IPRO-357 Summer 2003
Strategic Management System Software
System Redesign Team's Project Plan

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June 26, 2003

Abstract

The purpose of this project plan is to let the rest of the team know what the System Redesign team will try to accomplish by the end of this semester.

The team will focus on analyzing the current software and determining the best alternative design architecture for the SMS software. Also, we will be refining the code to make the software more optimized (make the software run faster). Finally, we will develop the new version of the SMS software, and also make a series of recommendation to improve future version to the SMS software (i.e. different platforms, and more efficient database management system).

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Introduction

Balanced Scorecard (BSC)

"As companies around the world transform themselves for competition that is based on information, their ability to exploit intangible assets has become far more decisive than their ability to invest in and manage physical assets. Several years ago, in recognition of this change, we introduced a concept we called the balanced scorecard. The balanced scorecard supplemented traditional financial measures with criteria that measured performance from three additional perspectives – those of customers, internal business processes, and learning and growth. It therefore enabled companies to track financial results while simultaneously monitoring progress in building the capabilities and acquiring the intangible assets they would need for future growth."
(From *Using the Balanced Scorecard as a Strategic Management System*, by Robert S. Kaplan and David P. Norton, Harvard Business Review January-February 1996)

Strategic Management System Software (SMS)

"The Strategic Management System Software Version 1.0(SMS) was developed as a technology commercialization system used to create situation analysis, business strategies, and operational feasibility analysis. The SMS software helps build tools and techniques to manage across six different perspectives: vision, mission, financial, internal business process, customers, and learning & growth."
(From *IPRO-327 Project Plan Summer 2003*)

The SMS software is a web-based system that uses the strategy map model developed by Dr Kalidonis that integrated with Balanced Scorecard. Currently a newer version 2.0 is in development.

Web Trend

As the technology advanced in last decade, the understanding of the Information Technology (IT) has been changed. Internet was one of the major advancement that changed the concept of retrieving information. Now almost any information is available on the internet. Also the number of people using internet is increasing constantly while internet service provider is also competing against each others to provide more comfortable and sufficient services. We decided to develop our software, SMS 1.0 and 2.0, on the web based system so that the customers have access to the software anytime.

Module Overview

- Analyze and critique the current design architecture
- Identify and present a series of alternative design architectures
- Make a series of recommendations to improve future versions of the SMS software and build a new version of the SMS system.

Objectives/Milestone and Expected Results

Vision/Mission

Our goals are quite simple. We aim to develop a redesigned user-friendly and more optimized system in which the server can execute the ASP code efficiently so that the output of the code will be sent to the client computers faster and much effectively. Through system evaluations, redesign and code optimization, the Strategic Management System Software Version 2.0 will rise above its predecessor in graphical interface and functionality to bring solutions to small and medium family businesses. The solutions includes: situation analysis, business strategies, and operational feasibility analysis.

Specific Questions

- Which platform would SMS software perform better? UNIX or Windows base server?
- How well the existing code can be implemented with the latest technology in the future?
- How can we modify the existing code of SMS 1.0 to lower the time necessary to execute the code on the server side?
- What functionality or design would the customer be interested in?

Objectives

Analyze the current version of system, SMS 1.0, to come up with the ideal version of SMS 2.0 by focusing on the graphical interface, code efficiency, and user-friendly aspects. We also propose the alternative designs of SMS 2.0 to the team so that we can reflect the opinions from them. Discuss with Software Evaluation to get more information and critiques about the other software in the market to improve the current version of software. We will also provide useful recommendations for the next team to accomplish more advanced version of software in the future.

Assumptions

- Users of the system are using Microsoft Windows as the operating systems for their computers.
- Microsoft Windows users are using either Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator as their internet browsers.
- The customers have the connection to the internet with at least a 56K modem.

Team Overview

Titles

Module	Casey Ligas
Spokesperson	Go Nakagawa
Secretary	HuanKiat Tang

Member Bios

Casey Ligas
I'm a 4th year Computer Science major with interests in networking and programming. I've had experience with this project before (I was in last semesters IPRO and was on the programming team, so I understand the code very well) and I hope to bring that experience to this class. With my background in computer science, which consists of programming, database, and networking, I intend to implement a new and better version of the SMS software, as compared to the previous version.

Go Nakagawa
I'm a forth year Computer Engineer major student. I expect a new experience that would benefit me such as communication skill, leadership role, and teamwork. I currently work for an architecture company, VOA Associates, Inc. in Chicago downtown as a network administrator intern. I have interest in Hardware development as well as network development.

