Magic Tactil

2012

Moreover, you will know the differences and similarities between our project and the others.

The most important similarities are about how the gaming system works. And the most important differences are about the ideas of how will be the best social network for this game.

This document is about the results of researches about some projects that already exists and would be rivals of our EIP.

Those projects are :

- Cockatrice

- Magic Workstation

- CCGDECKS.COM

- Magic the gathering online

Domain Analysis

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1 – L'Epitech Innovative Project

A – What are an EIP and Epitech?

Epitech is a school in computer science which a 5 years courses. Epitech is also known for his special education. In fact, this school learn the students to learn by doing projects, sometimes you have to work with workmates. This education want the student to learn some skills, which a senior management have to use. Those skills are, to be independent, taking initiative and handling the time of his team.
While the student is in Epitech, I have to do a project which permit him to get the diploma, this project his called EIP. Then, at Epitech, the third year's students have to choose a subject which the students will work on for two years. The EIP has to be innovative which is the most important element in the project.

B – Magic Tactil

Magic Tactil will be a software where the Magic's card gamers will play. This program permit them to have fun with virtual cards and use them like they use it in real life. In fact, the user have the possibility to create his own decks and use them during a game.
Moreover, the community system will also been present, this system will permit the gamers to participate to the life of the community. It will work like a social network, the user can have friends, discuss with them, write on a forum, create or subscribe to different events by using a calendar.
You have to know that 2012 is an important year, in fact, Microsoft is going to come out the new operating system which we guess it's important for the pad's market.
Then our objective is to have the project ready when the market is going to peak.

2 – The existing projects

A – List of projects

Most of the software or websites which they used the theme of Magic : The gathering are not able to peak in the marker for some reasons which we will explain later.
Those programs are : Cockatrice, CCGDECKS.COM, Magic Workstation and Magic the Gathering Online.

B -Description of the projects which they already exist.

1. Project 1 : CCGDECKS.COM

CCGDECKS.COM is PHP website which permit to the users to make drafts or sealed games. The user interface is simple and intuitive. The creators decided to keep the web design simple because they do prefer to keep focusing on the contents. The welcome page show the users the latest news of the website. For example, they could have added a new feature or corrected an old bug.

We can also find some information like, the number of draft's game which is running, the number of people who are waiting or the ranking of the card's prices. Moreover, the home page offer us to translate the contents in twelve languages. Finally, the menu is composed with 8 tabs which are

- Home

- Search

- Drafting

- Sealed

- Stats

- My stuff

- Community

- Login/logout

SEARCH

Card Search

Field	
Name:	
Type/Subtype:	
Cost:	☐ Exactly
Converted Cost:	Equal to ▼
Power:	Equal to ▼
Toughness:	Equal to ▼
Restrict to cards created by:	
Sort By:	Name ▼

Restrict:
☐ Do not display user generated cards in results

Text on Card:

Restrict Color(s) to:
Hold Ctrl+Select to select multiple
- All
- Colorless (Artifact/Land)
- White
- Blue
- Black
- Red
- Green

☐ Must be all of these colors

Restrict Set(s) to:
Hold Ctrl+Select to select multiple. User sets at bottom of list.
- All
- Alara Reborn (ARB)
- Alliances (AL)
- Alpha (A)
- Antiquities (AQ)
- Apocalypse (AP)
- Arabian Nights (AN)

Restrict Format to:
- All
- Vintage
- Legacy
- Extended
- Standard
- Ice Age Block
- Mirage Block

[Search] [Reset]

Card Search Results (23 matching cards found)

Sort By: Name ▼

Name	Cost	Type	Text	Stats	Sets	Actions
Acolyte of Xathrid	⚫	Creature - Human Cleric	1⚫, ⚫: Target player loses 1 life.	0/1	M10(C), UPSD(C)	View /
Bloodchief Ascension	⚫	Enchantment	At the beginning of each end step, if an opponent lost 2 or more life this turn, you may put a quest counter on Bloodchief Ascension. (Damage causes loss of life.)Whenever a card is put into an opponent's graveyard from anywhere, if Bloodchief Ascension has three or more quest counters on it, you may have that player lose 2 life. If you do, you gain 2 life.	0/0	ZEN(R), UKQC(C)	View /
Bone Splinters	⚫	Sorcery	As an additional cost to play Bone Splinters, sacrifice a creature. Destroy target creature.		ALA(C)	View /
Corrupted Roots	⚫	Enchantment - Aura	Enchant Forest or Plains Whenever enchanted land becomes tapped, its controller loses 2 life.		CNF(U)	View /
Deathgreeter	⚫	Creature - Human Shaman	Whenever another creature is put into a graveyard from play, you may gain 1 life.	1/1	ALA(C)	View /
Deathmark	⚫	Sorcery	Destroy target green or white creature.	0/0	CS(U), 10(U), M10(U), M11(U), M12(U), UX.5(U), UBCU(R)	View /
Demon's Herald	⚫	Creature - Human Wizard	2B, T, Sacrifice a blue creature, a black creature, and a red creature: Search your library for a card named Prince of Thralls and put it into play. Then shuffle your library.	1/1	ALA(U)	View /
Disentomb	⚫	Sorcery	Return target creature card from your graveyard to your hand.	0/0	M10(C), M11(C), M12(C), ULAC(C), UMOL(C)	View /
Disfigure	⚫	Instant	Target creature gets -2/-2 until end of turn.	0/0	ZEN(C), UKQC(C), UBCU(R), UCUB(C)	View /
Dreadwing	⚫	Creature - Zombie	1UR: Dreadwing gets +3/+0 and gains flying until end of turn.	1/1	CNF(U)	View /

1, 2, 3 Next

In the "search" tab, you can search a card by some properties like is mana cost, his color or his edition.

5
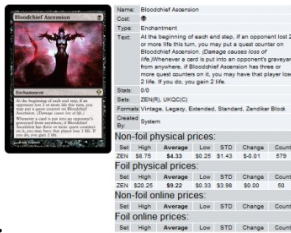
. The results is shown by sorting a list, every card of the list have a complete description. You also have a button which permit the user to see the real card.

DRAFTING

In the drafting tab, it's possible to have the access to he drafting list which are waiting for new players. In fact, this part of the website allow the player to join a game with some other players. For each draft, the most important information are shown, in general those information are : The name, the type of the draft, and the name of the players who are in the game.

The game starts when the person who created the room decide to.

