Grant Coleman

Our senior design project is to build an automated kegerator that is controlled via phone app. It will include 3 main parts: the mechanical system to dispense and present the beer, the firmware to translate instruction from the phone to mechanical action, and the software to make requests from the phone.

Our group is made up of three computer science majors, but one of our members (Isaac) has a major interest in mechanics and he is planning on leading the development of the mechanical systems. The other groupmate (Bret) and I will work on the firmware and the software. Bret and I both have extensive coding experience from previous co-ops.

In a previous co-op, Bret worked as an app developer for the company Atomic Robot. In one of my previous co-ops at PayPal, I was in charge of planning and executing a project that included delegating tasks to another intern I was helping to train. Bret’s experience will help us develop the app with fewer roadblocks, and my experience should be relevant in planning and parsing out the work.

I’m excited about the project because I think experience-wise it will be a great blend of several different types of coding and it will allow me to work with tools I haven’t encountered before. On top of this, project planning has always been my favorite part of any co-op. I look forward to planning out the project with my groupmates and working to fix any problems that come up in that process. Both members of my group are people who I have coded with in the past and I’ve had pleasant experiences with them in that regard, so I don’t foresee many technical disagreements.

Recruiting a corporate sponsor for the auto-kegerator should be an interesting challenge. I look forward to calling and emailing breweries around Cincinnati to find a sponsor that is willing to work with us. I haven’t had any experience in the past with this type of work, so it should be a good learning experience. I’d also be lying if I said I wasn’t excited to drink a little bit of beer during the project.