

Jot: Team 4

CSCI 3308: Milestone 1

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1 Description

“Jot” is a web app that will allow users to upload notes and explore the notes their peers have posted for specific classes/groups. The product will be primarily catered to those in the education sector, but will be an “open” enough platform to be used for a wide variety of reasons, including note sharing between friends and colleagues.

The primary goal is to enable and encourage a collaborative learning environment. Essentially the web app will allow users, chiefly students and educators, to register for specific classes in order to post their lecture notes and study materials. Other users registered for that specific group can then view these notes and use them to supplement their own study materials. Students often find it difficult to take perfect notes during a lecture and often miss out on writing some portion of the material. By allowing students to compile the information they gathered from the lecture, they will have the opportunity to understand and revisit material they may have missed during class.

The web app will be organized such that users can explore classes/groups they are a part of, and can explore specific dates/units for those classes/groups. In these groups users will be able to upload their notes for specific lecture dates. The primary file format for uploads will be PDF, a universal file format, which will allow others to view, but not to edit the note content. The notes will be stored and organized in the web app’s backend database.

2 Vision Statement

To increase collaboration and a sense of community between students by allowing them to access and learn from the notes of their peers, thus increasing their understanding of the material.

3 Motivation

Motivation for this project arose from our own, the creators, experiences as students. As a student it is common to fall behind in a fast paced lecture. Getting lost in lecture, however, compromises the completeness of one's notes, and thus limits the usefulness of those notes while studying. Similarly, most students dread falling sick, as this means missing lectures and falling vastly behind in the class.

Both of these issues, of having incomplete notes and missing lectures, are alleviated through this project. "Jot" will allow students to constantly have access to notes posted by their classmates. They will be able to use this resource to make their notes more complete/correct, and they will also be able to access notes if they are forced to be absent from lecture.

4 Risks

There are several risk elements that have been considered as part of this project. These elements are ranked in accordance to their likely effect on schedule, with the first element having the highest potential consequence.

1. Team inexperience with web application development
2. Team inexperience with SQL
3. Team lack of consistent meeting time

5 Risk Mitigation Plan

To mitigate each of the risks listed above, the following strategies will be employed.

1. The team's inexperience with web application development is mitigated with margin in the schedule for the initial learning curve associated with a new language.
2. The team's inexperience with SQL is expected to be mitigated throughout the course, since SQL is a course learning objective. This process is also allocated margin in the schedule
3. The team's lack of a consistent time where all members can meet is mitigated with the communication and project management tools employed. By using Asana to track task completion, and Slack to message, the team is able to maintain an understanding of task division and remain in communication. In addition, meetings are planned to occur once a week, even if not all members are able to be present. This allows for updates and Agile practices to be employed, while accounting for the team member's schedules.

6 Version Control

We will be using GitHub for version control for the project's code. Members of the group will be expected to pull from and push to the remote repository often, so everyone can work on the most recent/up-to-date version of the code

7 Development Method

The team will be using an Agile design methodology. The team will push for weekly, if not bi-weekly meetings, where members can explain what they are working on, what they plan to work on, and what issues they are having. The focus will be placed on an incrementally growing project, where cycles of planning, building, testing, and demonstrating the small steps of the final product, will occur. By building incrementally the team will be able to adjust easily to issues and new constraints on the project.

8 Collaboration Tools

The following tools and softwares will be used by the team in order to collaboratively build the "Jot" platform.

1. Slack- App used for communication between all team members.
2. Asana- Web app used to create and assign tasks to team members.
3. Share Latex- Web app used to create and format professional documents.
4. GitHub- Central code repository used to collaboratively create the project.