The user also can create his own room with some settings. You can decide : the type of the draft, the number of players, and the optional password. When the room is created, the creator can wait for the maximum number of people who are connected to his room, if he doesn't want to wait for the people he is able to fill the list of player in with some bots. As it said above, the creator can start the game when he wants.
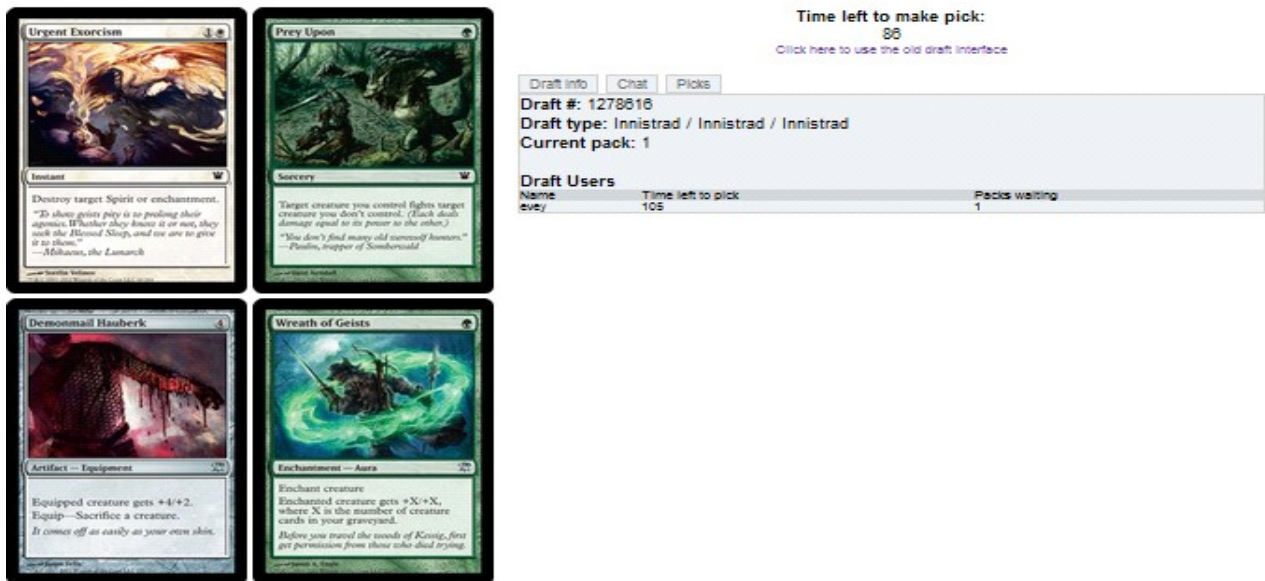
When the draft is started, each player can see on his own screen a card's list which he did get from the booster. With this list he has to choose a card, after that, the list goes to the next player. Sometimes you have to wait for the others players because they don't know which card they should pick, but anyway the process is very simple and works well.

At the bottom of the page, there is a place where the users can see the information about the draft. A discussion area was also implemented.
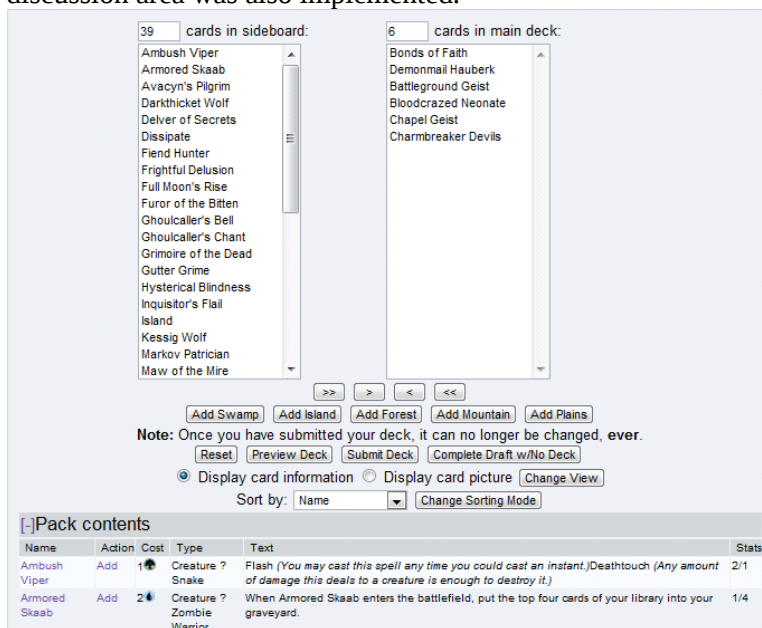
When all the cards were chosen, you are now in the "making deck" phase. Which means that each players has to make his own deck from the 45 cards he did get from the draft.

The user can also show to the other player is deck or keep playing without building his deck.

SEALED

The page of the sealed allow the users to open 1 to 10 boosters to make a deck with the cards you did get from the boosters. He can choose the boosters from all editions. The making deck phase is the same as the making deck phase in drafting mode. During a sealed, it's possible to see the list of the cards you got in the boosters without making a deck.

STATS

WARNING: A lot of sets won't have complete (or any) statistics, as the majority of drafts being done are from Mirrodin block.

