Team One
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For CCSU Journalism Dept.

Iteration Report 2

Current Functionality

The old system has been nearly completed scrapped (bar some layout features). Since it became apparent that we must integrate a system that is familiar and usable to the client, it was decided that we should migrate to WordPress as our content management system instead of continuing the futile process of writing our own. Since WordPress now manages users and content, our main priority has shifted to layout and designing the theme in PHP, JS, and HTML.

The decision to migrate the backend of our system to WordPress and scrap the current work done using Java was absolutely imperative for a variety of reasons including:

1) Client is familiar with WordPress, learning a new system would not be ideal
2) The process of implementing our own content management system is akin to re-inventing the wheel, as well as it was proving very difficult and a non-optimal use of a time.
3) WordPress is provided on almost all web hosting sites (particularly BlueHost, mentioned by the client)
4) In line with the previous, it was unknown whether or not our java based system was compatible with various web hosts for the price point (i.e. nobody was buying a dedicated server)
5) The concerns the client had regarding WordPress were addressed (e.g. specifying which stories are highlighted on the main page)
6) Much better support for the client after the system is deployed
7) Established MVC architecture means a cleaner and more robust system

User Stories

Since our entire plan of implementation has shifted, so have our user stories. Since most of the work from the first iteration has been scrapped, a new set of user stories to be completed for the final sprint must be presented to be more in line with what we have to accomplish along the final sprint.

The functionality of our system is based off of WordPress, so our development has shifted to creating a WordPress theme to our client's liking; so our new user stories stem from the creation of different components of a WordPress theme. These themes are built from PHP files that refer to different sections of the site, i.e. the view in the MVC.

Since we are implementing the views, our user stories change from creating backend user interaction to front end display of backend content. So, our goals for the final iteration is to complete the required PHP files to complete the theme.

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It feels fairly forced to call these goals User Stories at this point – it would be much more indicative of the goal and more productive to just list the web pages that still need to be completed with a short description of what that page will do. The pre and post conditions of each of these user stories is essentially that the user requests a page / the page is displayed with appropriate content respectively.

Since we are going into the final sprint, assigning point values to these stories also feels extraneous because they simply must all get done before the project is done.

Required pages

Complete

Index.php – The main, default template of the site that WordPress defaults to if another section's php file does not exist.

Single.php – Display for a single story.

Incomplete

Comments.php – Display for comments on articles.

Page.php – Display when an individual page is queried.

Category.php – Display when a single category is requested.

Tag.php – Display when a single tag is queried.

Author.php – Displays all posts from an author.

Date.php – Date/time template

Search.php – Search results template

Attachment.php – Used to display an attachment to a story

Image.php – used to display a single image.

Map.php – A page used to display the map with points on it linking to stories. Uses Gmaps API.

Lessons Learned / Additional Information

The goal of switching to WordPress was providing the client with a familiar, pleasant user experience. You simply cannot find a content management system as robust, easy to use, and well supported as WordPress. Building our own, now, in hindsight, was akin to re-inventing the wheel. Obviously, it would have been smart if we noticed these things before the final iteration. However, as this is a learning experience, we have to make do with what we can. The

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ultimate goal is to provide the product owner with a usable system that they are happy with, which we believe is a much more realistic possibility by implementing WordPress as the content management system.