Software Project Management Plan: HedLyns

A news aggregator for Firefox browser

Andrew Stoerkel

Table of contents

1. Introduction
2. Organization/ Managerial Process
3. Technical Process
4. Schedule

**Introduction**

I would like to make browsing The New York Times headlines easier by creating a browser extension which will display all current headlines for the New York Times as a dropdown widget. The user will be able to browse all articles on the site, by sections or all together, and I would like to integrate a search function. Clicking on an article in the list would open a new window and take the user straight to the article on the website. My preferred browser is Firefox, so I am inclined to use their platform. The NYT API is very easy to use and allows for live updates from the website, article search, and access to the archives. Integration into Firefox is rather simple with their easy to use extension development documentation and tutorials.

I could potentially include adds integrated into the widget in order to monetize however, I want to use this extension and I hate adds. I will probably just include a donate button linked to a patreon account. Since this extension will not be for-profit, it will be open source, so the code will be posted on github or some other code sharing platform.

There are other feed extensions available but none that focus on the New York Times and I am looking for something that is quick to load, light and doesn’t take up a lot of resources as I already have a lot of extensions that slow down my browser. It should be a quick and simple way to browse the current articles posted to nytimes.com without having to open a new page and waiting for nytimes.com to load.

I am still unsure about the scale of this project. I have never done any web-based projects before so I’m not sure if this will satisfy the project requirements. If that is the case, then I could include more sites like the Washington post, NPR, CNN, and Fox with options to toggle which sites can be seen.

One of the extensions that I found that already does this is called News Hound ( <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/news-hound/?src=search> ) for Firefox. It isn’t customizable at all, and you can’t filter by category or news source, so it isn’t great for finding what you want.

Feedbro ( <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/feedbroreader/?src=search> ) is another Extension that specializes in curating web all kinds of content and is much more popular than News Hound, however it is much more complicated. The user is required to setup feeds individually. While this does allow for more customization, it isn’t easy to use. I saw all the fields I had to fill out for each individual website and immediately disabled it.

So, my goal is to make something in between News Hound and Feedbro. It will be light, easy to use and moderately customizable, with options to browse by sections, and search. This should fill the gap between simple news extensions and more complicated ones.

**Project Organization/ Managerial Process**

**Software Process**: I think the agile process will be the best choice for me because I will be learning through a lot of the process and it will allow me to change things easily. Also, since I’ll be working alone, I won’t have to worry about keeping team members up to date.

**Size of the project:** I have never undertaken a Web dev project, so this is a big concern. However, I have integrated NYT API into the extension and gotten it to work in testing. So, all that’s left is to design the site and make it functional.

**Staff:** I will be the only person working on this project.

**Complexity:** If the project becomes too complex, I can always turn back the number of sections or features/ settings I want it to have. This will allow me to reach deadlines for the class while still be able to improve and expand in the future.

**Technical Process:**

**Methods/ Tools:**

**NYT:**

* NYT API call limit: 4000 requests a day, 10 requests per minute. But this can be increased with a request
* Must include NYT API logo when displaying NYT content
* Cannot use the information in a commercial application, meaning (from FAQ):
  + Selling New York Times content or data in any application.
  + Charging a subscription fee for any New York Times content or data.
  + Selling any application built with one of our APIs.
  + Uses our content inside an application that is paid or has a paid tier.
* My application we be free to use with no content hidden behind paywalls. Only a donation link.
* Your use of any of the API content, whether served from your Web site or from a client application, must appropriately attribute The New York Times by adhering to the usage guidelines in The New York Times API Branding Guide above.
* Any URLs that are delivered in the API content must link in each instance to the related New York Times URL. You shall not display the API content in such a manner that does not allow for successful linking and redirection to, and delivery of, NYTIMES.COM's web page, nor may you frame any NYTIMES.COM web page

**Firefox:**

* In order to use this external library on a firefox extension I’ll have to provide the full file in the source code when I submit the application to firefox for approval and listing on the Add-ons website

**Tools:**

* All fire fox addons are just webpages hosted locally in the browser, so I’ll be integrating NYT content received through the API with css and javascript
* I plan on using JQUERY to send requests and parse the JSON file received from the NYT API
* Github link: <https://github.com/AStoerkel1/NewsExtension.git> (currently Private, Planning to make it public with V2.0)

**Future support:** I plan to keep working on this project after the class is over. V2.0 should be

**Schedule:**

1. Decide on the libraries and frameworks (jquery) (MET)
2. Begin development of the front end ext
   1. Create content layout(MET)
   2. Structure the web pages(if multiple) (MET)
   3. Create the sidebar with functionality(MET)
   4. Create the options page with an integrated donation link (v 2.0)
3. Integrate NYT API
   1. Be able to parse JSON(MET)
   2. Display content on the web page(MET)
4. Find images and icons for the sidebar and toolbar buttons

**V 2.0:**

1. Implement an options page with toggleable news sources
   1. Moving forward I will totally change the back end in order to accommodate more news sources. I’ll achieve this by using a different API to the NYT API. Link: <https://newsapi.org/>
   2. Their Api works very similarly to the NYT one however it includes sources from all over the news landscape
2. I will also be including a new library called Cheerio instead of JQuery. Cheerio works on top of Jquery which will make integration easy and it has many QOL improvements which will make future development more efficient