Screener

Detailed Functional Specification

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Introduction

Screener is an online software application designed to allow Wheaton students to stream films and videos related to their coursework and chosen by their professor. The service will provide students with access to educational content previously unavailable to them free of charge.

General Description

Screener provides Wheaton students an interface for viewing films their professor has assigned for class. How things are now, a professor may assign a film and leave a copy outside his or her door for students to take turns viewing. However, this is a flawed system because only one student may watch the film at a time. Additionally, fewer and fewer Wheaton students have access to a DVD player, making viewing physical media additionally difficult. With Screener, students will be able to view the required course films without sharing a disc or pirating, as many students are currently forced to do.

Any copyrighted content is illegal to host privately for public consumption. The reason that Screener does not violate American copyright law is that the service is only accessible on Wheaton’s campus, and requires a pair of user credentials (Wheaton ID, and a class code). Because students are only able to stream the films (as opposed to downloading), this application falls under Fair Use provisions for professors screening films for their students.

Each teacher who registers with Screener will have an individual login for the site assigned by the system administrator. Ideally, their username and password would be the same as their Wheaton accounts. The students will only be able to select and to view the videos that have been shared with them, while the teacher can both select, upload, delete, and view the videos on the site.

Administrator

The ideal configuration for our application will require an administrator to interact with the server only twice per semester. The first check in will be to submit the class list and add Wheaton account credentials to the system (for professor who have registered). The second check in will be to erase all the films stored on the local server, clear student account information (class code) from the database, and to disable the server during break.

Goals

The goal of Screener is to allow teachers to provide educational content to students via the internet and to make it easier for students to find the media they were assigned to watch .

Environmental Scan

There is no competition for the service Screener would provide to Wheaton students because no other service allows professors to upload their own video for students to view. Wheaton subscribes to two services (Academic Online and Films On Demand) which also allow for the streaming of course related films. However, neither of these services allow for professors to upload their own content and films, making them extremely limited in their functionality.

Use Cases

1. Professor Jane

Professor Jane is a Wheaton professor who needs to share a video with her class. However, the video is not available to view on Wheaton’s subscribed streaming services. The video is not a widely distributed film. How can she get her class to view the video? Screener is the perfect option.

She begins by going to the homepage and clicking the link to register with the administrator. After receiving her credentials, she will log in to the system and go through the brief video upload process. If she does not possess a copy of the film in MP4 format than she will have to purchase it on the internet as a digital download. Now students have access to the video and may log in to the site with the class code generated by the system to view the film in their leisure time.

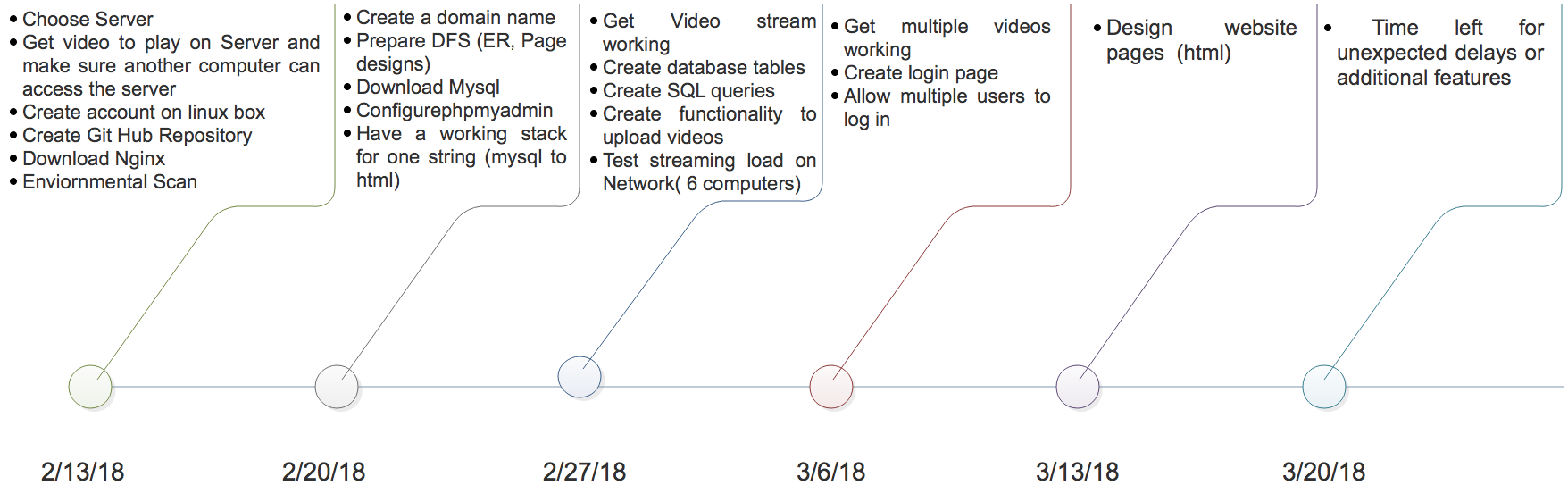
1. Wheaton Student Joe

Joe was asked to watch a video from his professor. He looks for it online but has no luck finding it. He knows the professor has a copy, but only one. The class has forty students, so they can not all share one DVD to be watched outside of class. Additionally, he does not have a DVD player on his MacBook Air and wouldn’t have a way to play the disc even if he could get his hands on it. This is a situation where Screener would be perfect. Joe should ask his professor to upload video onto the site.

Data Storage

The database will have a Video, Class, and User table. The videos will be stored in separate files. The links to the files will be stored in the database along with the other information entered into the upload section. The classes table will show all videos classes have access to and has class codes for students.

Project Timeline



**User Interface (Student Login & Video Upload)**

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Description generated with high confidence

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with very high confidence

**User Interface (Available Films & Movie Viewer)**

