The Many Voices Publishing Platform

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Group 61 — Progress Report — Fall 2016

Introduction

Team Remix

- Steven Powers, DBA, UI/UX, Web, NWEP
- Evan Tschuy, infrastructure, CoreOS
- Josh Matteson, MECOP, Web

Our Teaching Assistant

- Jon Dodge

- PhD student, Computer Science

Our Client

Dr. Carlos Jensen

- Director of CASS
- Associate professor in the School of EECS at OSU
- Areas of Interest
- Teaches Social and Ethical Issues in CS

Our Client

- Writing a textbook
- Frustrated with current offerings in the textbook market
- Interested in a better way to write textbooks for everyone

Problem Definition

- Textbooks cost exorbitant amounts of money
- Textbooks are often filled with poor or incorrect information
- Additional resources

Proposed Solutions

- Allow professors to create their own textbooks
  - Reducing costs for students
  - Increasing updates of information
- Editing capabilities
- Publishing
- Searching for content

Definitions

- Scrap - A section of a textbook, which can contain text or media
- Section - An ordered collection of Scraps belonging to a chapter
- Chapter - An ordered collection of Sections and Scraps

MVP Platform

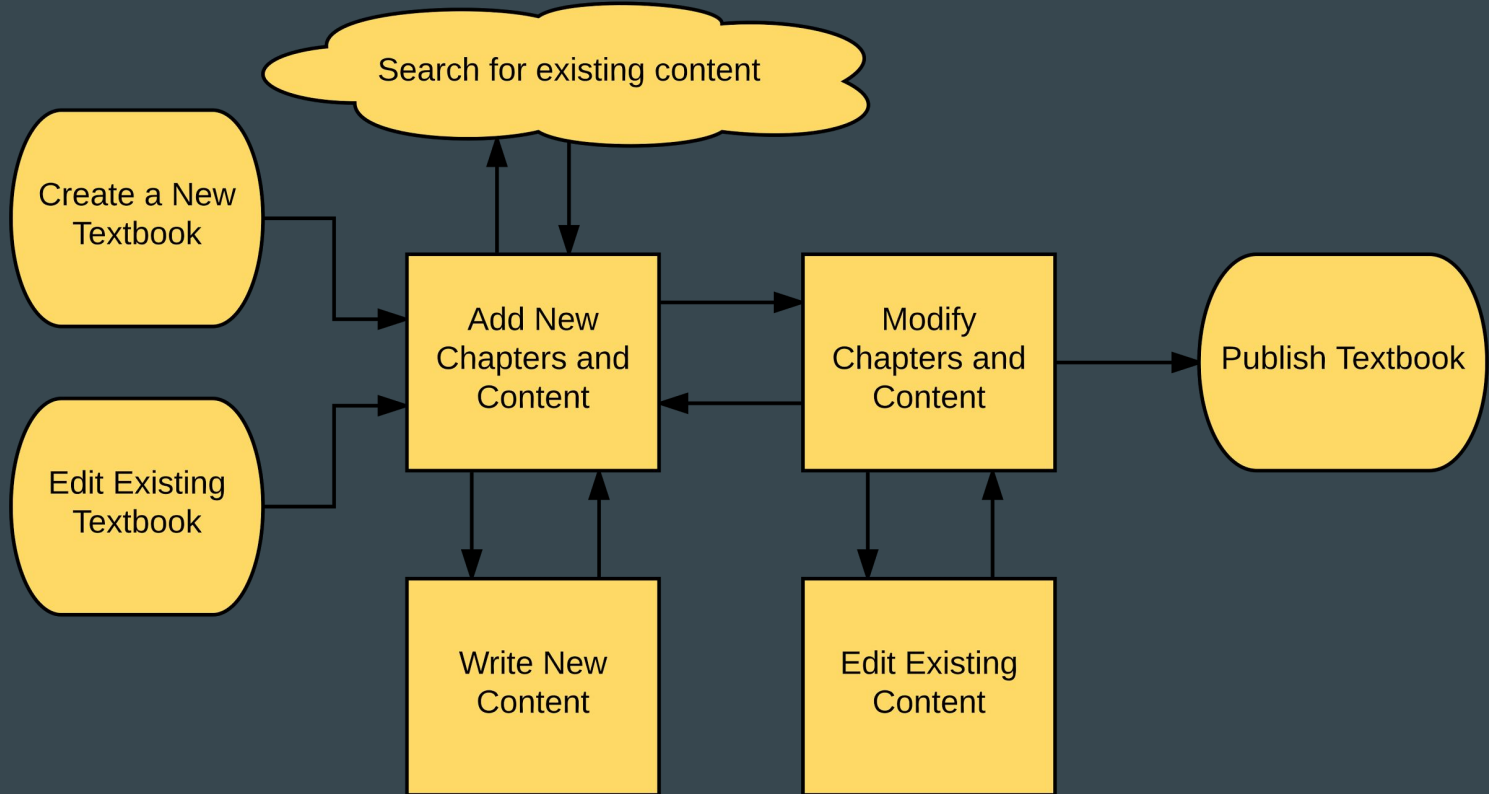Description & Purpose

What it does

What it will look like

Why we are developing it

Who will use it

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What it does

- A platform for creative textbook remixing using content from other experts in your field.
- Create the perfect textbook by "remixing" exactly the texts you want
- Search for new texts with easy-to-use discovery tools

