WORLD LINK

Project Initiation Document

Contents

Introduction:

With travelling the World becoming so much easier, many more people, often students on a gap year or just generally travelling, need a specialised place they can turn to, to not only plan and store their journey, but to also find information on what to do and what's next. No website or app yet combines the social media of Facebook, with the planning and adventure of trip advisor in once place. Due to this, I want to create a website/app where could be travellers can go to, plan out a trip on an interactive timeline, manage their trip and connect with other people travelling the same routes. I also want it to be an area in which people can read reviews and find out what to do and what to avoid.

Business Case:

Business Need:

As there is no go-to website, potential users have to use multiple tabs to find out information they need. This can cause a lot of frustration because users could lose their place, or close the wrong tabs accidentally and have to go through the annoyance of opening a new tab to go onto your web history. Instead of this system, I'm proposing one of multiple functionality in which could be, would be, current or past travellers can create and save stories as well as being able to find all of the information they need, with first-hand accounts of others experiences, as well as being able to connect with others they have met along the way or would like to meet.

Business Objectives:

To provide a one stop place for would be or current travellers:

- To combine social media, planning websites and travel websites.
- To remove the need for multiple tabs.
- To decrease the chance of accidental information loss.
- To allow users to plan, update, and share and connect with others.
- To create users forum to share with others.

Project Objectives:

- To analyse current websites/app and improve upon them.
- To analyse client requirements for the new website/app system.
- To analyse potential development technologies and deployment solutions.
- To implement the new website/app with new processes and procedures.

Initial Scope:

- Current websites/apps to be analysed observations, interviews and (possibly) UML diagrams.

The new website/app will allow:

- Users to create a personalised account.
- Login and out of this account to keep information safe.
- Create a timeline of places you'd like to go, are currently at or have been.
- To create statuses, add photos and add videos.
- To connect with others who want to travel, are travelling or have been travelling.
- Check first hand informative accounts and reviews by others who have travelled a similar route or visited the same places.
- To give administrators the ability to manage problems.
- Security, Legal and Quality issues are key quality criteria.

User Requirements:

- User requirements will be elicited using interviews, observation, and the development of user stories. User requirements will be expressed primarily in text
- Requirements with greater complexity will be elaborated into different UML methods, such as Use Cases, text and a Class Diagram.

Method of Approach:

My website development will be that of an incremental approach, following Agiles methodologies. Focusing on I. User Registration & Login, II. Timeline Development, III. User Page Development, IV. Forum Development, (Possibly) V. App Development (Phonegap)

Possible Technologies:

- **Laravel 5**
  I've chosen to use the Laravel framework as I think this product will require a suitable MVC framework to manage all of the pages and different sections of the website. Laravel also uses some very useful functions like Blades, Routes and migrations to manage sections of the website. I have some experience with Laravel but it will require some further learning to use it effectively. The choice I had between MVC's was Laravel and CodeIgnter, I chose Laravel as although it is a bit more troublesome to set up an environment, I think its superior in its function and as CodeIgniter has been discontinued by its developers, it only has another couple years of use.
- **Eloquent**
  Eloquent is a great help with the database and is included within Laravel to produce Active Record implementation for working with the databases I'll be using to store all of the information I need to store. Which is substantial.

- **Blades**
  Blades are a simple and powerful tool within Laravel and helps with the templating of the website, which with dynamic and multiple generating pages is invaluable. It also has the benefit with not interfering with other PHP the user may write, which can be a problem with other PHP frameworks.
- **HTML5**
  HTML is a normal part of nearly any website, I'll need to use alongside other languages to build areas of my website.
- **CSS3**
  CSS will be required for me to style and position my website. Another one of the core web development languages I'll be using.
- **JavaScript**
- I should need to use some JavaScript to create a few specific functions and make the website more dynamic.
- **PHP & MySQL**
- A language I will be using a lot, especially as Laravel is a PHP framework. I'll also need to use these to interact with the database.

Project Plan:

Stage	Expected Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Products/ Deliverables/ Outcomes
Initiation		8th December 2015	PID
Investigation and Requirements	1st February 2016	6th February 2016	Analysis of current websites & apps; Requirements document; Evaluation of possible technologies
High Level Design	7th February 2016	12th February 2016	Design documents
Increment 1	13th February 2016	20th February 2016	User registration & login
Increment 2	21st February 2016	5th March 2016	Timeline development
Increment 3	6th March 2016	16th March 2016	User page development
Increment 4	17th March 2016	5th April 2016	Forum development
Increment 5	6th April 2016	25th April 2016	App development
System and user acceptance testing	26st April 2016	30th April	Final System
Assemble and complete final report	1st May	6th May 2016	PRCO304 Report

Control Plan:

I will be using a Prince2 based control plan, using different aspects of its methodology, such as:

- Highlight Reports
- Exception Reports
- Regular Progress Reviews
- Risk Management

Initial Risk:

- Schedule Over-run:
    - o Highlight reports will aid in keeping on schedule, as will the tracking of development with systems like GitHub
- Issues with Development Technologies:
    - o Small prototypes of the system will be created to check validity of technologies.
- Technology Failure:
    - o Regular backups
    - o GitHub Usage