Set to display:
Alara Reborn

[-]Set information

Card Name	Rarity	Avg Pick	STD	Total Picked	Max $	Avg $	Min $	STD $	Considered
Anathemancer	U	9.38026	0	3985	$1.75	$0.43	$0.10	$0.31	47
Architects of Will	C	8.92928	0	12715	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Ardent Plea	U	6.28052	0	3869	$1.73	$0.31	$0.29	$0.61	4
Arsenal Thresher	C	6.43617	0	6191	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Aven Mimeomancer	R	1.30765	0	455	$0.99	$0.35	$0.01	$0.26	35
Bant Sojourners	C	9.28956	0	8860	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Bant Sureblade	C	2.72601	0	3901	$0.99	$0.44	$0.25	$0.32	4
Behemoth Sledge	U	1.66182	0	4241	$1.00	$0.45	$0.07	$0.23	42
Bituminous Blast	U	2.23138	0	4816	$0.75	$0.39	$0.14	$0.13	39
Blitz Hellion	R	1.42143	0	605	$1.06	$0.45	$0.01	$0.25	62
Bloodbraid Elf	U	1.8819	0	4073	$2.82	$1.78	$0.10	$0.56	65
Brainbite	C	11.3769	0	13580	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Breath of Malfegor	C	10.7546	0	14816	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Captured Sunlight	C	8.70225	0	11918	$0.49	$0.26	$0.15	$0.14	4
Cerodon Yearling	C	7.15482	0	7817	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Cloven Casting	R	3.95833	0	120	$1.06	$0.39	$0.03	$0.29	40
Colossal Might	C	3.8048	0	7044	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	2
Crystallization	C	1.66617	0	3734	$0.25	$0.14	$0.04	$0.10	2
Dauntless Escort	R	1.19083	0	587	$4.97	$2.87	$0.84	$0.96	83
Deadshot Minotaur	C	4.68449	0	5778	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Deathbringer Thoctar	R	1.21466	0	573	$1.00	$0.38	$0.12	$0.23	47
Defiler of Souls	M	1.21595	0	301	$1.79	$0.72	$0.01	$0.42	45
Demonic Dread	C	11.1474	0	13184	$0.25	$0.25	$0.25	$0.00	1
Demonspine Whip	U	6.07908	0	3443	$0.49	$0.41	$0.32	$0.09	2
Deny Reality	C	5.39567	0	6630	$0.25	$0.20	$0.15	$0.05	4

On the stats page, it's possible to find some information sorting by edition and cards. You can also find the average price, the number of time you got the card in a booster for the linked edition.

MY STUFF

This page is currently a placeholder for a future summary page of all your objects on this site. In the meantime, you can manage your objects using the below links:

Object creation tools

Create Deck
Create Set
Create Card

Object management tools

Your Decks
Your Draft/Sealed Decks
Your Sets
Your Cards

The tab "My stuff" allows the user to have a description of each deck and card he did have and used. With a special feature, the gamer can also create a new deck with the cards he did get from his games.

COMMUNITY

The "Community" tab allows the user to go to the forum of the website. On this part of the website, he can discuss with the others players. In general, the subject of those topics is Magic : The gathering.

ADVANTAGES :

- Intuitive

- Simple and clear

- Fast

- All the features

DISADVANTAGES :

- The translation are not good

- Error pages

- You can't check if the deck you have just made is good or not

CONCLUSION :

CCGDECKS.COM is website with a lot of features which a Magic player will find good. Anyway, our project will use all of those features and add an important one which allows the player to check if his deck is good or not.

2 . Project 2 : Magic Workstation

Magic Workstation is a software which allows the users to make his own deck of Magic : The gathering. This program is not intuitive and hard to use. The first time, a person uses it, a list of cards is shown. You have 2 columns, the first one which is the list of the cards, and the second which is the illustration of the card selected.

MWS have many features like:

- Making a card.
- Making a deck
- Playing to the game

MAKING A CARD.

        With Magic Workstation, you can make your own card without any restriction ! This feature permit the user to set every property of the card. But the software doesn't allow you to make your own card with the new system which the company Wizard of the coast did create. For example, you can't have a card a phyrexian mana.
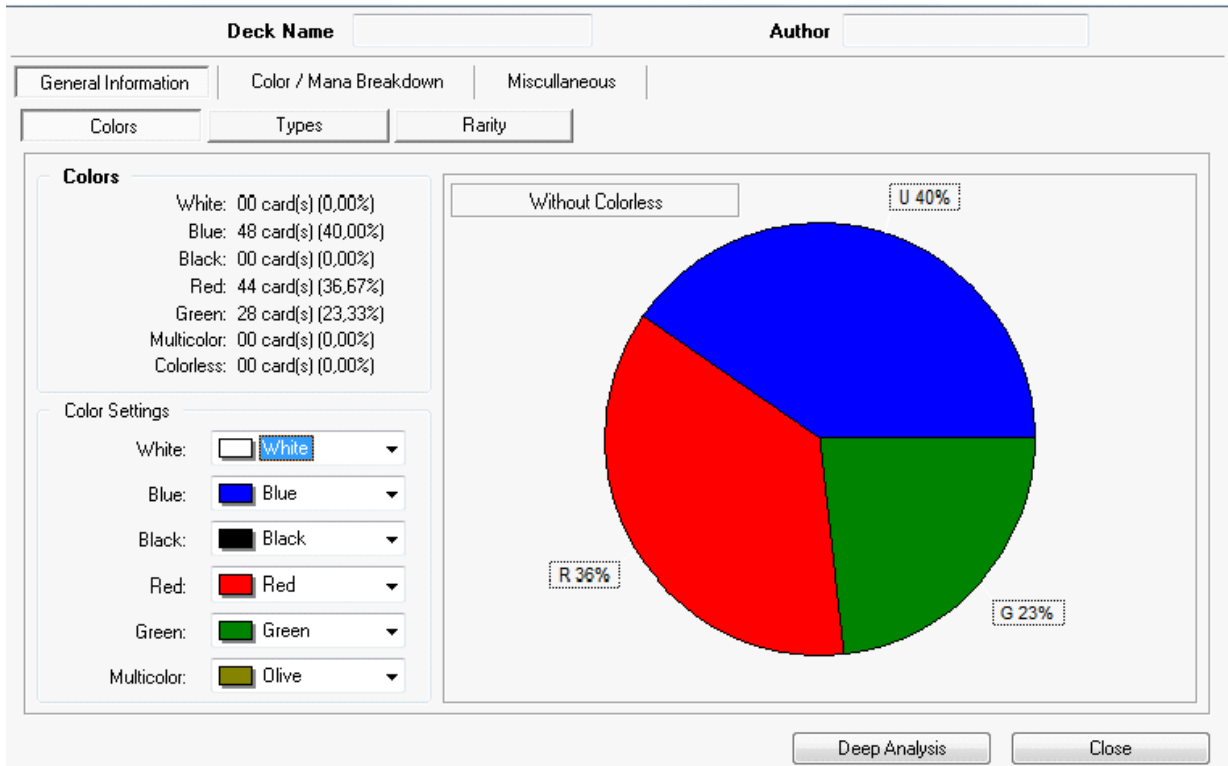When you have created your card, you can use it in classic game or whatever.

MAKING A DECK

In this part of the software, you can make a deck with the cards you did imported or created. Many features can be used there. When the deck is made, you can have some stats about your deck. For example you can know the number of cards with the same color or the average mana's cost.

If you want to, you can get the buyable version of Magic Workstation which means that you are allowed to use some features. For example you can have an average price of your deck. Anyway we did have the trial version for this document then we didn't try it.

