

Hazard Analysis MES-ERP

Team #26, Ethical Pals
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Table 1: Revision History

Date	Developer(s)	Change
October 15, 2024	Omar Muhammad	Introduction, scope and system boundaries
October 18, 2024	Housam Alamour	Critical Assumptions, started on FMEA
Date2	Name(s)	Description of changes
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[You are free to modify this template. —SS]

1 Introduction

A hazard is defined as a condition or event that can result in harm, failure, or an undesirable outcome in a system. For engineers, hazards are risks that can affect the safety of a system, its functionality, or its operational integrity. For this project, a possible solution discussed was a web based app for phones, laptops, and computers. Specifically, in our project, a hazard can be identified as something that would degrade the operational integrity of the system, cause a crash in our system, expose a user to information that should not be available to them, or grant a user access to something they shouldn't have access to. [You can include your definition of what a hazard is here. —SS]

2 Scope and Purpose of Hazard Analysis

The scope of the hazard analysis will include any potential risk that will degrade operational integrity, cause crashes, or give users unauthorized access/information to system functionalities. The losses incurred from the listed scope would include unauthorized access to sensitive data, or exposure to restricted information. This risk could lead to a failure to maintain accurate data of the reimbursement requests. For example, if the backend of the app is edited without proper authorization, it will cause the McMaster Engineering Society to have false information and could make them miss out on reimbursement requests, which lowers the integrity of the app. A final loss would be degraded system functionality or complete system failure if the app cannot handle various inputs from users. If these risks occur frequently, the user base of the application will not be happy and we will risk them not wanting to use the app. By conducting this hazard analysis, we intend to limit all these risks, by limiting the risks we ensure the users of the application will remain content with it and will continue to use the app.

[You should say what **loss** could be incurred because of the hazards. —SS]

3 System Boundaries and Components

- **Component: Database**

- Hazards:

1. Unauthorized access leading to data breaches.
2. Data corruption or loss during operations or updates.
3. Insufficient backups causing data loss.

- **Component: Front End**

- Hazards:

1. Unhandled inputs leading to system crashes.
2. Poor user experience with performance speed.
3. Poor user experience from a lack of system feedback.
4. Browser compatibility issues causing incorrect display of content.
5. Browser compatibility issues causing crashes.

- **Component: Back End**

- Hazards:

1. System crashes due to unhandled exceptions or inputs.
2. Failure to process data correctly, leading to incorrect outputs.
3. Poor security implementation exposing APIs.

- **Component: Hardware/Server**

- Hazards:

1. Power failures or hardware malfunctions.
2. Weak server side processing power causing increased latency.
3. No potential backup server in case of emergency.
4. Insufficient server capacity for handling peak loads.

- **Component: Authentication System**

- Hazards:

1. Unauthorized access due to weak authentication protocols.
2. Mismanagement of user roles leading to incorrect access control.

- **Component: Reimbursement System (Input/Output)**

- Hazards:

1. Incorrect data submission (e.g. incorrect amounts, invalid receipts) causing delays or rejection of requests.
2. Output discrepancies (e.g. incorrect approvals or incorrect reimbursement amounts) due to calculation or logic errors.
3. Failure to notify the appropriate parties (clubs or administrators) regarding the status of the request, leading to confusion and delays.
4. Data tampering during the approval process, allowing unauthorized changes to reimbursement requests.
5. Lack of exception handling, leading to duplicate requests or other unintended circumstances.

[Dividing the system into components will help you brainstorm the hazards. You shouldn't do a full design of the components, just get a feel for the major ones. For projects that involve hardware, the components will typically include each individual piece of hardware. If your software will have a database, or an important library, these are also potential components. —SS]

4 Critical Assumptions

1. **Assumption 1: Reliable Internet Connectivity**

The system assumes that all users, including student leaders, administrators, and MES staff, will have access to reliable and stable internet connections when interacting with the platform. This assumption is important because the platform is designed to work through a web-based interface. This will require real-time data processing. Reliable internet connectivity is necessary for users to access features like submitting reimbursement requests, tracking the status of payments, and viewing financial reports without interruption. If the connection is unstable, users might experience delays or errors during data submission, which may lead to incomplete reimbursement requests or user frustration. Also, poor connectivity could stop the delivery of notifications, meaning users will not get critical notifications and updates. Addressing potential connectivity issues early through notifications in the interface, error-handling when there is no connection and potentially providing offline access options could mitigate risks associated with this assumption.

2. **Assumption 2: Server Availability and Performance**

It is assumed that the McMaster Engineering Society (MES) will provide a dedicated server with sufficient resources, including CPU power, memory, and storage, to support the platform's operations. The server must handle the anticipated workload, real-time updates, and concurrent access by all administrator of the reimbursement program of the MES as well as administrators of the clubs during peak periods. The server's storage capacity should be enough to store financial data for at least 3 years. This will allow for comprehensive audit trails and historical data retrieval. This assumption is important because if the server cannot handle the project, this could result in slower response times, data processing delays, or system crashes. This would directly impact user experience and the efficiency of financial operations. If these are not met or if future demand necessitates, then there may be a need to upgrade, potentially increasing project costs and delaying deployment. Regular performance monitoring should be planned to ensure server capacity aligns with user demand over time.

