow teachers to share ideas. A web community offers the ability to communicate with a larger group of people, as well as allowing individuals to participate in their own free time.
- E. An issue that can be foreseen is the privacy of users and the potential for employers to monitor the message boards. The survey must be reviewed before it is distributed to make sure that it does not violate rules of the teachers union.
- F. As of now, both students and the future of the United States may suffer if today's youth are not educated properly. Anything that can provide teachers and students a better educational experience can have a benefit on society.
- G. It is our goal to meet with teachers to see their level of interest in a web community and get their opinions on useful features that should be included. With this information we plan on developing a preliminary website with a wiki, forum, and front page.

- H. As stated in part D of this section, other successful web communities exist such as, the Discovery Educator Network and Golden Apple Ten. Both of these websites offer individuals the opportunity to participate in discussion boards about various topics pertaining to teachers.

- I. No documents attached

Comment [C1]: Added this comment for clarity between the guide and judging sheet.

3.0. Methodology/Brainstorm/Work Breakdown Structure

- A. The problem is to design and test a web community for teachers.
- B. There are several steps that have been taken to accomplish this goal. At first the team brainstormed ideas of what should be included on the web community and looked for alternatives that already exist. The next step is to distribute a survey to CPS teachers to see what they think of the idea and what web services they are comfortable using. After the results are analyzed, a focus group will meet with teachers to try and get a greater understanding of what teachers may want from a web community. With this information a prototype web page with limited features will be put together. The prototype will be demonstrated to teachers to receive feedback.
- C. The group's initial ideas will be tested through the surveys given out to teachers as well as the talking with teachers in the focus groups. After the web page is developed the focus group will go back to the teachers for their feedback and be used to make possible improvements.
- D. All data will come from teachers through surveys, interviews, and evaluation forms. The survey is going to be conducted using a website, in which a database will be made to store the results. The focus group will record all data gathered from interviews with the teachers. Teachers will submit their thoughts and evaluations of the web page using an online database. All data will be shared with the group during our class meetings and also by using iGroups.
- E. The focus group will analyze the results of the initial survey. Most of the questions have number values and will be easy to identify trends of teachers'. The focus group will also analyze the comments from teacher interviews to see if there are any new ideas that could be implemented. These ideas will be shared with the group to see if any changes need to be made with the web page. The feedback received from teachers will be analyzed by the focus group and again shared with the development team. Whatever ideas and changes not made this semester will be saved for the future of this IPRO.
- F. The deliverables sub team will be the ones who are primarily in charge of working on and turning in the deliverables. The deliverables team and the sub team leaders worked the project plan on. The Code of Ethics will be first

developed by the individuals that attended the ethics workshop and then will be presented to the rest of the group for additional comments. The entire team will work on the final deliverables for IPRO Day.