GAME

This is a classical game of Magic using the software Magic Workstation, if you want to play to a classical game against another player or a bot,you have to use the deck you did make. With this program every player can manage his cards like he wants to. But the aim of this freedom is to play like you are going to play face to face. Obviously, if it's the opponent turn you can do whatever you want to but he wouldn't play with you anymore because of your behavior.
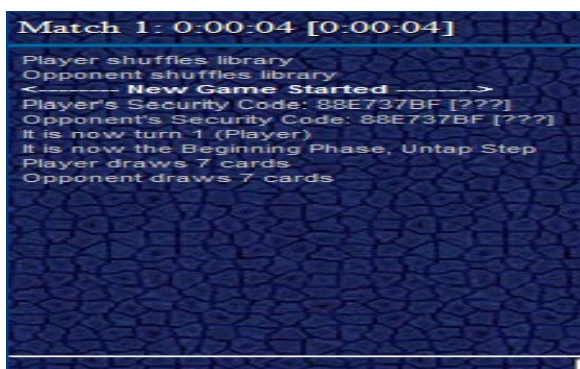
There is a chat on the right of the screen play which permit both players to discuss to each other while they are playing. The chat does announce the name each phase of one turn.

ADVANTAGES:

- Making a card
- Making a deck
- You can play against bots or real players

DISADVANTAGES:

- Not intuitive
- You have to pay
- A lot downloads (Card, languages, extensions)
- There are few people who using this program to play to Magic: The Gathering

CONCLUSION

Magic Workstation is good tool for the players who are experimented, but it is still difficult to use it if you are a novice at this game. Our project will have a better way to play.

3. Project 3 : Magic The Gathering Online

Magic The Gathering online is game which were developed by the main company, Wizards of the Coast. For some reasons, this is the best way to play to Magic online. Even if, this is the best way to play there is some disadvantages which don't attract the people to use it.

As a good online game, Magic The Gathering Online has a log-in screen when you launch the game :
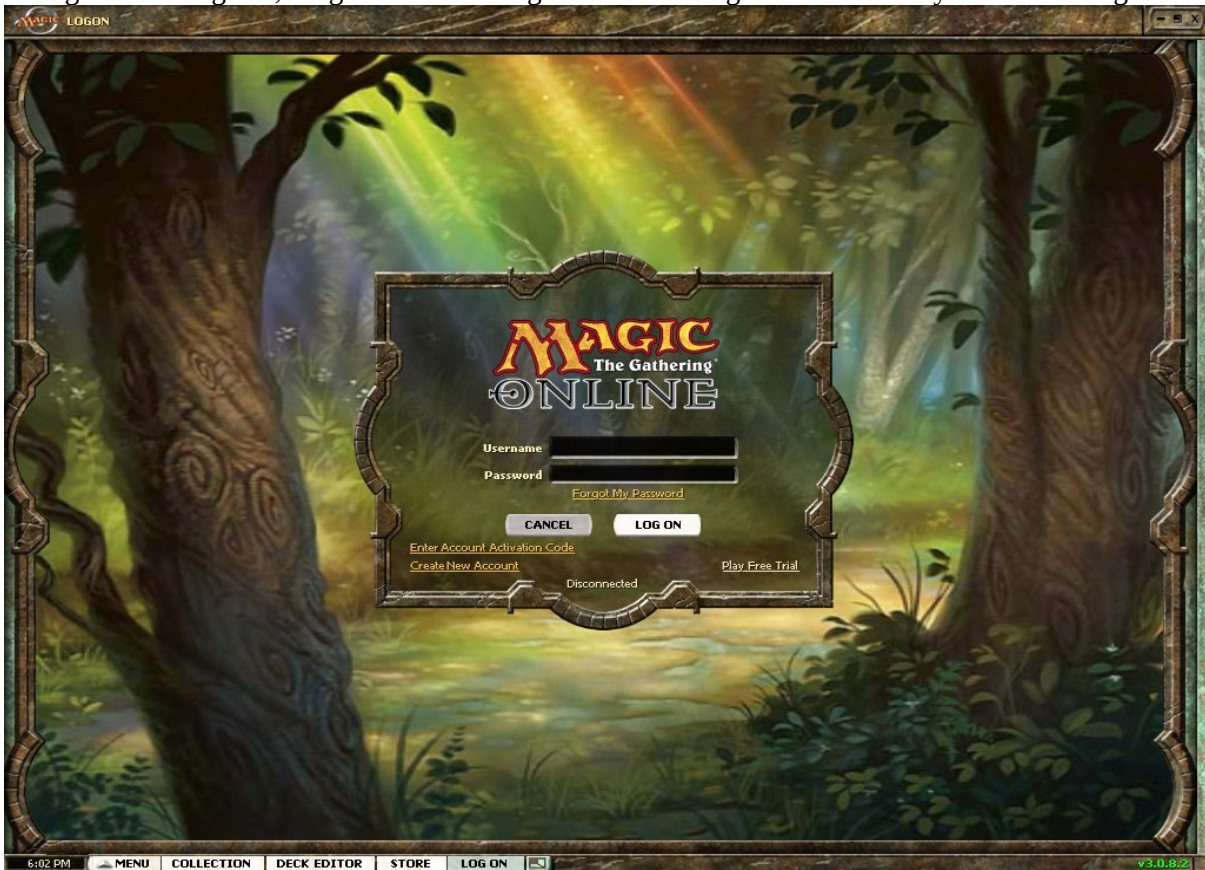
You can get an account only if you buy it on the official website. This software costs 10$, it still a moderate cost for this kind of high quality game. But we will talk about the commercial aspect of this game later.

The software has all the features needed to play properly. For example, you can buy cards, making a deck, exchange cards and using your decks into a classical game.

<u>Features of the game</u>

- Game's screen.
- Cards shop.
- Making your own decks
   The making deck's screen allow the player to create his own list of cards from the cards the player did get. The interface is simple and useful at the same time. But there is still some ergonomics issues.
   We will write down the advantages and the disadvantages :
     - Advantages :
- The number of the same card you did have
- The interface is intuitive and how the software sorts the cards from the library
     - Disadvantages :
- The interface can't permit the user to see the whole list by showing the real appearance of each card.

