



“A Repository of Reliable Resources for Academia”

PROTOTYPE PRESENTATION

CS 411, SUMMER 2020

TEAM CRYSTAL

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Team Crystal, comprised of computer science students at Old Dominion University, is developing the A³ framework.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Problem Statement</u>	4
<u>Definitions</u>	5
<u>Traditional Shortcomings</u>	6
<u>Solution Statement</u>	8
<u>Solution Characteristics</u>	9
<u>Customers and End Users</u>	11
<u>Real World Product vs Prototype</u>	12
<u>Major Functional Components</u>	13
<u>Development Tools</u>	14
<u>Database Schema</u>	16
<u>Agile Sprints</u>	17
<u>References</u>	19
<u>User Stories</u>	23

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Educators and students lack a framework to aggregate and archive fragmented and domain-specific artifacts for the purpose of academic knowledge management.

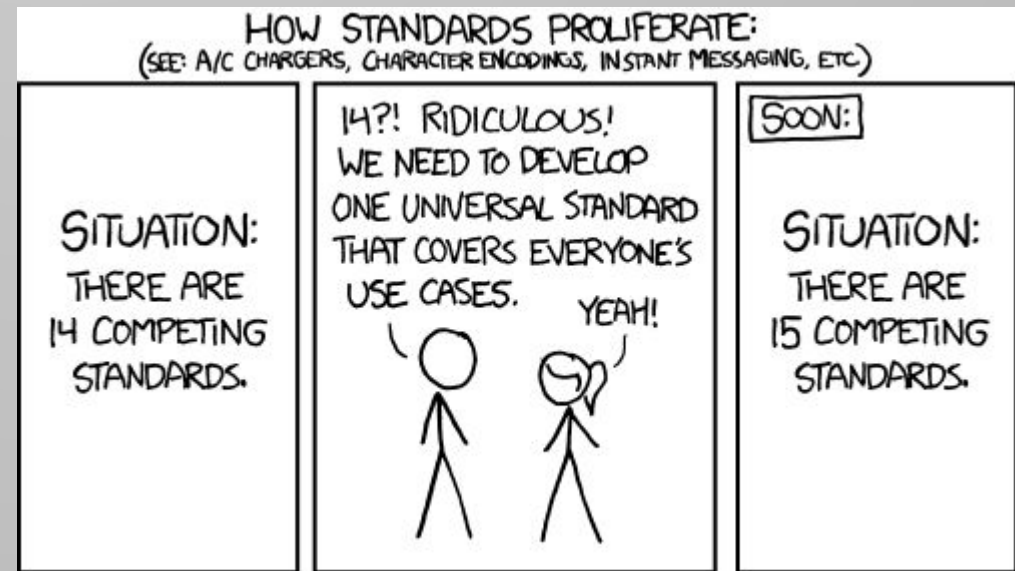


Image Credit:
[\(XKCD.com 2020\)](https://xkcd.com/2020/)



DEFINITIONS:

Aggregate: Data that is composed of smaller pieces that form a larger whole.

Artifact: Refers to a file or document.

Knowledge Assets: The accumulated intellectual resources of an organization codified in electronic form.

Repository: Central location in which data is stored and managed.

TRADITIONAL SHORTCOMINGS:

Knowledge Repositories

- Formal artifact aggregation in traditional academic environments does not exist [3]
- The aggregation that does currently exist does not support tracking of changes through time [2]
- Current aggregation is not strong enough to be considered centralized

Knowledge Accessibility

- Knowledge is isolated by specialization [16]
- Access is often restricted by course or major [16]
- Artifact format preference by instructor can vary wildly and may not be functional to others [17]

TRADITIONAL SHORTCOMINGS:

Knowledge Asset Management

- Instructor artifacts are often created in a variety of formats
- Individual instructors must often be petitioned for information [17]
- Loss of artifacts from reassignment of responsibilities [16]
- ODU CS department syllabus collection once took two months [17]

Knowledge Environment Enhancement

- Artifacts are specific to each course
- ODU instructors use a variety of platforms (e.g., Bb, PLE, CoWeM) to host artifacts [17]
- Special needs and distance learning lack proper support [3]
- Shared artifacts can benefit organizations on a fundamental level [16]

SOLUTION STATEMENT

A³ framework is a framework for aggregating and archiving artifacts for educators, researchers, and students. A³ framework seeks to overcome the challenges of individualization, location, and formatting in academic knowledge management by keeping information available, normalized, and centralized while being enhanced by a robust user interface.

