**Technical Evaluation of Senior Design: The Depot Website**

**Also attended: Employee Database Management Systems**

The Depot is a South Haven-based drinks and party store similar to Western Michigan University’s The Den Party Store. The selection of beverages at The Depot is, by comparison, quite a bit large than The Den’s. Due to this wide selection of material, many people travel quite a distance to sample the goods that The Depot has to offer. The problem is that sometimes this trip is rather long and ungainly. Why not eliminate this trip altogether? Enter this Senior Design Project. Now The Depot has a website. This paper will explain what the website can do, analyze the presentation content for relevance to the audience, the technical content of the presentation, and the ability of the presenter to engage the audience.

The Depot website was designed as a shopping cart for users. It has a list of all products which can be sorted by many options. Then, the user can select the product and read a description, as well as a review. In addition, the user can buy the item. This is achieved through a cart system. The user can select the product and add it to the cart, and then continue shopping. Once they are satisfied, they can enter the check out phase, which moves them to a third-party payment system which guarantees payment information security. Upon completion, the manager at The Depot receives a notification and can prepare and ship the required items.

The presentation was not the best when it comes to relevance to the audience. Of the audience, I think 80% were there to cover their Senior Design presentation viewing requirement, as they left immediately after the presentation was over. The other 20% can be summed up by professors and the client, who is the parent of one of the presenters. Personally, I was there to both satisfy my Senior Design requirements and to support my friend who was one of the presenters. The rest of the audience, with exception of the client, did not seem relevant to the website as the college students would rather visit the local party store and buy cheap vodka than order expensive wines and have them shipped in from South Haven. A local shop, Tiffany’s, would seem more appropriate to the professors’ more educated tastes.

The presentation was, in addition to not being terribly relevant, was also rather disappointing in regard to captivating the audience’s attention. The group consisted of three presenters. The first was by far the worst. He was quiet and unintelligible. This was in part due to his Indian accent and the writer’s damaged hearing, but had the first presenter been louder he would have been easier to understand. In addition to being quiet, he was also not confident at all. He hid behind the podium and looked at the floor more than at the ground. In addition, his part of the presentation seemed to be very uneducated when compared to another presenter a little bit later. The Second presenter was not much better than the first. He also seemed rather uneducated with regards to the project’s technical information. In addition, he may have enunciated more than the first presenter, but he also was very quiet and seemed to have no confidence with himself. As with the first, the second presenter also rarely made eye contact. By far and away the third presenter was the best. He was loud, engaging, and was very easy to understand. He had the sort of confidence the other two could have benefitted from. The third presenter also made quite a bit of eye contact and answered questions with easy and knowledge. He was able to convey all the complicated steps in the purchasing process as well as the delicate issue of security to the writer, who very much knows nothing about web development. The level of confidence and knowledge the third presenter showed seemed to demonstrate that the third presenter completed almost all the required work in regards to development and testing. The lack of knowledge and description by the other two presenters seem to corroborate this belief.

Overall, the presentation was not very good, but was saved by the third and last presenter. It was informative and engaging. As presentations go, it was probably the writer’s favorite solely due to the third presenter. As well as having learned about a rather complex shopping cart system, the writer has also found a new place to buy exquisite new beverages imported from many places the writer has never heard of.