- Game's screen.
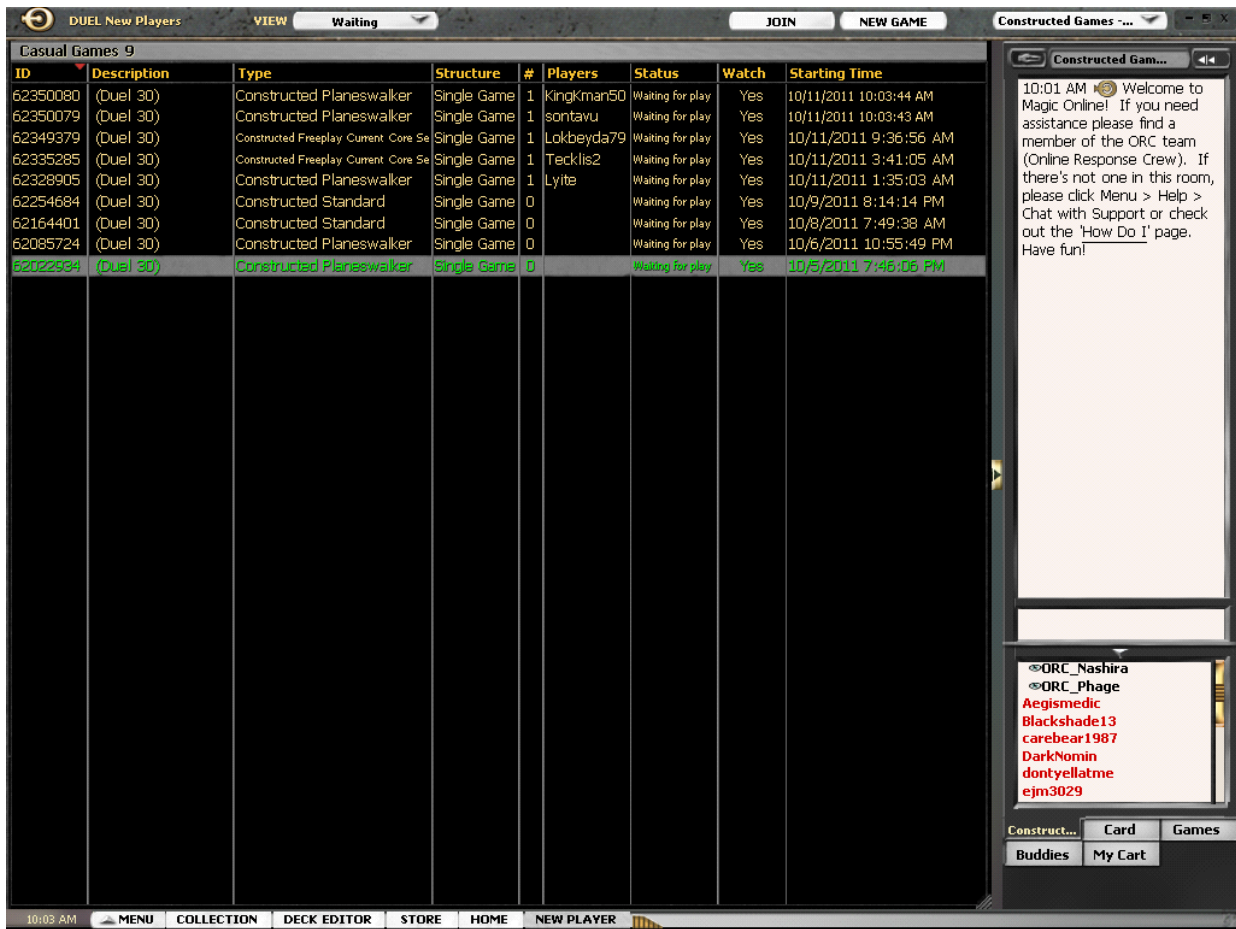
When you arrived on the Game's Screen, the user can choose a room which are separate in two types. The first is "Casual Play" and the second one is "Tournament". If you want to play with this game, the whole players have to respect the rules that Wizards of the coasts did create.

When you have chosen a room, you can see the whole decks you have made. On the above screen shot, we can see that the players are waiting for others players, if you want to you can join a room as a spectator.

During the game, each you play a card the software ask the opponent if he wants to do something against him, because of that, the players can get bored of this. Anyway, there is no rule issues because the software manage this.

- The card's shop.

The shop is the part of the game which is the most criticized. As we can see on the below screen-shot , the prices of the virtual cards are the same as the cards in the real life. In real life, if you want to check if your decks work well you can play with the printed cards. In this case, you have to buy it before checking.

The shop is easy to use because the software did sort the products well. There is still a disadvantage because of the way of buying products. In fact, you have to write down each information each time you want to buy something.

Conclusion

Magic The Gathering Online is a good software and easy to use. Because of the rules which are handled by the software, the player doesn't have to take care if his opponent cheats or not. But there is a problem, in fact everything is buyable and the price are the same as in the real life. Then a minority will be interested in.

4. Project 4 : Cockatrice

Cockatrice is a software developed in C++ which gives the user all the tools needed to play to Magic properly.
We can found the following features :
- Making his own decks.
- Handle the room
- Creating a room
- All players can play to Magic like they play in the real life
- Creating and editing the accounts and profiles.
- Community system

<u>Making Decks.</u>

This is the Making Deck's interface of the software Cockatrice.

This interface is easy to use for some reasons. First of all, if you want to get the whole available cards of the game, you have to download the database.

When you did download the whole cards, you can notice that the creation interface is separated in 6 parts.

The first one is used to choose the card. When you have clicked on the card the second part starts to work.

The second part show the user how the card looks like in real life.
As the second, the third part gives you a description of the chosen card.

The forth part is very important for creating the list. In fact, there are some buttons which are going to modify the deck. For example you can use some features like : add or remove a card.

In part five, you can see the list of the cards in your deck.

The part six is used to comment his own deck and give it a name.

