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# Analysis Section

## Feasibility Study (background to - and identification of - the problem)

Name of Client: Matthew Wilson

Working Title of System: Saviour Backup System

**What is the purpose of the new system?**

To allow users to backup removable media easily, quickly and automatically, so that in the event of something happening to the media, the backup would still be intact, and the software can restore it to another device. This can also be done through the software.

**What are the anticipated benefits of the new system?**

Reduces the chance of data loss on removable media, because the media can be backed up in the background automatically with little affect to the user.

**What useful outputs / information will the new system produce?**

Backup files of the removable media and config files on host computer.

**Who will enter data into the new system?**

The data will be entered by no one. There is no data to enter. The configuration for the USB manager for backups is generated automatically, from a template. The settings from that are set up by the user or the owner of the media.

**Who will make use of the outputs / information?**

Any business, big or small, even home users that want to keep their data backed up seamlessly. If someone has important data that they carry around on a USB drive, the software will stop them losing the data in the event of something happening to the drive.

**Will the new system need to permanently store data?**

Yes, it will store the backed up data on the client computer, and maybe on an FTP server they own. There will also be configuration data stored on the USB device.

**Is there an existing system that will be replaced?**

No, after research there is no other piece of software like this in existence on the global market, however there may be bespoke software solutions in place. This system isn’t designed to replace any other system, therefore there is no consideration needed for this product to meet any prior requirements or interfaces.

**Is there an existing system that the new system will need to interface with?**

Other than the windows operating system, no. Everything will be done by the program with no need for any other systems, other than the software needed for the program to run (.Net framework etc.)

**Does the new system need to run on any particular hardware?**

It must run on a windows based machine, in the desktop environment. It will be compiled for 32-bit to maintain support for different computers, and can be compiled for any different version of windows (8, 7 etc.).

**Outline a possible solution**

Programming Language: The program will be written in C#, with XML for the config files. Small pieces of other languages may be used (possible SQL and Batch, and **MAYBE** small amounts of C++ for file management)

File System: The file system will be windows based, and will be installed onto the client’s machine. Visual studio will make the installer, to make sure there are no problems with it there.

User Interface: The user interface will be using windows forms mixed with DotNetBar, which allows it to look nicer than stock. There will be some sections where console readout will be used for status.

## Formal Investigation

### **Interview**

***What is needed***

1. Can you tell me more about what you want the system to do?
   * Backup on ejection (ejection through program that is)
   * Simple user interface
   * Resource friendly
   * Backup restore in case of loss or replacement of drive.
   * Only backup drives that have been set up.
2. Does it need to run on any particular hardware?
   * No
3. Does it need to use any particular software?
   * No, all run inside windows
4. Should it be able to interface with any other systems?
   * No, run silently in the background

***Problems***

1. What are the benefits of the new system to companies and home users?
   * Piece of mind that if I lost my important data, then there would be a copy of the data still. However, I would still question the need for it because I use cloud, but loads of people still use USB devices
2. What would be an indication that this system is beneficial over other products?
   * That I have piece of mind that it does it itself.

***The users***

1. Who will use the system?
   * Small networks and home users
2. Are they likely to be competent IT users?
   * No
3. What level of user documentation and/or training will they need?
   * Basic overview of how to turn it on and make sure its running

***Security/Compliance***

1. Should the system store user information for analytics etc?
   * No, just make it work, simple as.
2. How secure should the software be (Password protected etc)?
   * No, it doesn’t worry me. The computers are likely to be password protected.
3. How should the data be stored (settings for backup, drive identity etc)?
   * Just as a basic folder, no compression.

### **OBSERVATION RECORD**

There is no current system in place, therefore there are no observations that need to be made.

### **DOCUMENT ANALYSIS**

There are no documents from any past system that needs to be analysed.

## Description of the Current System

There is currently no system that needs to be updated or replaced. And there are no other systems that do anything like what I am designing the system to do. There are other systems that do roughly the same thing (backup data), but they aren’t appropriate really to this because they aren’t designed for removable devices.

## System Requirements

The new system will need to backup USB drives when they are inserted into the computer. The system will be able to back up many drives simultaneously, and still not affect system performance too much. The system will need to back up the files securely and properly, and override the backup when the drive is inserted and files have been changed on the drive.

The system is designed to remove any work loss when the user uses a portable storage device.

## Identification of the Prospective User(s) and their skills

The system will be used by anyone that uses USB drives, whether it’s for small businesses, or home users. Any user will set up the program and use the program.

Chances are, the people that are going to use the program are going to have a very basic IT knowledge, however there may be people that also very computer savvy. I want to try and cater for both extremes, so the system will be very easy to use, but can be customized if needed.

The system will be very simple and easy to use so that there is very little training needed, so they can just start using the program instantly

## Constraints/Limitations

The main limitation for the program will be storage space. If the program runs and there isn’t enough storage space, then the backup will fail, and a user may lose their drive, and have no backup of it.

## Data Source(s) and Destinations(s)

## Data Volumes

The system will be run every time the computer is started, and used heavily whenever the back. The customer base and user base is anyone, it will be released on the internet, I just have a client that wants to sell the software and needs someone to make it. Events will be triggered when the user starts up the computer, or when the user inserts a removable device into the computer. Data will be kept for all the time that the computer keeps a backup record of the drive.