What it will look like

Search for existing content

Create a New Textbook

Edit Existing Textbook

Add New Chapters and Content

Write New Content

Modify Chapters and Content

Edit Existing Content

Publish Textbook

Why we are developing it

- Customizing a textbook is currently not possible
- Textbook writing should be like research — collaborative and open
- A professor should not have to choose between having to spend years of time writing and not having the text they need to teach effectively

Who will use it

- Professors that want to have a highly customized textbook without spending their life writing it
- Those that want to "remix" existing textbooks to match their course focus area

MVP Platform

Design

Frontend

Backend

Revision Control

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Frontend: Aurelia

- A JavaScript framework in use since 2010

- Similar to AngularJS

- Compliant with W3C

Backend: NodeJS

- Using the Express framework

- NodeGit library for communication with Git

Git as Textbook Revision Control

- Open Source

- Individual scrap/section/chapter changes will be tracked on individual repositories to allow easy forking

Textbook Revision Control

Textbooks can be forked and contributed to by users wanting to customize them
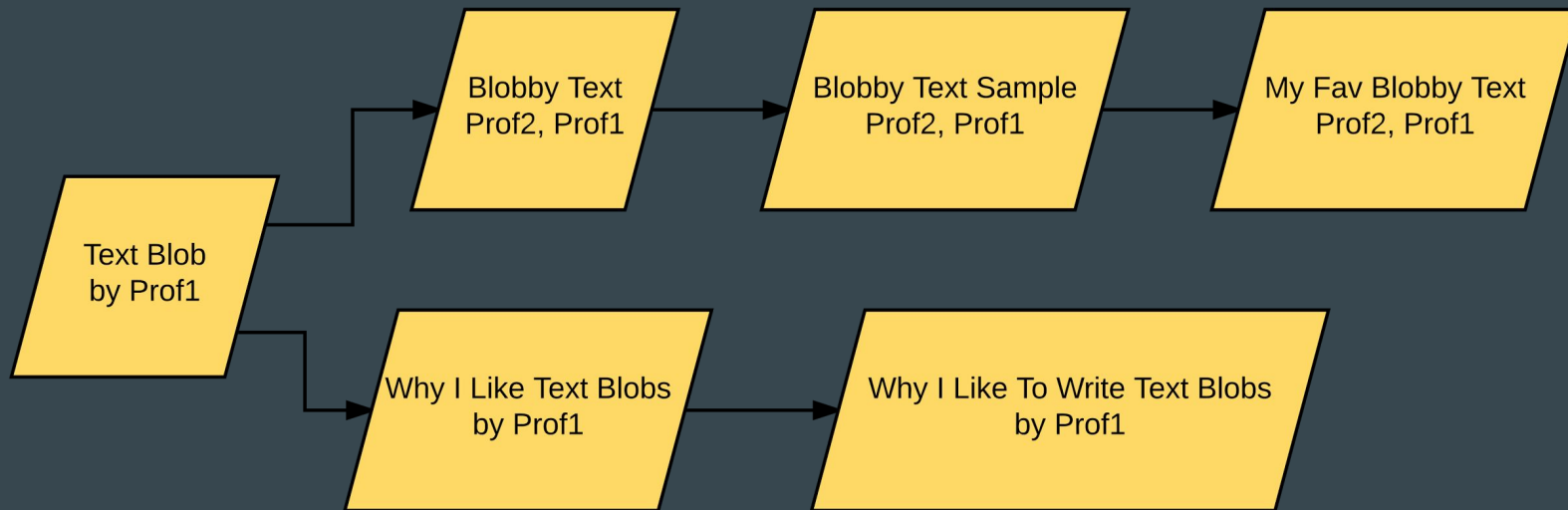
MVP Platform

Goals

Vision

Time Frame

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Vision

- An easy-to-use platform
- A product that can revolutionize the textbook industry
- Make it simple to have the book you want in your classroom, even if it doesn't exist yet