<u>How Cockatrice handles rooms</u>
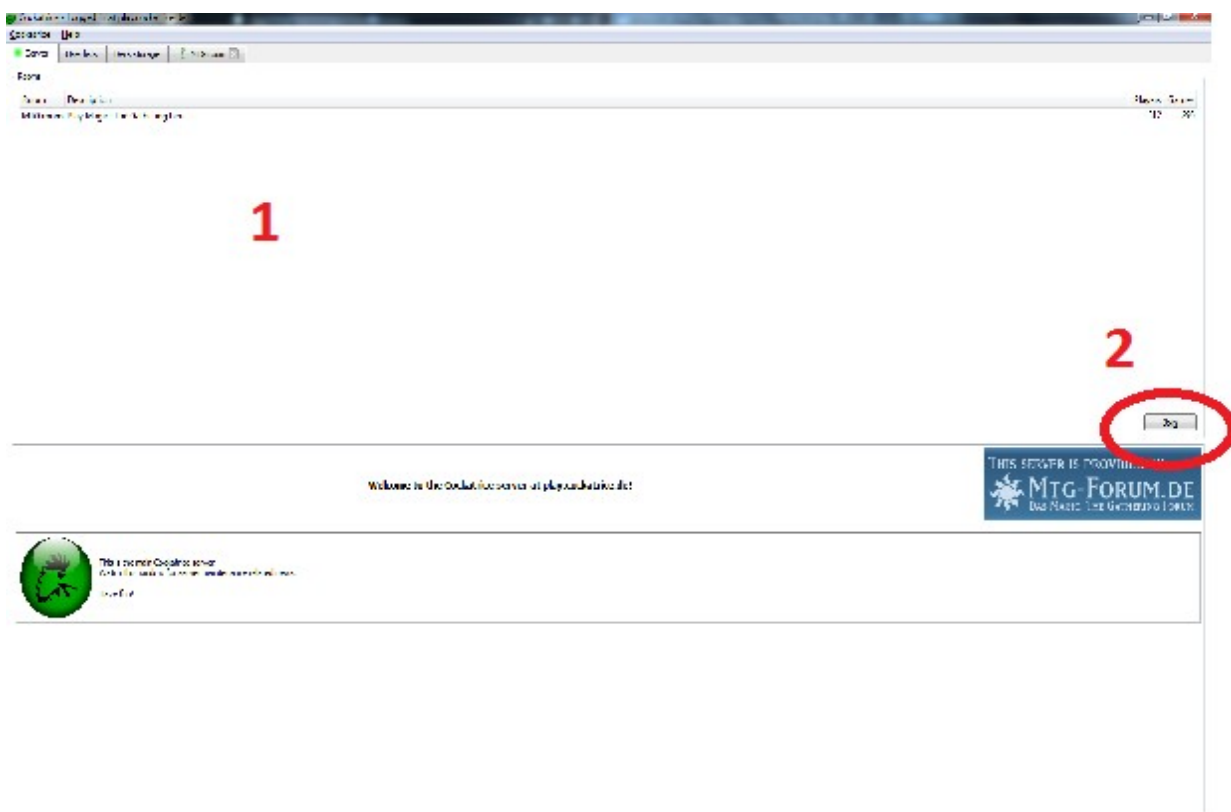
In the screen-shot above, you can choose the server where you want to play, you can find those server's name in place one. When you have decided where you want to play you can connect to the chosen server by clicking on the button on the part two.
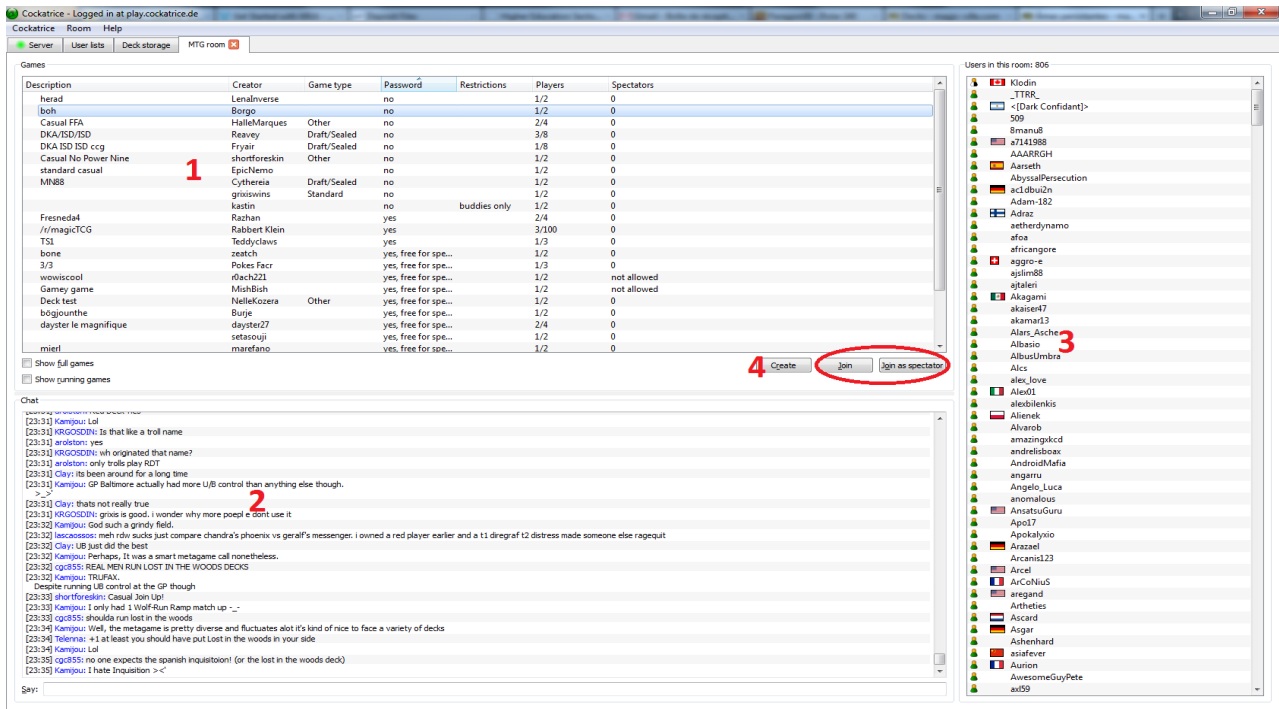
On the above screen-shot, there are six separated parts.

The first one is the list of the rooms created by other players.

The second one is where people can discuss together.

The third one is list of players who are connected on the server.

The forth represent the actions that you can do on a room. For example you can join the room as a player or a spectator.