SOLUTION CHARACTERISTICS:

Creating Formal Knowledge Repositories

- Create a robust infrastructure for artifacts
- Support version history of artifacts for organization of knowledge assets
- Centralize information concisely and effectively

Improve Knowledge Accessibility

- Create knowledge artifacts that are widely applicable
- Create cross course accessibility
- Normalize artifacts from varied platforms (e.g., Bb, PLE, CoWeM) into translatable formats*

*Not implemented in Prototype

SOLUTION CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge Asset Management

- Unify formatting among instructors through normalization
- Remove necessity of individual knowledge asset request
- Create systematic storage of vital course information
- Automate collection of standard reference materials*

Knowledge Environment Enhancement

- Translate artifacts to a universally applicable format
- Core organizational improvements through a cooperative environment
- Normalization to allow functionality across artifact formats
- Special needs and distance learning accessibility*

*Not implemented in Prototype

CUSTOMERS AND END USERS:

Old Dominion University Computer Science
Department:

Real World Product:

- Guest
- Student
- Faculty
- Administrator
- Tester

Prototype:

- Guest
- Faculty
- Tester

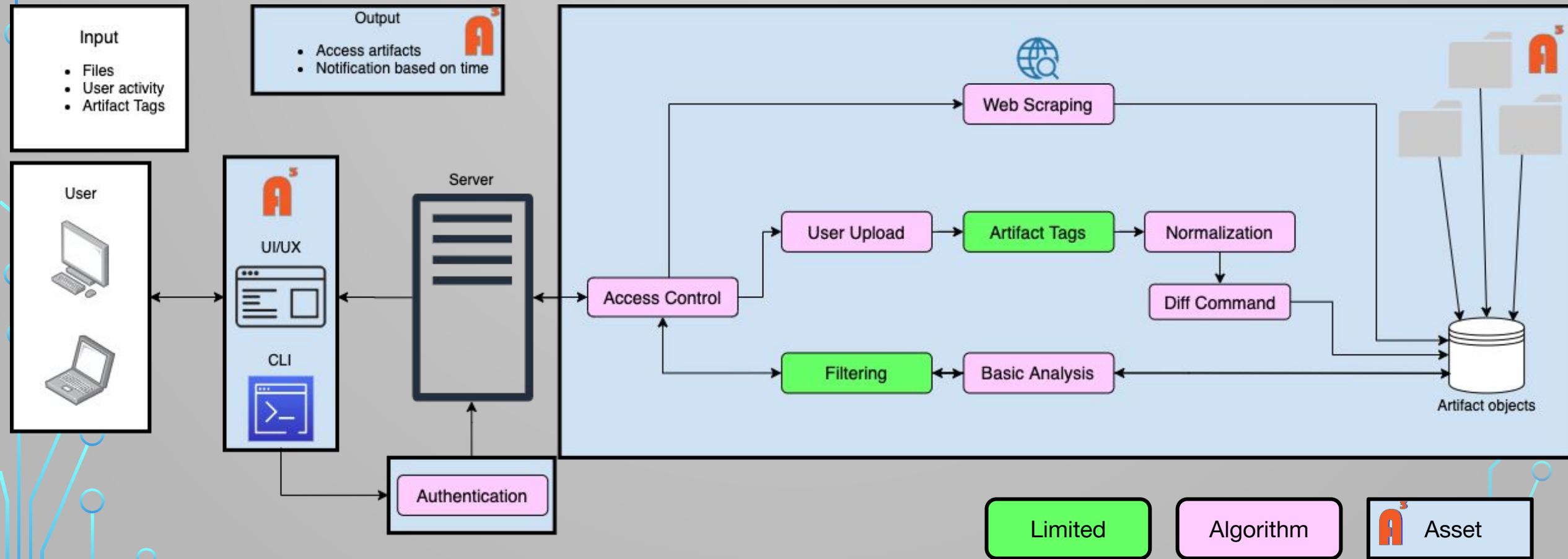


Image Credit:
([Freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com) 2020)