## Analysis Data Dictionary (from the perspective of the end user)

**This flows from the analysis of existing documents/systems or from notes you took during interview/observation. You need to identify all of the data that your system needs to store.**

**This should not be technical - use terminology that your client/user would use. The data names can (and should) have spaces in. The validation is how the client/user would specify any restrictions/rules for the values that are allowed.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Data Item | Description | Type (and length) | Validation |
| Drive ID | Allows global reference to the drive | Text (hash) | Must be a valid hash! |
| Drive Name | Stores the name of the removable drive | Text (11 char max (set by windows)) | Computer Generated |
| Drive Capacity | Stores the capacity of the removable drive | Number (no max length) | Computer Generated |
| Drive Format | Stores the format of the drive (type of file system) | Text (7 char max) | Computer Generated |
| Device Type | Stores what type of drive it is (removable, CD etc) | Text (15 char max) | Computer Generated |
| Date last backed up | Date of the last backup | Number (20 char max) | Computer Generated |
| Date Backup Set | Date that the backup rule was created | Number (20 char max) | Computer Generated |
| Latest Hash | Hash of all the files, done to see if they have changed since last backup | Text (hash) | Computer Generated. Must be a valid hash! |

## Entity Relationship Model

**You need only do this if you are anticipating a database storage solution. If you can’t do it yet, leave half a blank page**

## Object Analysis Diagrams

**You need only do this if you are anticipating use of Object Oriented Programming (OOP). If you are not sure how to do it, leave one blank page**

## DfDs (existing and proposed system) to level 1

**You can leave this for now – leave 2 blank pages**

## Objectives for the proposed system

1. Allow users to see what drives are connected
2. Allow users to add drives for backup
3. Allow the user to backup content from the drive to their computer
4. User can see per-file and overall progress of backup process.
5. Allow users to manage backups on their computer
6. Allow users to restore backups onto another drive
7. Allow different users to have different backup rules on the same computer, for the same drive
8. Allow users to delete backup records
9. Use file compression to allow users to roll back through backups (compression needed to save file space)
10. Allow backups to run at the same time to different drives.
11. Use (some kind of) hash to calculate of drive has changed since last backup
12. The system should be self-documenting. It should be self-explanatory and need little in the way of extra documentation.
13. The system must be able to run on windows 7, 8.1, and XP (both 32 and 64-bit versions)
14. The user must be able to change its theme to match the users OS (in case the dark theme isn’t liked)
15. In order to be resource light, the system must use no more than 15kb of system memory and 1% CPU when completely idle (in tray).
16. The system must use no more than 5% CPU and 30kb system memory when GUI in use (adding backups etc)
17. System must be protected so that no more than 1 backup is stored on the system per drive.

**This is the most important part of the analysis – you are going to state the objectives of a system that looks sufficiently COMPLEX – i.e. HAS LOTS OF PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS. The system needs to be “open ended” – i.e. you should be able to add/update and delete things so that the system can be used for the forseeable future.**

**NUMBER the objectives – the exam board says you should have around 20!**

**You must produce clear and measurable objectives that are specific to your project. Generalised objectives such as ‘user friendly’ are not SMART:**

**S**pecific – State precisely what you will achieve?  
**M**easurable – Will you be able to measure your success?  
**A**chievable – Are you capable of achieving your objectives?  
**R**ealistic – Can you achieve them in time with your available resources?  
**T**ime – When do you want to achieve the objectives by?

* It may help to group your objectives into
* Inputs. For example: the system must provide a means to input order details making use of drop down lists of options wherever possible, to minimize input errors.
* Outputs. For example: the system must produce a report of **last year’s sales**, grouped and sub-totalled by month.
* Processing. For example: the system must calculate monthly sales totals
* Storage. For example: the system must store customer details in a way that they can be retrieved by specifying surname or first name.
* Security/Backup. For example: the system must be password protected. Only managers should be able to change staff rotas.
* Technical. For example: the system must run on a Windows 7 computer with 2 Mb RAM and an Intel Core Duo processor.

## Realistic appraisal of the feasibility of potential solutions

**The proposed solution needs to meet the stated objectives. Consider three alternative solutions for each area. This is one area in which complexity will be assessed so be detailed (especially for your preferred solution)!**

**Explain briefly how each solution would work in view of its ability to meet the most important of the requirements/objectives.**

**Consider the negative points of each solution too (making sure your preferred option has a lot more positives than negatives!!!).**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
| Programming Language | C#  I already know how to use this well | Python  I know how to write this, and the people at college can help me if needbe | C++  Very complicated, but I can do things my own way and not have to try and work with unusual libraries |
| File Storage/database management system | SQLITE  Easy to use, very lightweight, easy to implement and read | MySql  Easy to use, and again taught by college | SQLCE  Useful if there is little data to store, because its very compact |
| GUI | C# (Windows Forms)  Easy to layout, already supported by C# and has a load of libraries to help. | Tkinter  Confusing, but college can help if need be | OpenGL  Very difficult, bulky, but but could look very good! |

**You may have other options to consider depending on the nature of the system.**

## Justification of chosen solution

I have chosen to write my project using C# for the back end, C# for the front end (Using .Net Runtime), and SQLCE for the database connection. The main reason for this is because TKinter isn’t great for making GUI’s properly, and C++ is just too complicated for me to use, and takes so much code to write something simple.