

Me: So I understand you want a bathroom sign in sign out system but first I need to know what's the actual problem.

Client: the problem with the current system, a hall pass and a paper sign in/out sheet is in most parts some students fail to do either, to take the hall pass and they don't sign out or sign back in some students sign out but not back in or take the hall pass and are gone for an unusual long time. So the existing system works for 75% of the students at the school, so I'm looking for a system that would allow me to ask the system to query to find common patterns myself and say "that's the problem" The current system is an inefficient way of monitoring the hall pass

Me: So you wanted to ask some students like me and a couple people doing it to create a system. What do you want it to do?

Client: I would like to use the PC over there I already have and I'd like them to type in their name or select from a list and then when he came back they would click on the sign in button on the screen. I would like to then use this information to allow me to query to see how many people are using it and when they have to the bathroom vs what is the average length of time or what time more people use a hall pass, is there a time of the day where it's particularly problematic

If I was worried and I went in there and said how long does <student name> use the pass or is there a particular students using it to often. Another problem is students who forget to sign back in. I want it to alert me but I don't want it to make a noise but there should be some alert button and I maybe you got a creative way to think about this like I leave the bathroom I need to go to the bathroom when I don't come back it flashes red on the screen. In an ideal World i'd have a little chip on the card and when I take it out of it's slot it would prompt me for my name and where I'm going.

Me: You mentioned some things like you want the date and time, but what data specifically do you want it to track?

Client: I want it to track Student name, date, period and the length of time.

Me: So obviously I had to save it somewhere what kind of file types should I save it as? I was thinking either a .txt or spreadsheet.

Client: Save it as a spreadsheet, it would be easier to read and easier to sort. I also wanted to ask you what you think the interface would look like.

Me: I was thinking of something like a big square box of course, but then on the left side having a big window with a log of all activity where you can see who's been signed in and out, and then on the right side a box that shows if the pass is in, or how long it's been out.

Client: So I am a kid and walk up to the machine and I'm using the right hand side what's my what am I looking at to put my name in

Me: So I was thinking either I don't know which one's more friendly but either button you press for prompt which then opens up on the screen or just the right side only appears when pass is in

Client: Do we have an existing database of student names or does the student type the name?

Me: Probably students will type in their name, as you run into the problem of what happens to people not in the database, so if they type in their names you don't have as much trouble.

Client: Another student came in and interviewed me before and he had an interesting question. What do we do if say, I come up and I say I'm Me and sign out as you. How do we keep track of people like that, because there will always be people who game the system. I thought that was an interesting question cuz it's true that I the end this is an unfortunate byproduct of thinking like a teacher, you're always thinking about how kids will game the system. So I walk up to the terminal say I'm feeling a little bad and I say I'm <student name>. I know it would become really obvious when I look on if I happen to walk over and look at the screen, but what is a way we can prevent this.

Me: We could have a webcam to take a snapshot but I don't know if that would be a violation of privacy.

Client (transcript failed to pick up so I'm paraphrasing): I do not think that would be ok, as that would be a violation of privacy. But it's ok either way as it's never going to be 100% if we go from 75% to 95% that's massive I think more and more than anything I know that I'm on the record but I'm going to go on record saying this is not what teachers should be spending their time worrying about. we are hired for our expertise in teaching. Administration are asking for this kind of oversight but I think this is putting energy in the wrong direction. If this system works and we could have been deployed in a lot of classrooms and we could get data without sorting through piles of paperwork. But do you think that it's inappropriate? Well, I work in the East Wing where all the bathrooms are locked, like what if they go to the bathroom in the building and now I've been gone for 10 minutes because people looking all the bathrooms are closed? A person looking at the data would make a big deal about it, you're making a mountain out of a molehill because those young people who are abusing the hall pass there's so few and we already know who they are.

Me: So then just to clarify, can you go over the basics of what you want?

Client: I think that if you could give us a spreadsheet with length of time they're gone and for the reason and then we could sort by certain factors, and if I want the day of the week or month I can get it. The spreadsheet would then have all of these columns at the top with the titles and I could say okay now I want to sort by day of the week and then the field will change so I can see it.