HuanKiat Tang
I am a Computer Engineering Senior. Interested in programming in C/C++, VB/JAVA, and Web Design. This is my second time joining an IPRO project. The first one was about Home-Run measurement system at Comiskey Park. I was on survey team measuring the distances of the ball park.

Activity Schedule and Key Dates

Date	Activities	Output & Deliverables	Person in charge		Hours of effort
6/12/03 (6pm-4am)	Upload Software to new Windows based web server	Fully accessible software online	Casey	Uploaded each file to the web server, and made changes to some files so that they are functional on the new server.	10
6/16/03 (7pm-1am)	Analysis of Software	Critiques of the current design architecture (Navigation, interface, code efficiency, user-friendliness)	Casey	Explained the works the last system redesign had done.	6(team work)
			Go	Gave opinions of what should be improved on the software.	
			Kiat	Gave ideas of what new functions can be integrated into the software.	
6/18/03 (5pm-7pm)	Meet with software evaluation module to discuss the pros and cons of the current SMS software version	Ideas for new design	Casey, Go, Kiat, system evaluation team		2
6/19/03 (6pm-11pm)	Discussion of Midterm presentation	Rough presentation slides of midterm report	Casey	Put opinions and discussions into sentences.	5(team work)
			Go	Provided thoughts and suggestions to the report	
			Kiat	Typed and edited the report before it was turned in.	
6/23/03	Work on design architecture (new interface, navigation). Work on Midterm report	Rough of midterm report	Casey	Worked on a few new design architectures.	3
			Go	Worked on midterm report draft.	2
			Kiat	Worked on midterm report draft.	2
6/24/03 (7pm-12am)	Work on Midterm Report and midterm presentation slides	Final Midterm report and final midterm presentation slides	Go	Decided what to be included into the presentation slides.	5(team work)
			Kiat	Made slides for presentation, and finalized the midterm report.	
6/25/03	Present Midterm Report	Finalized Midterm report and midterm presentation slides	Go	Looked throught slides for the presentation	3
			Casey	Refined the content for presentation.	3
			Kiat	Finalized the presentation slides and midterm report.	4

Date	Activities	Output & Deliverables	Person in charge		Hours of effort
6/26/03 (7pm-12am)	Turn in finalized midterm report	Finalized Midterm report	Casey	Proved read midterm report	10(team work)
			Go	Checked what could be added to the report.	
			Kiat	Typed and edited the report	
6/30/03 (7pm-12am)	Start to implement alternative design architecture that was created during the analysis of the software	SMS 2.0 alpha	Casey	Lead the team in implementation.	5(team work)
			Go	Studied the codes.	
			Kiat	Studied the codes.	
7/02/03 (6pm-9pm)	Working on alternative designs to the interface of the software	SMS 2.0 alpha interface designs	Casey Go	Explained how the software was implemented. Came out with several design architectures.	5
			Kiat	Studied how the software functions.	3
				Studied how the software functions.	3
7/07/03 (3pm-5pm)	Present several design architectures of software to the class	SMS 2.0 design architectures	Go	Presented one of the architectures to class, and answered questions from class	2
			Kiat	Presented the same design with Go to class, and took down opinions from class.	2
			Casey	Designed another two interface architectures for the software	2
7/09/03 7/10/03 7/11/03 7/12/03 7/13/03	Continue to implement new version of software	Finalized SMS 2.0	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A
7/14/03	Finalize software & work on Final report	Finalized SMS 2.0 and Rough Draft of the Final Report	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A
7/16/03	Final team presentation	Presentation to class	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A
7/21/03	Assemble final report	Hardcopy of team presentation	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A
7/23/03	Submit final report	Final report	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A
7/24/03	Final presentation	Final presentation & poster	Casey, Go, Kiat		N/A

Bibliography and References

Bibliography:
- www.experts-exchange.com
- www.google.com
- www.asp.net
- www.webwizguide.com/asp/

* These links provide accesses to code examples and syntax references that aid our module in developing and implementing the SMS software.

Course Reading and References:
- Spring 2003 IPRO327 Final Report
- Summer 2003 IPRO327 Project Plan
- Family Business Autumn 2002
- *Using the Balanced Scorecard as a Strategic Management System* by Robert S. Kaplan and David P. Norton, Harvard Business Review January-February 1996.
- *Beyond the numbers* by Dylan Miyake, Intelligent Enterprise July 26th 2002.

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Signatures

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