G. No documents attached

4.0. Expected Results

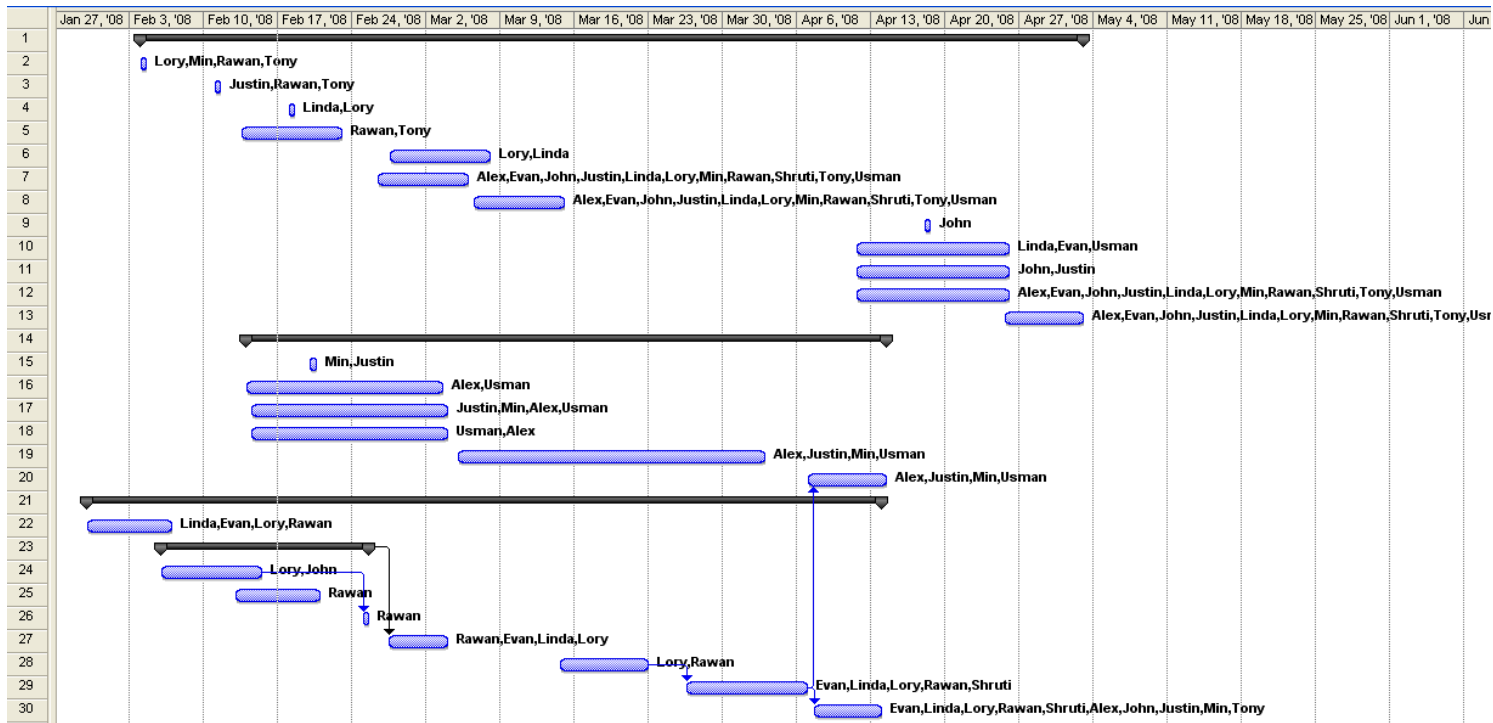
- A. IPRO 320 plans on working with CPS to develop a web community that is to be used by teachers to share ideas and resources.
- B. From our research we expect to find out the amount of interest current teachers have in an online web community. In addition, we expect to find out what features would be most important to teachers in such a community.
- C. This development can help create a resource that teachers can use to address many of their questions and needs. From our research we hope to better serve teachers by making the web community more user friendly and adding features that teachers want.
- D. The research/focus group team will learn to develop their ability to interact professionally with teachers. This group will also learn how to effectively conduct market research using both surveys and interviews. The programming/development team will learn the steps in developing a web community and how to take user feedback to improve their product. The entire team will learn to work together effectively and develop communication skills through sharing our progress and ideas.
- E. The team plans on having a web community of at least 100 members with a functional front page, a wiki with 50 completed pages, and a forum. An update is planned for the web page after receiving feedback from teachers.
- F. As of now, the team does not know what specific features teachers would like to see in such a web community. The group will do research to find out what teachers specifically want and use this research to develop a prototype. The prototype will be used to see if the customers' needs are met.
- G. The prototype that is built this semester will include several features that the team decided are important for any web community. Usability testing will be conducted to find out what features teachers would like to see, this data could be used in future semesters to make our community a more complete resource.

