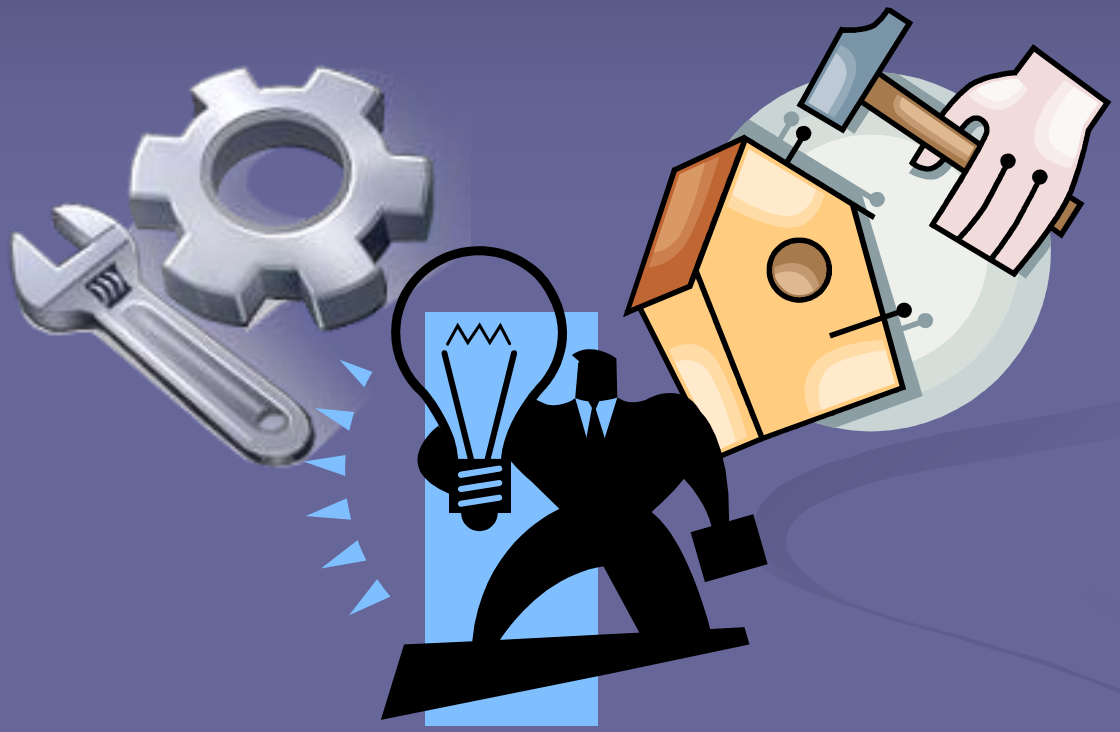
IPRO 333

Creating design to prototype learning modules for the Museum of Science and Industry

Introduction

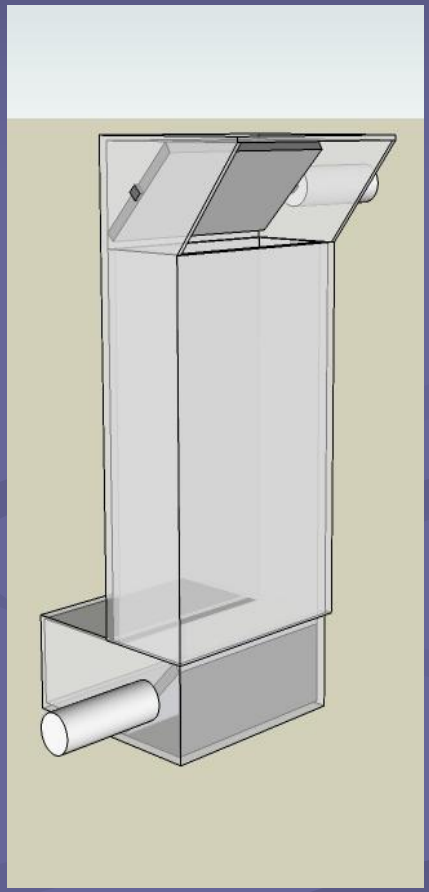


What is a Fabrication (Fab) Lab?

fablab

This Semester's Objectives

- Develop
  - Communication
  - Hardware/Software capabilities
  - Prototypes/Programs
  - Marketing Plan



Team Methodology

- Research
  - MIT Fab Lab visit
  - IPRO-MSI meetings
  - Rice campus trip
  - Open access trials

- Implementation
  - Project design
  - Project development
  - Advertising
    - Marketing strategies
  - Events

