Project ideas

Requirements Specification

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# Introduction

## Aim

To create a system that allows project ideas to be submitted by staff and organisations into a database that is searchable by MSc students.

When an idea is used from the site, it should be hidden.

## Key personnel

ENTWA Lecturer: Jim Briggs

Student Developer: 447955

## Future proofing

Although the system is merely coursework on a unit, it is possible that the University will wish to make the system used throughout the University.

As a result, the system will attempt to follow modern coding practises & make it’s code freely available.

## Rationale for development

The current project idea system (http://www.sums.port.ac.uk/pdb/) was last updated in 2006 & as a result does not adhere to current modern best practises. For example it make uses of the deprecated font tag and furthermore it uses a table based designed which is considered bad as it leads to a poor experience for screen readers & mobile devices.

The existing project idea system is not MVC (Model, View & Controller paradigm), this is a problem as MVC is widely considered a good practise when developing websites.

The new system will attempt to take advantage HTML best practises while still using Java EE & MySQL technology.

## Interactions and dependencies

The existing system has webpage stating the information the system requests from a company (<http://www.sums.port.ac.uk/pdb/projects/ideas/2006/letter.htm#_Toc34792090>) if possible the system will aim to keep the required information the same.

## Timetable

12th February 2013 - First draft of user interaction design

5th March 2013 - Alpha version of the web application

20th March 2013 – Final version of web application, documentation and report.

26th March 2013 – Peer review

# Data requirements

The majority of the data will be source from the current systems database than refactored into a lighter database containing 3 tables.

1. The systems main data models will be
   1. Idea
      1. Project information (Title, reference, etc)
      2. Student details (Student ID & email)
      3. References to staff & organisation models.
      4. A timestamp
   2. Staff
      1. Contact details
   3. Organisation
      1. Contact details
2. The relationships between these models will be as follows
   1. An idea will be associated to a member of staff and/or an organisation.
   2. The idea may contain the student ID & email address of the student who is associated with it.
   3. The staff & organisation models maybe combined into a single model as the data contained is very similar.

# Notifying users

When a project ideas status is marked as approved or is added into the system, each user involved would receive a email to the email provided stating the status change with a link to the project idea page.

# Collecting content

Collecting database is split into 3 main forms.

1. A staff form, which allows staff to be added into the database.
2. An organisation form, that allows organisations to allow themselves to be added into the database.
3. An ideas form, which requires a staff member to be selection with an optional organisation to be selected.

# Version control

## Source control

The project will attempt to make use of a version control system such as Git or SVN.

## Document control

The documents in this project will make use of the tracking feature in Microsoft Word, which allows for changes to the document to be logged.