Risks and Ethics

*Why does this matter?*

At this point in the project you should consider the potential risks and ethical issues associated with your concept. With the prototype in hand, you now have enough information to adequately assess things like risk and ethics. These final two tests will help build up the case for moving your idea forward.

Risks:

1. Outline the possible negative consequences for your concept. Ask: what could go wrong? With users, the community, competitors, the environment, and so on.

*An area of concern with this website is security. Though the website would only be available to registered users, information regarding the location of events and details would be available to them all.*

1. Determine the significance (if this happens, to what degree will it impact the success of the idea) and probability (how likely is this to happen?)

*The idea of getting the location from our users is everything. If someone were to get the location and use it for tracking people, it could put the students at risk. The likeliness of this happening is low, but it is possible since we are a school of tech students. Therefore, security is a must.*

1. Determine if / how you might mitigate or manage the negative consequences. Ask: how can we reduce risk or minimize the negative impact.

*User profiles are a start. All users would have to be registered on the website so we know who is on campus and why they are using this service. We can make customizations to each user’s page so that only relevant information to the user (ex. Student, alumni, visitors) is included there.*

*Additionally, we can have pre-registration for events so that only those who are registered can view an event’s details.*

Ethics, consider the following tests:

* The Golden Rule test: would you want to use the concept yourself? Explain why or why not?

*Absolutely. As students on such a large campus (120 acres), we’ve all spent, or rather, wasted too much time looking for buildings and services, and hearing about a great event only to find out it already happened! With this app, we are looking to increase connectivity and participation among the IIT community. This website will house all the information related to current events and location of services. Our intent is to make this information accessible so that students can not only easily navigate from point A to point B, but they are also aware of any interesting campus happenings along the way. Our calendar feature will also help students plan for future events.*

* The Front Page test: would we feel comfortable having our process and results reported on the “front page” of a publication? Explain why or why not.

*It would be an honor to have our navigation for the campus to use. If anything it would help us promote our project to be actually useful to everyone on campus. Especially newcomers like transfer students or other visitors coming to the campus. An outcome we anticipate is increased student participation in campus activities.*

* Harm test: will we unnecessarily harm one population in order to benefit another population?

*Not really, though this service mostly benefits the on-campus community. We are hoping that by presenting information related to campus events and services through Virtual Hawk, online students can also become more aware and will be more motivated to visit the campus and participate in its events and activity offerings.*