Creating rooms
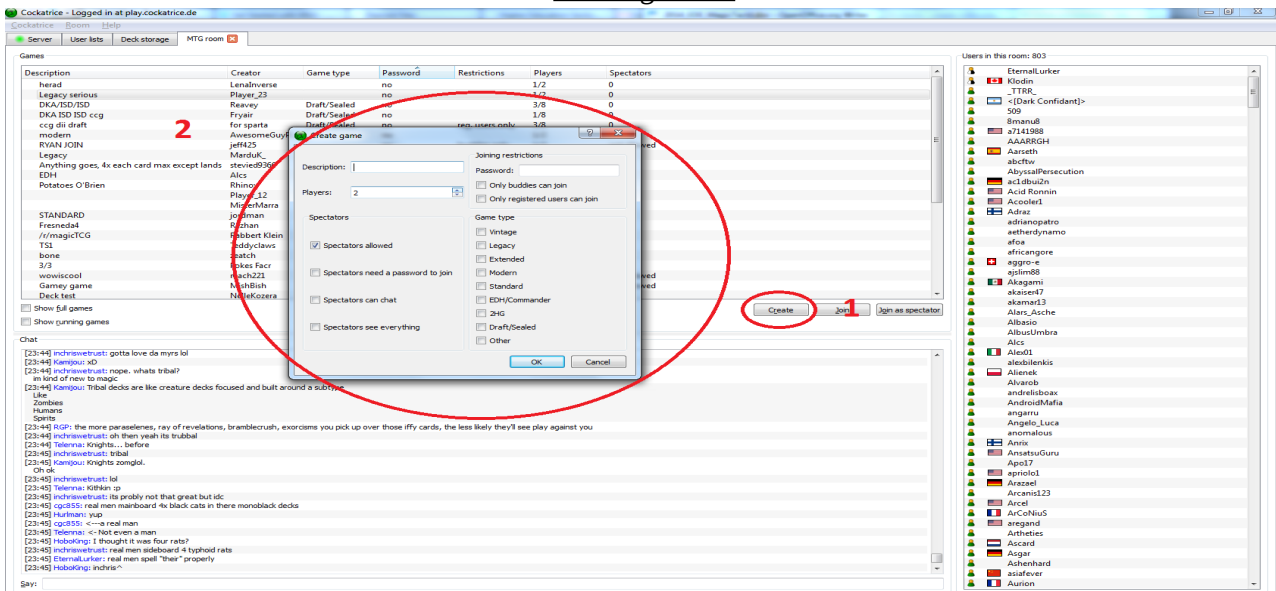
If the user wants to create a new room, he has to click on the create button which is placed on the first area on the above screen-shot. When you did click a windows appears on the second part. There are all the information needed by the server to create a game.

Choose his deck for the game

When the room is created, the software bring the player to another interface. On this screen, there are three important elements which are the button to choose his deck, the chat and the state of the player

If you want to choose a deck you have to pushed one of those buttons, "Load local deck" or "Load deck from server", Cockatrice offers the right to save his decks on a server. Which means that the player can use his deck even if he doesn't use his own computer.
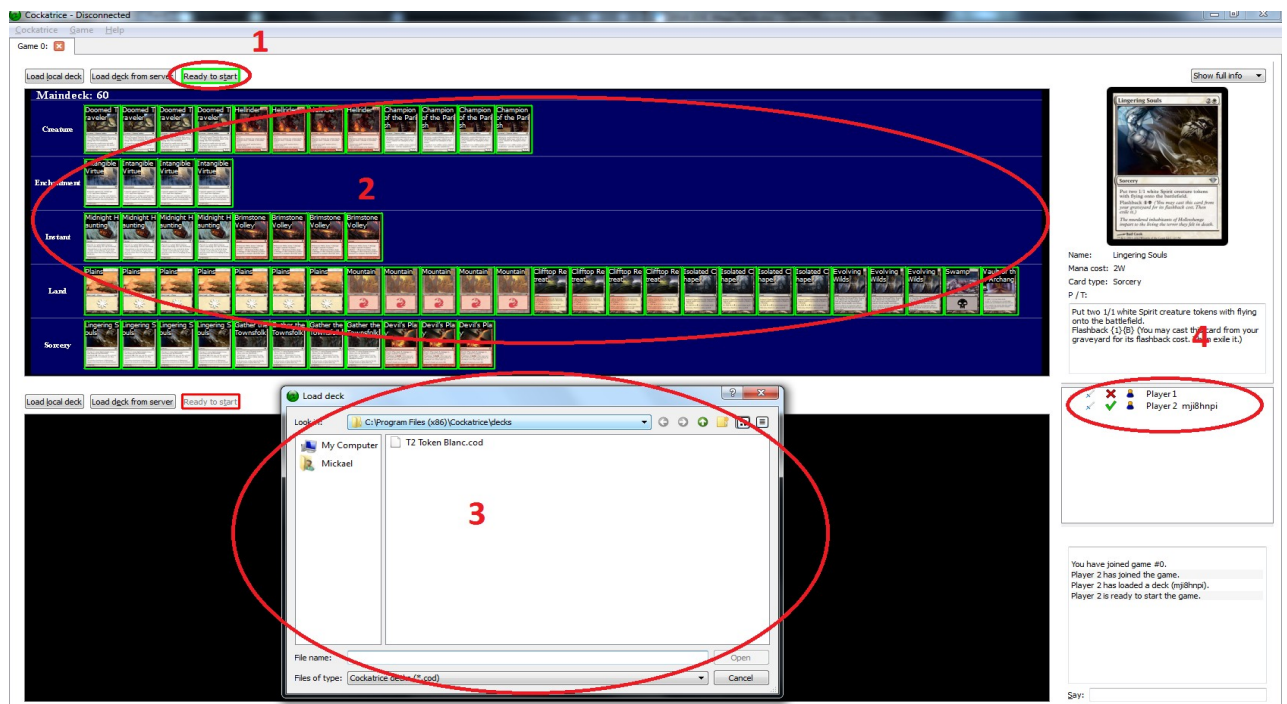
For the example, we are going to choose the local load, if you want to choose a deck online. The process is exactly the same.

When the button is pushed, a new window appears. You can find this window on position three on the above screen-shot.

When you did have chosen your deck, the window disappears, then you can see the whole list sorted by types of card. This list is shown on position two.

If you want to use the deck, you have to push "Ready to start". You can find it on position one.

If you are ready to play, the software changes your state on position four. You can have only two states, the first one is not ready defined by the red cross and the second one is ready defined by the green arrow.

When both players are ready, you can start the game.

