Proposal for Semester Project

(ITSE2473)

Initiativeand Spell Effects Tracker for

Ameron Gaming

" **The Client**

**dnd.idleplay.net**

**"A group of gamers dedicated to streamlining the RPG experience."**

The garners of dnd.idleplay.net are a group of friends and associates who all enjoy the game of Dungeons and Dragons (DnD). They have come together to share in the experience and challenge of Role-playing Games. They are a technology savvy group of people that use the web and other resources to aid them in streamlining their games.

The contact for this project will be the dnd.idleplay.net Gamer Master Steven Kraal. The website is [http://dnd.idleplay.net](http://dnd.idleplay.net/)

The Game Master for any Dungeons and Dragons game is the person responsible for

organizing the sessions and the game content as wen as recording and adjudicating during the game. He is similar to the referee in conventional games or sports.

**The Problem**

**Time consuming game mechanics**

**11Less time dedicated to the paperwork is more time for the game."**

The garners of dnd.idleplay.net have a lot of demands on their time. They get a limited amount of time each week to play DnD and a lot of that time can be tied up in the mechanics of the game. With the release of the Iatest version of the Dungeons and Dragons game rules by Wizards of the Coast the rules have gotten a lot more complex and time consuming. A Game Master with a laptop or other computer at the table can greatly increase the speed and accuracy of his job and therefore enhance the gaming experience of all the players.

There are a lot of products on the market and free for download on the internet that make the recording and tracking during game time easier. There is a Windows based tool for almost every aspect of Dungeons and Dragons record keeping except for tracking Initiative and Spell Effects duration. There are attempts at filling that gap on the internet but none of the applications are complete nor include all of the game rules in their calculations.

The dnd.idleplay.net game master has requested that I fill this gap in his electronic toolbox. The client has added the extra stipulation that the software run in desktop area as low as 640 x 480 resolution to support his aging laptop's small screen.

**The Solution**

**Pocket-sized, stand-alone and intuitive**

**''This thing needs to be small because my laptop is ghetto."**

This project will be undertaken and completed by myself with input on aesthetics and format from the client.

I plan to develop this software using VisualBasic.NET

Initially the solution will take the form of a Windows Application but will be designed with a view to porting to a Web or PDA Application.

The software will benefit the company in many of the ways listed in the description of The Problem above. It will help fill a gap in the list of tools available to Dungeons and Dragon's Game Masters by providing a tool to track initiative order and spell effects duration.

• The proposal will not save the client money directly. It will save time.

• The proposal will not increase revenue.

• The proposal will produce better results. This will be measured in the increased game time that all of the participants will benefit from. Currently the time associated with recording initiative order and spell effects duration is cumbersome and time consuming and reduces the available time for actual gaming.

• The system will serve all Dungeon Masters better. The game rules are part of the d20 gaming system and can apply to all games produced under the Open Gaming License and therefore benefit garners of other d20 genres.

• The project can be implemented immediately upon completion and will last as a viable solution for as long as the d20 gaming rules existt in their current state. A change in game versions may or may not alter the rules for calculating initiative.

• All resources for creating this product are available. Some are supplied by the customer.

Other than needing to run on all versions of Windows the project also needs to be fully utilized on a screen resolution of 640 x 480. Those are the only constraints.

The scope of this project includes the entire solution. There is nothing that can be added later and still leave the application useable. As far as extra functionality goes the client has stated that this is to fill a gap in an already existing line-up of e-tools.

I plan to interview the user on the Thursday 17th October.

I estimate that this project will take 20 hours. Existing software will be used leaving the only costs as negligible miscellaneous costs like driving to interviews etc.