Team Breakdown

Team Breakdown

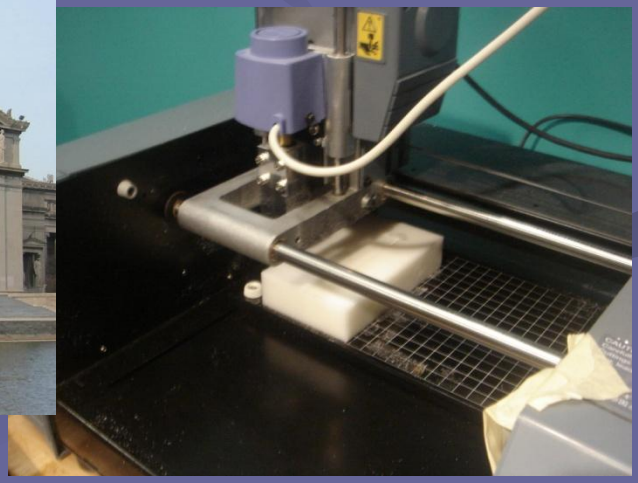
Team Breakdown

Team Breakdown

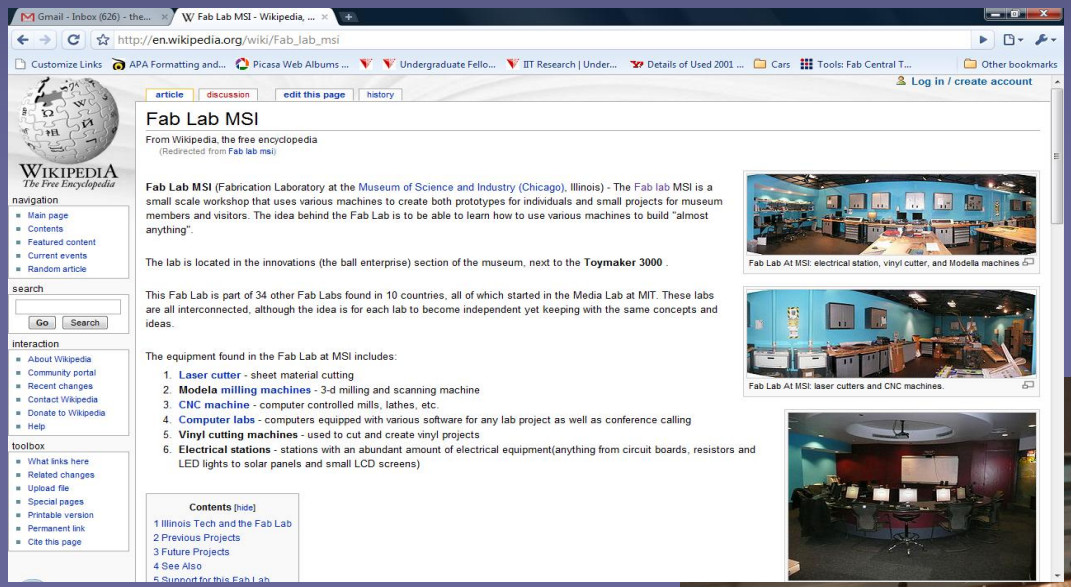
Ethics

Problems we encountered

- Limited hardware experience
- Lack of internal funding
- Time constraints
- Stock supply shortage
- Non-existent marketing scheme
- Weak inter-department communication within MSI
- Understaffed
- Lack of manuals
  - Hardware
  - Software



Solutions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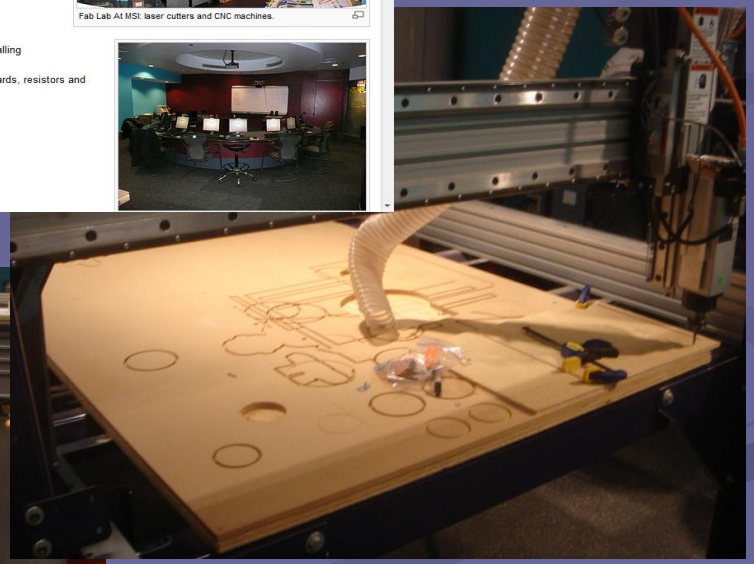
Fab Lab MSI (Fabrication Laboratory at the Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago), Illinois) - The Fab lab MSI is a small scale workshop that uses various machines to create both prototypes for individuals and small projects for museum members and visitors. The idea behind the Fab Lab is to be able to learn how to use various machines to build "almost anything".
The lab is located in the innovations (the ball enterprise) section of the museum, next to the Toymaker 3000 .
This Fab Lab is part of 34 other Fab Labs found in 10 countries, all of which started in the Media Lab at MIT. These labs are all interconnected, although the idea is for each lab to become independent yet keeping with the same concepts and ideas.
The equipment found in the Fab Lab at MSI includes:
1. Laser cutter - sheet material cutting
2. Modela milling machines - 3-d milling and scanning machine
3. CNC machine - computer controlled mills, lathes, etc.
4. Computer labs - computers equipped with various software for any lab project as well as conference calling
5. Vinyl cutting machines - used to cut and create vinyl projects
6. Electrical stations - stations with an abundant amount of electrical equipment(anything from circuit boards, resistors and LED lights to solar panels and small LCD screens)
Contents [hide]
1 Illinois Tech and the Fab Lab
2 Previous Projects
3 Future Projects
4 See Also
Fab Lab At MSI: electrical station, vinyl cutter, and Modella machines
Fab Lab At MSI: laser cutters and CNC machines.



Long Term Goals

- Making the Fab Lab into a viable open access museum exhibit
- Creating short-term design programs
  - 90 minutes
  - 2-3 sessions
- Making project tutorials available for instructional purposes
- Marketing the Lab both inside and outside the museum

Recognition/Special Thanks

Steven Willis – Fab Lab Director/Coordinator of Science Achievers

Pam Barry – Director of Educational Services

Sarah Tschaen – Sr. Coordinator of Student Experiences

Steven Beasley – Web and Interactive Media Manager

Steven Aspacher – Director of Members Management

Center for Bits and Atoms

Museum of Science and Industry

Questions?