Budget Control   *A simple way to create a budget and stick to it*

Background

For a while I have been interested in building a tool to help me track my finances and budget my money. I currently do this using excel spreadsheets and would like a more convenient and powerful tool for the job. I recognize there are plenty of budget and finance apps/services available, but I think it would be cool to build one myself and design it the way that I would find most useful.

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to build a website or an app that will allow users to create a specific budget for themselves and to track their day-to-day spending/earning. I envision the user being able to easily define the different categories in their budget and set projected amounts for given time frames. The user will have an easy way to enter daily transactions. With this data, the application will be able to present helpful statistics to the user about their financial habits as well as how well they are sticking to their budget. Other features could be added based on our ideas and available time.

Team

2-3 other people. I would prefer that at least someone in the group has some web programming experience (I have done very little with web programming).

Technologies

We could create an app or a website, but I would favor creating a website. For the relational database I am thinking of using MySQL, but I would be open to different ideas. For the NoSQL portion I would probably lean towards using a key-value database because of its simplicity (although a document database would be interesting if we wanted to try that).

Business

Our aim would be to create a simple, free product that people could use to track their finances and budget. I recognize that there are other apps/services out there that handle financial tracking and budgeting – our goal is not to try to compete with those businesses for paying customers. Rather, I think we can learn from good examples already out there and create a tool that is simple and useful. If we feel that our tool could make money, I reserve the right to rewrite this business statement.

Legal

I don't plan on creating a company. Just focused on building a tool that is useful to me and others.

Technical

I think this project will involve the following technical aspects:

1. Learning how to use MySQL (or another valid database software) and integrating it into the application.
2. Creating the back-end of the Application (probably in java).
3. Creating the front-end of the Application (preferably using a web framework).
4. Learning how to use NoSQL database software and integrating it into the application.
5. Connecting each component in a valid web architecture.