**Handover Document – Future Recommendations**

**NASA EVA Gamification**

*Group 3*

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# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to list items of future recommendations to teams that are going to continue work where we left off. The lessons learned from our semester will help future semesters in their research and with any possible questions they had regarding the design.

# Historical Date Earned for Badges

The installation of the NASA\_EVA\_Gamification extension creates the gamification\_badges table. It then gathers pre-existing data about users from MediaWiki's database. It uses that data to determine which badges users have earned retroactively and updates the gamification\_badges table with these badges.

The Spring 2018 semester implemented the email verification game. We had three options to store in the date\_badge\_earned field when the badge was earned retroactively:

* Null
* MediaWiki's email verification date (the user\_email\_authenticated field, as seen here: https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:User\_table#user\_email\_authenticated)
* Date of extension installation

We debated this choice for some time before deciding to store null. We felt that using the date the user installed the extension would be confusing. This date would be displayed for all badges earned before the extension was installed and would quickly become meaningless.

The ideal scenario would be to use the date that the badge would have been earned. While this would have been easy to implement in this game, it would not be possible for all games created in the future. Storing inconsistent data in the date\_badge\_earned field would be confusing.

That left us with leaving the field with a null value. This was the most consistent and least confusing option.

# SQL Code Improvements

In designing the gamification\_badges table, we initially wanted to incorporate a foreign key on the user\_id field, but we had discovered that MediaWiki does not apply foreign keys in its database tables so we opted out of using it for consistency purposes, but perhaps some more research can be done by future teams. Additionally, we were looking at implementing an index on the user\_id field for optimal searching by user\_id, but this was not something we were able to fit in in our timeline and it is something additional that future teams can research and look into.

# Generic Names for Badges

We used NASA-themed wording in all configurable values. We recommend that you use generic wording when you submit the extension to MediaWiki. Using generic names will allow the extension to appeal to a wider audience. Instead of calling the email verification badge "Spacesuit Verified" you could call it "Email verified." You can do the same with the badge ranks. Instead of "Astronaut", "Spacewalker" and "Moonwalker" you could call them "Bronze", "Silver" and "Gold."