What can the player do when he is playing with Cockatrice
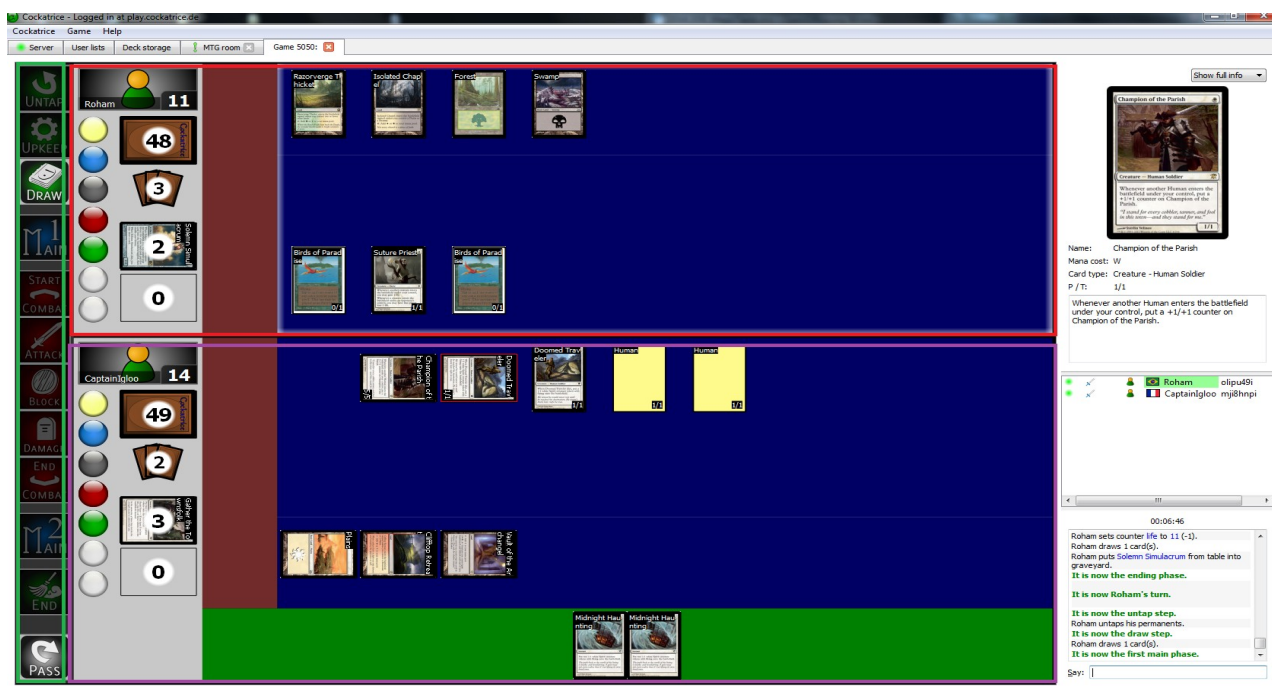
The above screen-shot shows the interface of a game with Cockatrice.
As you can see, we can distinguish three areas.

The first one which is circled by a red line, is the opponent's side.

The second one which is below the first one is your side. We can notice that a space is for the hand of the player. This space is in the green area.

The third area represent the different steps in one single turn.
When you are playing to Magic : The Gathering, you usually use the cards which are on your side.
For this reason, Cockatrice gives to the people freedom of what they are doing with their cards. But you can also play on the other side, if you want to do that, there is only one way. In fact, you can give your card to your oppenent by moving a card from your side to the opponent's side.

Community system.

If you want to play on the server of Cockatrice, you have to sign up on the Cockatrice's website which is cockatrice.de. When you have signed up, you can set new information about you.

The above screen-shot show us what is the account's information you can set.
If you want to see the information of other players you can get it by clicking on "User details" on the Cockatrice
The communication is very basic, in fact you can discuss with the others by using the chat on position two.

But you can also have a private discussion with one person by clicking on "Direct Chat" on the person with you want to discuss. When it's done a new tab appears, then you can send messages to the right person.

<u>Conclusion</u>

Cockatrice is a software which is full of good features but only for the game part. In fact, the software has all the features needed for a pleasurable game.

But the community system doesn't have good features. That is the most important detail that we will include in our project.
Moreover, we want the users to participate as a member of big family by using our software and not only playing games online.

C – Main websites of the projects which already existing.

Those URL are the main websites of each projects we did talk about.:

CCGDECKS.COM → http://ccgdecks.com/

Magic Workstation → http://www.magicworkstation.com/

Cockatrice → http://cockatrice.de/

Magic The Gathering Online → http://www.wizards.com/Magic/Digital/MagicOnline.aspx

<center>3- Our project</center>

A – Which features do we have and they don't have.

Most of the software we did see just don't have an advance community system. In fact, we can only play games. Even if, those programs are complete and comfortable, the users don't have the possibility to play as a big family like we want to.

We are going to develop more than just a friend list, we really want to the users to interact with the other users by using a social network for Magic : The Gathering players.

B – The obsolescence.

First of all, Wizards of the Coast is a company which maintain his game, then new cards with new abilities will come out. In fact, some abilities won't force us to maintain our project because we don't need to. But the abilities which changes the state of a card will force us to update our software. For example, a card which can be "transformed".

Each card of the game has two faces, one is the design of the game and the other one is the description of the card. But some of them have two description, then they can change to another face when something special happen in the game. If they come out a new ability which change the proper state of the card we will have to update the program.

Second of all, the community part, as we explained before, we want to include some features in the aim to get a community which is alive. This system will become obsolete when new communication methods and more effective than the current methods will come out.

4 – Conclusion

A- Comparative matrix between our project and the others.

	Magic Tactil	Cockatrice	Ccgdecks.com	MagicWorkstation	Magic Online
Making decks	X	X	X	X	X
Can choose real cards	X	X	X		X
All the needed features to play	X	X	X	X	X
Profil	X	X	X	X	X
Friends list	X	X	X	X	X
Forum	X				
Room	X	X	X	X	X
Handling events	X				
Trading cards	X				X
Can play to different types of game (draft, sealed, etc)	X	X	X	X	X

<center>B – A SWOT about our project.</center>

Strength	- Short time to develop because of the language we will use. - The community.. - The community system.
Weaknesses	
Opportunity	- Other software don't have regular updates - No threat from the rivals
Threat	

<center>C – Our project and the others.</center>

At the moment there is any rivals for this project because of one game called Magic The Gathering Online. In fact, those kind of games got a bad reputation because the main company did want to sell the virtual cards to the same price as the real cards plus the price of the software. Even if the idea was great the business model didn't fit with the needed of the customers.

After that failure, some free software came out. But those programs doesn't have a large community and a good community system. This is the most important part of our project.