

Table 1: Revision History

Date	Developer(s)	Change	Revision
Sept 22, 2017	Dawson Myers, Yang Liu, Bran- don Roberts	Initial Draft	0
Sept 25, 2017	Dawson Myers, Yang Liu, Bran- don Roberts	Revision 0 Completion	0
Nov 22, 2017	Dawson Myers, Yang Liu, Bran- don Roberts	Revision 1 Proofread	1
Dec 6, 2017	Dawson Myers, Yang Liu, Bran- don Roberts	Revision 1 Completion	1

SE 3XA3: Problem Statement
Title of Project
Revision 0

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1 Problem Statement

RESTful web services are a very popular way to implement web applications and mobile applications. They simplify the delivery of resources between the front-end and back-end of an application by allowing the programmers to link resources to simple API endpoints. These services provide a window to clients to access resources such as data, files, and other information, and enable developers to build maintainable and scalable web services and applications. Developers ~~need solutions~~ **require tools and solutions** for testing their RESTful web applications. The reproduction of the Sails Live Chrome application delivers a REST API testing tool that caters to this need by executing requests and providing response to these requests.

1.1 Issues to be addressed and problems to be solved.

The application will provide a user interface through which HTML requests can be made. Using the app, users can specify route in an address bar, initiate GET, POST, PUT and DELET requests with custom payload, **save created tests**, and manage these created requests. **The API tests, called REST stubs, can be chained together and run sequentially. A failed requests would break the chain of REST stubs and subsequent tests would not be ran.** The application will provide JSON-formatted responses for user-input requests (using query terms) and confirmation on whether the request was successful.

1.2 Importance of the problem

The development of this application will save valuable development time by allowing true black box testing to be performed by people other than a back-end programmer. For example, a secondary developer can create test cases and test API endpoints by monitoring the responses from the tool. This can be more convenient in many situations, including the early stages of development when a project will generally lack a UI, and a testers alternative would often be making crude HTTP requests manually. **Since Chrome applications are being phased out, we aim to create a lightweight web application** that will allow developers of small projects to test their REST API endpoints without having to use the aforementioned crude method, or a heavier application like Sails Live or Postman.

1.3 Context of the problem

The recreation of the app is not limited to any particular platform since most devices are able to support the Chrome web browser and run JavaScript. The reproduction of the app will remove the limitation presented by Sails Live that users can interface with only the Sails server. Instead, the reproduced app aim to enable communication with interfaces featuring RESTful Web APIs not limited to Sails.

1.3.1 Stakeholders

Multiple parties will be affected by the reproduction of the application. The set of stakeholders include team members, the course instructor, teaching assistants, and users of the end product of the project. Team members participating in the development of the application will benefit from the experiential learning presented by the challenges of the reproduction and development process. With the guidance of the course instructor and teaching assistants, team members aim to successfully reproduce the application within the defined scope. A special subset of stakeholders who should be highlighted are software developers using RESTful web services in their application who wish to test the correctness of the implemented RESTful services.

1.3.2 Software Environment

The application will be reproduced in the ~~Google Chrome App~~ **web application** format and thus will not require any special software environment (standard environment able to support the web browser will suffice; OS includes Mac, Linux, and Windows). The app aims to serve software developers involved in building RESTful web services.