shelf Maintenance Plan

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shelf is an application built using firebase and is hosted on Google Cloud Platform. Being a web app, there are inherent costs associated with it. The first is likely around a year of developer costs, as there are many different features that still need to be implemented.

1 year of development costs for 5 group members:

The average web dev makes around $66,000 dollars annually.

We are not average.

We're probably worth about $30,000 a piece annually.

$30,000*5 = $150,000

The 150 thousand dollars is for the first year or so paying ourselves to actually add required functionality. That way our home page actually looks like a website, and not just a screen with two buttons.

Seeing as the first matter of "maintenance" is to make an app that looks appealing. This is the first phase of our maintenance, focused on improvement. Recurring costs include:

Firebase monthly fixed payment ($25/month)

$300 annually

Google Cloud hosting (Pay as you go)

~$100 monthly

~$1,200 annually

Note: could be more depending on the scale of our application.

Domain

shelf.info($300+12/year)

communityshelf.net ($12/year)

Bookshelf.co ($1,450)

Our recurring annual costs without developers appear to be ~$1,512. This does not include start up costs. This is before development costs, which will likely take most of our budget. We likely would need just one full time employee for website maintenance, as our site is pretty simplistic. For improvements on our webapp, we would need to hire a team of developers.

We will stick with an average salary of $66,000.

Our simplistic website probably only part time work to maintain

We will pay one developer ~$44,000 a year to keep it functioning

When we need to improve it, we will hire a team of ~4 developers

$66,000*4 = $264,000 annually.

Start up costs are around $150,300. This means that a most of the money we spend upfront would go to ourselves to get a nice website up. It will also take us around a year to build a respectable and entirely functional website.

On any given year where we don't make improvements, we will be paying ~$45,512 to keep our website up and running.

When we want to improve our website, it will cost us the same ~1,512, but in addition we will need to pay developers for around half a year of work to improve/update our site

$264,000 * .5 year = $132,000

We will be paying $133,512 annually on years where we will need to update and improve our web application.

So, now to get for what the report asks for. How much will it cost in the next year?

Well, as demonstrated above, there are a number of ways we could go about it. The best one, in our opinion, would be to launch the website as is and work to improve it. This means that we will be out the ~$1,512, in addition to paying ourselves.

Now, I very clearly understand that we don't HAVE to pay ourselves. But this is not exactly a very lucrative business strategy. Like it's a cool lil project and all, but I highly doubt that this makes any of us millionaires. So we each might as well make a little cash from whoever unwittingly decides to invest in us.

So that makes it ~$**76,512** for us to launch this application in the first year, with all 5 of us devoting ourselves to working on it full time for the first 6 months, hopefully getting a valid project together.

Or, what we recommend doing, is putting this on our GitHub, with instructions on how to run it from the appspot for any potential employers that may be looking for us. This will cost us far less, as we can use the free version of firebase, and pay for far less GCP credits.

Plus that way, our return on investment would be much better, as this could very well get one or more of us a job with a decent salary. I personally think that this strategy would lead to a much higher return on investment than any other application of shelf.