

To: Dr. Ryan Weber
From: Mitchell Dodson
Date: April 17, 2020
Subject: Term Project Progress Report

Introduction

My Eh 301 term project will consist of a series of technical documents concerning custom software for a locally-hosted blog database, website, and publishing system. Now that I am 10 days away from turning in the project, my focus is soon to transition towards making the actual documents; I'm nearly finished designing and developing the software, making appropriate diagrams, and conducting interviews and tests.

Completed Work

The first thing I focused on was the development of the abstract design principle of each component of the blog. In doing so, I developed several of the UML diagrams that will be included in the largest section of the final term document. Additionally, I'm nearly finished with a working prototype version of the blog frontend, which should be ready for usability testing soon. Finally, I interviewed several of the actual researchers who will be publishing to the blog; these interviews helped me understand how to properly design the publishing API and command-line interface and will be used as references.

Work Remaining

Now that I'm nearly finished with the testing, diagramming, and interviewing, I need to start focusing on compiling everything. I've already made a template in \LaTeX for each document, which should work well with the UML diagrams and other images. I plan to conduct the user test with Ben and Shay on Sunday, April 19, and begin filling out these templates in the next few days. I may also reformat my bibliography.

Challenges Faced

This blog project was originally intended to be a sort of correlated effort between writing the actual software as a responsibility of my job and writing the documentation as a responsibility of this class. Unfortunately, my task assignment at my job unavoidably changed soon after I proposed the project, which meant I needed to develop almost all of the technical background for the blog off-the-clock in the time I would usually allocate to classes. Furthermore, logistic complications (mostly the result of COVID-19) have seriously restricted the amount of time I have to work on this project and all other school-related responsibilities. These things have unfortunately left me a few days behind my project schedule.

Timeline

To Do	In Progress	Completed
Format test data into report	High-level blog philosophy	Design publisher
Write and format publishing info	Module UML	interview researchers
write api descriptions	write publishing info sheet	finish frontend
	Frontend user test	

References

- [1] Paul Andrew. *Ten Steps to Intuitive Forms in Website Design*. 2018. URL: <https://speckyboy.com/intuitive-forms-website-design/>.
- [2] Sophia Brooke. *How to Conduct a Usability Test in Six Steps*. 2018. URL: <https://uxplanet.org/how-to-conduct-a-usability-test-in-six-steps-from-start-to-finish-4082e8d57858>.
- [3] Noel Ceta. *All You Need to Know About UML Diagrams*. 2020. URL: <https://tallyfy.com/uml-diagram/>.
- [4] *Writing an Abstract*. 2015. URL: www.utahrealestate.com/news/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cropping-Photos-in-the-MLS.pdf.