3. **Assumption 3: User Compliance with Data Entry Standards**

It is assumed that all users of the platform, including student group leaders and MES staff, will adhere to the established data entry standards when submitting information into the system. This includes entering accurate details for each reimbursement request, such as the amount, purpose, and necessary attachments like receipts. Sticking to these standards ensures that the data processed by the platform is accurate and complete, minimizing errors during financial reviews and report generation. If users do not comply with these standards, there is a risk of data entry errors leading to rejected requests, delays in processing, and additional administrative

workload to correct mistakes. Proper user training and clear guidelines should be implemented so all users comply. Additionally, the platform should include input validation and error-checking features to reduce the likelihood of incorrect data entries.

4. **Assumption 4: User Access to Compatible Devices and Browsers**

It is assumed that all users, including student group leaders, administrators, group members and MES staff, will have access to devices and browsers that are compatible with the new platform. The platform is designed to function optimally on modern operating systems, as well as on commonly used browsers. This assumption is critical because the system’s user interface and performance rely on up-to-date browser features and operating system support to ensure a smooth user experience. If users attempt to access the platform on outdated devices or unsupported browsers, they may experience issues such as reduced functionality, slower response times, or display errors. To mitigate this risk, it will be essential to clearly communicate the platform’s minimum system requirements to users and provide support for upgrading or accessing compatible devices where possible.

5 Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA)

TO BE EDITED

Failure Mode	Cause	Effect	S	O	D	RPN	Rec tion
Data loss during migration	Incorrect data mapping or migration errors	Loss of historical financial records, affecting audit compliance	8	4	6	192	Imp scrip migra sure
Unauthorized access to financial data	Weak password policies or unpatched security vulnerabilities	Breach of sensitive data, legal consequences	9	3	5	135	Enfo poli secu men tica
System downtime	Server overload during peak usage times	Users unable to submit reimbursement requests, delays in financial processing	7	5	4	140	Incr imp and form

Failure Mode	Cause	Effect	S	O	D	RPN	Rec tion
Incorrect reim- bursement ap- provals	Human error dur- ing manual review	Financial dis- crepancies, user dissatisfaction	6	4	7	168	Aut proc ques for r trod laye acti

6 Safety and Security Requirements

1. There must be comprehensive logging and monitoring of access to reimbursement information, including tracking actions such as data access, modification, and deletion.
Rationale: Monitoring access helps in identifying and responding to unauthorized access attempts or suspicious activities, providing an audit trail that enhances data security.
2. There must be role based access control to restrict access to reimbursement and financial data.
Rationale: Only authorized personnel, such as administrators and designated financial officers, should have access to sensitive reimbursement information. This control ensures confidentiality and limits access to sensitive financial information.
3. There must be data encryption for sensitive information such as user credentials, financial data, and reimbursement requests.
Rationale: Encryption protects sensitive data from unauthorized access and ensures that data is secure during transmission and storage.

7 Roadmap

7.1 Immediate Implementation

The following safety requirements will be implemented during the capstone project to ensure a functional and secure platform:

1. **Input Validation and Error Handling**
 - Ensure that user inputs such as reimbursement amounts and receipts are validated to prevent submission errors and system crashes.
2. **Authentication and Access Control**
 - Implement login system with role-based access control to restrict sensitive financial data and operations.

3. Data Encryption and Security

- Encrypt sensitive data and ensure secure connection between client and server to protect against unauthorized access.

4. Audit Logs

- Set up audit logs to track user actions such as submissions, approvals, and modifications.

5. Server Monitoring and Reliability

- Implement server monitoring and backups to ensure system availability and prevent data loss.

7.2 Deferred for Future Implementation

The following will be considered for future updates beyond the capstone project timeline:

1. Multi-factor Authentication

- Future versions will consider adding MFA to add additional account security.

2. Advanced Fraud Detection

- Implement machine learning algorithms to detect potentially fraudulent reimbursement requests.

Appendix — Reflection

[Not required for CAS 741 —SS]

The purpose of reflection questions is to give you a chance to assess your own learning and that of your group as a whole, and to find ways to improve in the future. Reflection is an important part of the learning process. Reflection is also an essential component of a successful software development process.

Reflections are most interesting and useful when they're honest, even if the stories they tell are imperfect. You will be marked based on your depth of thought and analysis, and not based on the content of the reflections themselves. Thus, for full marks we encourage you to answer openly and honestly and to avoid simply writing "what you think the evaluator wants to hear."

Please answer the following questions. Some questions can be answered on the team level, but where appropriate, each team member should write their own response:

1. What went well while writing this deliverable?
2. What pain points did you experience during this deliverable, and how did you resolve them?
3. Which of your listed risks had your team thought of before this deliverable, and which did you think of while doing this deliverable? For the latter ones (ones you thought of while doing the Hazard Analysis), how did they come about?
4. Other than the risk of physical harm (some projects may not have any appreciable risks of this form), list at least 2 other types of risk in software products. Why are they important to consider?