

System Request

Project Name

UofL COBweb

Project Sponsor

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Organization: Louisville College of Business

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Business Need

Background:

The retention rate of CIS students past the initial few courses isn't nearly as good as it should be. After people take CIS 199 and CIS 150, there is a dramatic amount of people either changing major or dropping out from school entirely.

Business Opportunity:

One way to keep more people in the CIS major is to provide a sense of connectedness. A major way to do this is to build a website that makes creating connections between students and between students and alumni.

Business Requirements

The System will provide a website that gives opportunities for students to form meaningful connections between themselves and with alumni. Will provide job opportunities posted by the alumni for the students to use. Will provide a community for the students via discussion boards. Provide a common area to receive announcements from the CIS department. Provide a way to collect information from alumni to better understand what happens post-graduation. Will provide a way for alumni to give back to the CIS program via donations.

Business Value

Tangible Value:

- The system should help retain students which will give the CIS department more funding.
- The donations system on the website should give more funding to the CIS department's acquisition of materials to better teach students.

Intangible Value:

- Good PR for the CIS program for retaining larger amounts of students.
- More potential jobs entering the city of Louisville with more technical field graduations.

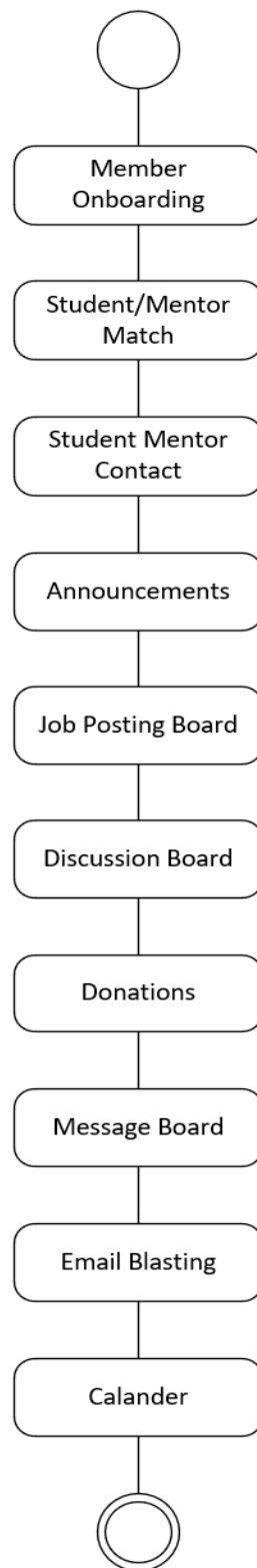
Narration

Since we are in a pandemic, COVID -19 virus had made things clearer in what our society is lacking when we did not really notice a problem before. Many students in the COB are switching majors and this problem is not just for our students within the CIS tracks- it is for the whole school. The problem that we face is due to many students leaving, our retention rate is low. Our solution is to provide a quick effortless way to connect with older students as well as alumni, professors and other students who are going through the same classes. Our website is called “CobWeb” for the easy networking connections about classes and help in the College of Business. This will help students get connected with everyone in The College of Business and will offer you help for all the different type of classes!

The business value this would add is by creating a positive community for the CIS majors and minors. Within CIS there are three different tracks you can go on; each track has different requirements and classes students need to accomplish that works towards there degree. By creating CobWeb, it will help students feel less alone, adding more learning tools to help with difficult classes. Active upper classmen will help younger classmen out fast and easy. This would help the retention rate less because of the community the staff and students and alumni would recreate.

Cause	Effect
Once students pick their track in CIS they follow the classes they are in.	They will get help and other students who are enrolled in those same classes can help each out with also alumni and professors.
If it is a weekend or late night, then students can use the tools provided in the chat.	This will provide a community bond and will help reduce the gap and increase the number of students who graduate with a CIS degree.