RWP vs. Prototype

Feature/Capabilities Comparison Chart			
Feature/Capability	Real World	A ³ Prototype	A ³ Prototype Actual
Database Storage	X	X	X
Graphical User Interface	X	Limited	Mock-up
Command Line Interface	X	X	Limited
User Authentication	X	Limited	Limited
Access Control	X	X	X
Artifact Upload	X	X	X
Repository Creation	X	X	X
Artifact Normalization	X	X	Limited
Artifact Comparison	X	X	X
Artifact Update	X	X	X
Artifact/Repo Deletion	X		
Web Scraping	X	Limited	Limited
Artifact Change Record	X	X	X
Artifact Exporting	X	X	X
Artifact/Repo Tags	X	Limited	Limited
Artifact/Repo Searching	X	Limited	Limited
Artifact Contributor List	X		
Artifact/Repo Sharing	X		

MAJOR FUNCTIONAL COMPONENTS



DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Software Requirements:

- Language: Python 3.8 or newer
- Python framework: Flask, mysql.connector, and py pandoc
- GUI language: HTML, CSS, and JS
- JS frameworks: React and Node (with npm)
- Documentation: pydoc and Sphinx
- Configuration management: tox or Conda
- Analysis: pycodestyle (formerly PEP 8) and Pylint
- APIs: BeautifulSoup 4, requests, pandoc

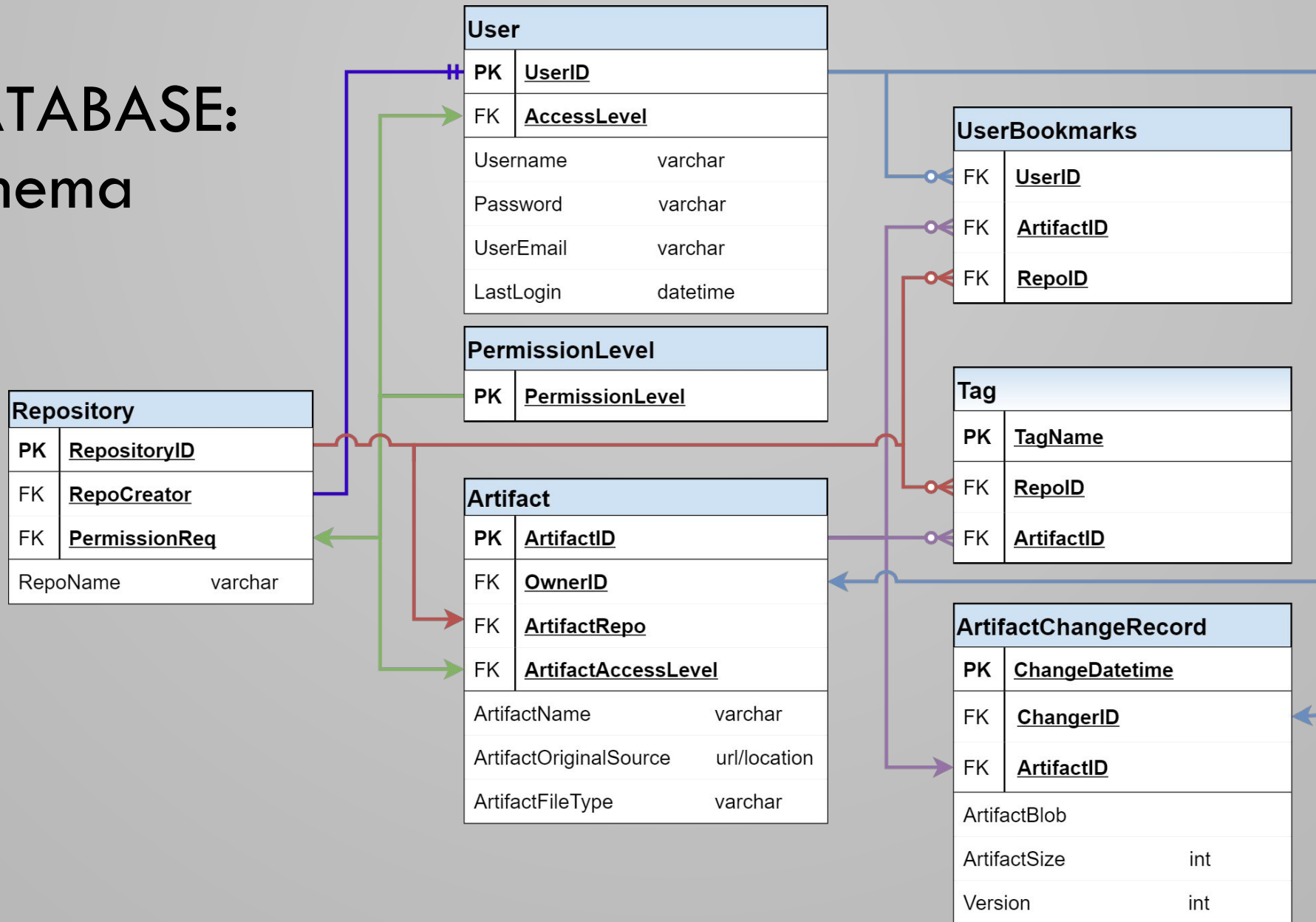
DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Technology Requirements:

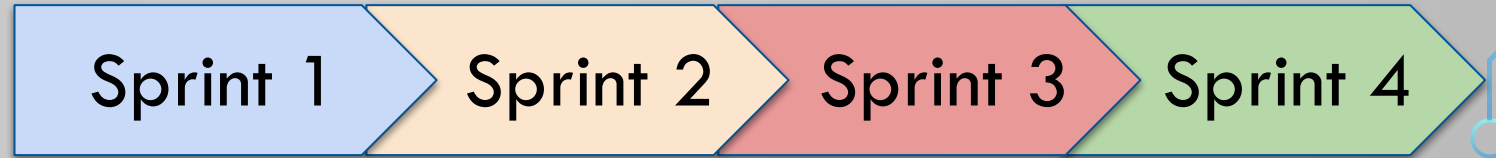
- Code Repository with Version Control: GitLab
- Issue Tracking and Development Scheduling: GitLab
- Containerization: Docker and Docker Compose
- Database: MySQL
- IDE: Visual Studio Code (VS Code)

Hardware Requirements: Single VM instance running an Ubuntu distribution on the ODU CS server

DATABASE: Schema



AGILE SPRINTS



- Sprint 1 (July 5, 2020)
 - Database framework
 - CLI interface
 - Simple comparison function
 - Authentication/Role-based access
 - Testing
- Sprint 2 (July 12, 2020)
 - Full database implementation
 - Normalization function(s)
 - Analysis function(s)
 - GUI framework
 - Testing
- Sprint 3 (July 20, 2020)
 - Diff function (line-by-line)
 - Web scraping implementation
 - Final GUI implementation
 - Limited artifact tags and filtering
 - Testing
- Sprint 4 - if time permits (July 27, 2020)
 - Full implementation of artifact tags and filtering
 - Notifications
 - Testing



A repository of reliable resources.
Our goal is simplicity.

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APPENDIX

USER STORIES:

Guest

I **must** be able to :

- choose to login with credentials
- export a public artifact
- view a list of public artifacts
- access the database with both a CLI and limited GUI.
- access the database outside of the network

I **wish** to be able to :

- be notified of what type artifacts I can access (i.e. public/private)
- filter and sort public artifacts that belong to the database

I **must not** be able to :

- access private artifacts
- edit or update artifacts
- access user accounts
- modify or update public artifacts
- change a user's access level
- upload an artifact

USER STORIES:

Faculty

I **must** be able to :

- do anything a guest can do
- login with credentials
- upload artifacts
- edit and update artifacts I own
- set access level requirement for artifacts I own
- upload an artifact via web scraper
- normalize files on upload
- view a Diff report on command
- view a list of all private artifacts

I **wish** to be able to :

- access the source of any artifact
- see usage reports about artifacts I own
- tag artifacts with keywords describing their content
- create notifications for myself regarding regular updates to artifacts

I **must not** be able to :

- access, edit, or update artifacts I don't own
- delete user accounts
- change a user's access level

USER STORIES:

Tester

I **must** be able to :

- access artifacts within my testing parameters
- view reports about users and artifacts
- have administrative capabilities within my testing parameters
- analyze results
- report test problems and anomalies
- have all the capabilities of any other account type
- manage the database including:
 - change attributes of any artifact, such as access level requirement
 - remove artifacts
 - create and change user accounts

I **wish** to be able to :

- improve software quality
- capture user requirements

I **must not** be able to :

- test their own products
- make all the decisions and changes to assure a better quality
- edit database schema