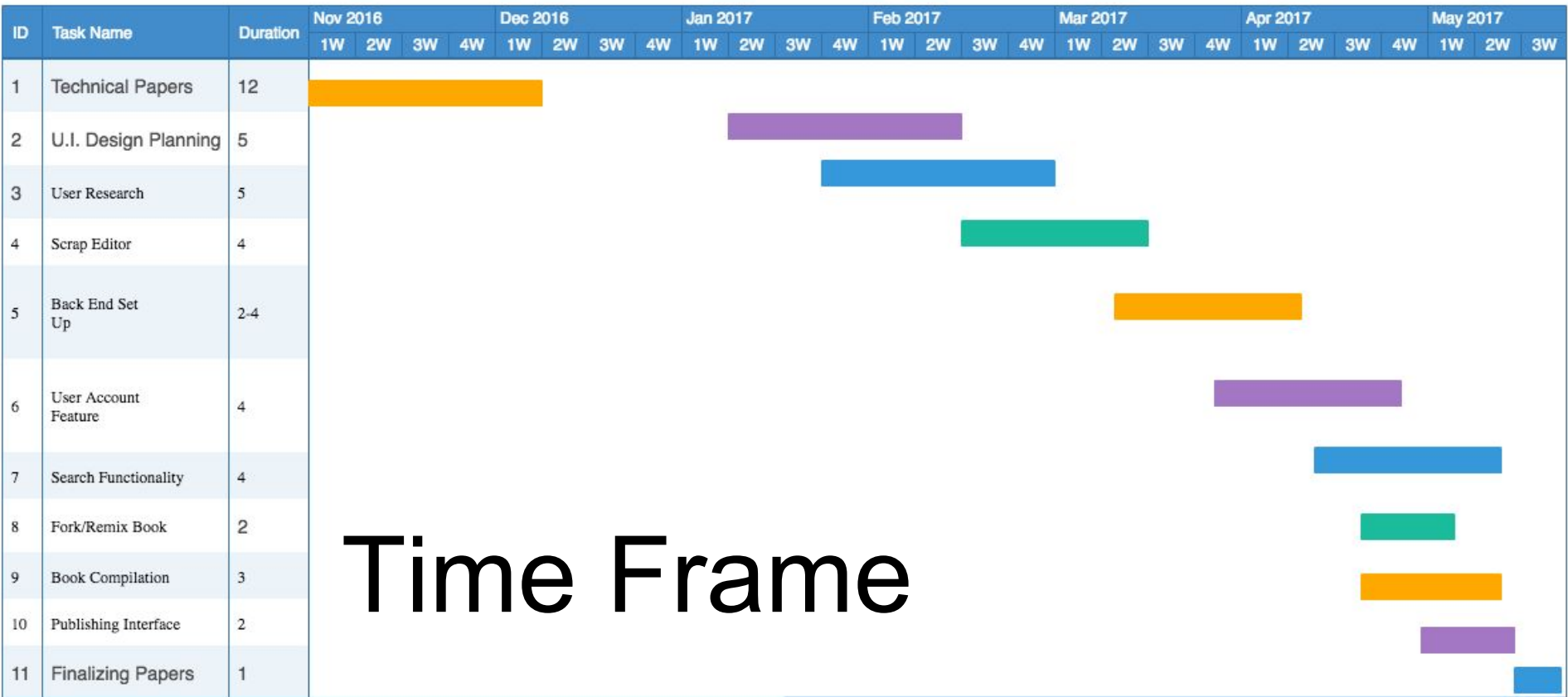| ID	Task Name	Duration	Nov 2016				Dec 2016				Jan 2017				Feb 2017				Mar 2017				Apr 2017				May 2017		
			1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W	4W	1W	2W	3W
1	Technical Papers	12																												
2	U.I. Design Planning	5																												
3	User Research	5																												
4	Scrap Editor	4																												
5	Back End Set Up	2-4																												
6	User Account Feature	4																												
7	Search Functionality	4																												
8	Fork/Remix Book	2																												
9	Book Compilation	3																												
10	Publishing Interface	2																												
11	Finalizing Papers	1																												

Time Frame

MVP Platform

Other Details

Impediments

What's Next

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Impediments

- Client communication has proved more difficult than we expected.
  - We are addressing this by planning for weekly meetings, in addition to weekly emails with our client.

Impediments

- Time availability has been a difficult balance between our various classes
  - Next term's schedules have been arranged to have a set meeting time for the group once a week

What's Next

Implementation

- Moving from technology decisions into development the phase
- Frontend functionality design
- Backend API design and data storage

Conclusion