Process Model



Vision Document Goes Here

Date	Version	Description	Author
02/02/2021	1.0	1 st day of work, Rough draft	Alex Tran, Jacob Forcht
02/03/2021	1.1	2 nd day of work, rough draft	Alex Tran, Jacob Forcht

The problem of	<i>Low student retention rate</i>
affects	<i>Student population and graduation rates</i>
the impact of which is	<i>Incoming students unsure of their career path</i>
a successful solution would be	<i>Service that networks new students/upperclassmen/faculty/alumni</i>

For	<i>New COB CIS students</i>
Who	<i>Are undecided in the College of Business.</i>
The (product name)	<i>cobweblou.edu</i>
That	<i>The website allows new students to network with upperclassmen/alumni to learn more about what career path to take.</i>
Unlike	<i>Uoflbizconnect.otg, whose URL is not very creative and has few CIS users. It also does not have multi-language support for international students.</i>
Our product	<i>Our product is to be more CIS-student oriented.</i>

Name	Description	Responsibilities
Organization	The CIS department at UofL.	Responsible for approving funding Responsible for
Employees	Whoever is working in the CIS department at UofL.	Ensures that students will sign up and use our website.
Manager	Professor Barker at the CIS department	Choosing which project is to be approved. Sending the project to the coding students in the 400-level class. Being an Admin on the website.

		Monitors the projects progress.
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Name	Description	Responsibilities	Stakeholder
<i>Undecided CIS student</i>	<i>This user will be welcomed by potential mentors by selecting CIS major in a filter.</i>	<i>This user will look at profiles of alumni/upperclassmen/fellow undecided CIS students and will communicate using discussion boards/individual messaging/job posting.</i>	<i>The Manager oversees their interest.</i>
<i>UofL Alumni</i>	<i>A past UofL student that has graduated.</i>	<i>This user will primarily be advertising themselves to current undergraduate students who are looking for guidance while also keeping in touch with faculty and fellow alumni.</i>	<i>The Manager oversees their interest.</i>
<i>UofL Current CIS student (upperclass men)</i>	<i>A student currently enrolled in the CIS program closer to graduation.</i>	<i>This user will primarily be using the website as another networking opportunity among fellow CIS peers. What makes cobweblou unique to other sites is that this one will be UofL specific (UofL students/alumni/faculty ONLY).</i>	<i>The Manager oversees their interest.</i>
<i>Administrator</i>	<i>An employee that manages the website's announcements, Calendar and sign-up approval.</i>	<i>These users will be primarily using the website to send out information using the alert system. Update calendars and approve site sign up requests.</i>	<i>Employee or manager.</i>

Need	Priority	Concerns	Current Solution	Proposed Solutions
Decreased attrition rate.	High	A massive opportunity cost that comes from the loss of students	N/a	Create a mentoring website to help grow a sense of community and to guide struggling students through the CIS courses and mentor them to success.

Alumni tracking system.	High	It may take a while for this to become useful because current alumni are unlikely to sign up for this website.	N/a	Create an email list to track alums so we can survey them in the future to see what their up to.
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Alternatives and Competition

The biggest competition for cobweblou is uoflbizconnect.org. This service, while besides having been around longer, has a layout for a home page akin to LinkedIn and Facebook. With sites like these familiar to most people, it can be considered user-friendly. Not only is uoflbizconnect.org user-friendly, but it also lets users link their other social media profiles from different platforms.

Product Overview

Product Perspective

The COBweb (URL will be cobweblou.edu) is going to be mostly independent, and self-contained but will require a content management service and a payment processing service. The payment processing will be for the donations tab where alumni can directly donate to the CIS department. The content management system will be the basis for how our website is built. We have chosen word press for the CMS and Venmo for the payment system.

Assumptions and Dependencies

We are assuming that the CIS 400 level students will be coding this next Fall 2021 semester in their class and we are dependent on them for carrying out our vision. We are assuming that professor barker will pick our project for the coding phase. We are assuming that these are all the requested features.

Product Features

The website needs the following features:

- ❖ A landing pages.
 - The homepage of our website which will be the first thing seen when opening the website.
 - High priority
- ❖ A photo carousel on the landing page.