5.0. Project Budget

Item	Unit Price	Number	Total Price	Purpose
Web hosting	\$ 120.00	1	\$ 120.00	Sever to host website, needed for space limitations and preinstalled software
Printing	\$ 50.00	1	\$ 50.00	Funding for printing surveys and other documents
Gifts	\$ 10.00	10	\$ 100.00	Gift cards for school faculty for being lead contact at a school
Food	\$ 50.00	5	\$ 250.00	Food for focus groups to attract teachers to participate
Transit	\$ 50.00	1	\$ 50.00	Funding for gas to travel to several Chicago Public Schools
Total:			\$ 570.00	

6.0. Schedule of Tasks and Milestone Events

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



7.0. Individual Team Member Assignments

A. Team

Name	Major	Skills and Experience	Tasks worked on
Rawan Abbasi	Biomedical Engineering	Leadership Experience, C++, MATLAB	Wrote cover letter for survey Attended project management workshop Worked on part 5 of project plan
John Enverga	Physics	Mathematics, writing	Attended market survey seminar Takes minutes Updates iGroups
Linda Goldstein	ICOM and Technical Communications	Leadership Experience, Previous IPRO experience, Writer and layout editor for TechNews	Created survey for teachers Took notes Attended ethics workshop
Usman Jafarey	Computer Science	SQL, PHP, Javascript, Perl, HTML.	Learned how to use software that will be used to develop the web page
Min Seung Kim	Computer Science and Computer Engineering	Java, C++, C, WEKA, Text mining experience, 2 years research experience	Setup the online survey Found communities that can be used for ideas.
Evan Kruger	Humanities	Writing, interested in coaching and teaching	Compiles weekly reports Researched for features of other web communities
Lory Mishra	Psychology	Product management experience, writing, telephone skills	Contacted CPS teachers Attended ethics workshop
Justin Moses	Computer Science	C, C++, Java, HTML / XHTML, CSS, PHP, ASP(VB), ASP.NET(C#), Previous IPRO experience	Attended project management workshop Researched options for web hosting Researched options for web survey
Shruti Pasari	ITM	Java, SQL, HTML	Rewrote online survey Researched possible web communities
Anthony Smith	Computer Science and Math Education	Leadership Experience, Previous IPRO experience, C/C++, Java, Ruby, SQL	Develop agendas Attended project management workshop Worked on project plan Purchased domain
Aleksandr Zelenskiy	Computer Science	Leadership Experience, HTML, PHP, CSS, Web development	Researched effective platform to use on web page Researched options for web hosting Purchased domain Set up web page

B. Team Leader

- Anthony Smith

C. Sub Teams

1. Programming/Web Development Team

- Aleksandr Zelenskiy
- Usman Jafarey
- Min Seung Kim
- Justin Moses

2. Research/Focus Group Team

- Rawan Abbasi
- Linda Goldstein
- Evan Kruger
- Lory Mishra
- Shruti Pasari

3. Deliverables Team

- Anthony Smith
- John Enverga

D. Sub Team Leaders

- Aleksandr Zelenskiy
- Rawan Abbasi

E. Sub Team Responsibilities

1. Programming/Web Development Team

- Design web page
- Add content to web page
- Make changes to web page according to feedback

2. Research/Focus Group Team

- Create and distribute survey for teachers
- Interview teachers for further information
- Write documentation on features and how to use web page
- Perform usability testing and get feedback

3. Deliverables Team

- Complete IPRO deliverables

F. Sub Team Individual Responsibilities

1. Programming/Web Development Team

- Aleksandr Zelenskiy
 - Load software on web server
 - Create user accounts on web server
 - Assign future individual tasks to subgroup
- Usman Jafarey
 - Load software on web server
- Min Seung Kim
 - Upload survey online
- Justin Moses
 - Upload survey online

2. Research/Focus Group Team

- Rawan Abbasi
 - Assign future individual tasks to subgroup
- Linda Goldstein
 - Create Survey
 - Work on Code of Ethics
- Evan Kruger
 - Research web communities for ideas
- Lory Mishra
 - Contact teachers to have interviews
 - Work on Code of Ethics
- Shruti Pasari
 - Researched other web communities
 - Rewrote survey

3. Deliverables Team

- Anthony Smith
 - Divide up tasks among subgroups
 - Work on project deliverables
- John Enverga
 - Work on project deliverables
 - Work on project notebook
 - Take meeting minutes

8.0 Designation of Roles

A. Assign Meeting Roles

- Minute Taker: John Enverga
- Agenda Planner: Anthony Smith

B. Assign Status Roles

- Report Collector/Summarizer: Evan Kruger
- IGroups: John Enverga and Anthony Smith