- A photo display that will automatically cycle to make the landing page look nice.
- Medium priority
- ❖ A sign-up system.
 - The system where students, alums and admins will create their accounts. This information will be used for mentor matching.
 - High priority
- ❖ A login system.
 - Where students, alums, and admins will signup
 - High priority
- ❖ A calendar page.
 - A tab on the website where important dates and events will be shown.
 - High priority.
- ❖ An Announcement System.
 - A system where an admin can send out alerts to alums or students about vital information.
 - High priority.
- ❖ A mentor matching system.
 - A system to match mentors to those who are searching for a mentor.
 - High priority.
- ❖ A discussion board.
 - An area for students, alums and admin to discuss in a forum style.
 - Medium priority
- ❖ A donation page.
 - A place for alumni or others to donate directly to the CIS department.
 - Priority high.
- ❖ A mentor connection section.
 - A place where matched mentors and students can share information so that they can communicate.
 - High priority
- ❖ An approval system.
 - This website will need an approval process for accounts so that it can be an CIS exclusive system.
 - High priority.
- ❖ An admin control panel.
 - A place for the admins to be able to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and effectively.
 - High priority.
- ❖ A job board.
 - Where job opportunities would be posted for students and alums to apply for.
 - High priority.

Other Product Requirements

-The website requires some sort of hosting service.

- It will require someone to fulfil the role of administrator.
- It will need a user-friendly sign up with two-factor authentication and matching process.
- Users must be affiliated with University of Louisville ONLY

Agile Stories

Story ID #001

Title: Find Help with Studies

As: A student

I want to: find someone to help me with this class.

So that: I can do well in this class and have a good GPA

Story ID #002

Title: Understand Life In [city]

As: A student

I want to: Find Alumni That live in [city]

So That: I can figure out the work and living environments of [city]

Story ID #003

Title: Find a Job Candidate

As: An Alumnus

I want to: find a candidate for my job opening.

So that: I can fill this position without paying a recruiter.

Story ID #004

Title: Give useful information

As: An Admin

I want to: distribute information to users on the site.

So that: I can inform users of essential information.

Team Charter

Our team goal is to work efficiently and effectively as a group to create a customized platform that meets our clients' needs and wants. To accomplish this goal, our team meets at least once a week in-person, to go over individual status reports and assess our progress. Our team meetings are scheduled for every Thursday, during our in-class time. Typically, we have between 10AM and 10:45AM to conduct our meetings. We decided on this meeting time as a group during the first in-person class session. For any last-minute changes or announcements in regard to our meetings, we inform our teammates via a group text message.

Our team decided, during our first meeting, to assign each individual project to work on for the next week. This is the most efficient way to ensure each team member is doing equal work. We assign tasks for each person to work on, and during our in-person meetings we discuss these projects.

The in-person meeting time is used to pinpoint progress and discuss next steps. We conduct this meeting by stating the individual work we have completed, and then we

discuss what needs to be done next and by what date and time. After we have this group discussion, if time permits, we continue our individual projects until the end of scheduled class time-10:45AM. We document the decisions via Microsoft teams, stating what each person has accomplished and what each person is currently working on. Microsoft Teams is our main form of communication.

Along with our in-person meeting time, Zu Ming has a Microsoft Teams page where we communicate concrete ideas, share, and edit files. We also use a group message to communicate quickly as a team when there is a simple question or idea. To communicate with the client, we are also using the Microsoft Teams platform. Dr. Barker has created a Microsoft Teams group for us to utilize when presenting to the client. During presentations to the client, we will most likely use PowerPoint for all our presentation material and visuals. To communicate with our instructor, depending on the needed depth of the communication, we will speak with Dr. Barker in class, over email, or via Microsoft Teams.

Our team has focused on cultivating an inclusive environment. Each member is empowered to discuss their ideas and to listen to others. To build consensus, we discuss all paths, and then take a vote and the majority will decide. Typically, decisions are made in the in-person group meeting. It is much easier to make a group decision when all team members are present. We give every group member a time to speak, and then we discuss. As for conflicts, we decide to go with the majority. If there are conflicts, we do not feel we are fit to handle, we will bring them to the attention of our instructor-Dr. Barker.

As I touched on above, we are utilizing a group in Microsoft teams as our project repository. All documents and discussions are stored in the file section of the platform. The “posts” section of Microsoft Teams is the section that is used for documenting communication.