PROJECT SECTION REPORT SECTIONS 5-8

Terrence Donerson

AUTHOR NOTE

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, 30458

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Section 5: Analyze alternatives:

Alternative 1

*Uses a different MOOC platform (Assessment score 5)

There are four suitable alternatives to using the Google Classroom platform: Open MOOC, Miriada, Future Learn, and LearnDash.

Open MOOC

This platform allows for course creators to add videos and set up discussion forums. Moreover, their software can be set up to access course content from desktop, mobile, or phone.

The disadvantage to using Open MOOC is that it is very time consuming. To set up the course, a lot of coding is necessary (HTML & CSS especially). Furthermore, the quizzes aren't as interactive (multiple choice is the only option, no fill in the blank), and the is no integration of social media platforms.

Miriada

This company is a Spanish MOOC platform, that allows for the opportunity to set up your own course using their platform of built in tools. Before setting up the course hosts are required to fill out a signup forum. What is great about this platform is that it is more interactive and already has a built audience for attracting learners to the course you create.

The drawback is that it is open source. As I explain below you must be approve before setting up your course. Furthermore, anyone who uses your course must be fluent in Spanish.

Future Learn

Advantages include: Built in tools for creating your course, more interactive compared to Google Classroom (better quizzes and easier process for setting up a certificate).

Drawbacks include: not being open source (course must be approved before being created. Additionally, their target audience is attracting learners in the U.K.

LearnDash

Advantages: largest amount of customer templates, integrates with WordPress, it has the most dynamic quizzes of all the MOOC creation platforms.

Disadvantages: must have at least intermediate experience with WordPress.

Alternative 2

*Uses a different payment platform (Assessment score 10)

An alternative to using PayPal for purchasing a Verified Certificate is to use Google Pay. Google Pay would have been more suitable because Google sets up their platforms and Apps to compliment one another.

The main drawback is it isn't as well known as PayPal. While easy to use, end-users prefer to use a service that they have the most familiarity with.

Alternative 3

*Pay for readymade course content (Assessment score 5)

The main upside to using ready made course content is that I wouldn't have to create my quizzes and course. Furthermore, I could choose from a wider variety of textbooks and get assistance setting up the coursework.

The key drawback is cost. The cheapest textbook and coursework from $159. Additionally, I would have huge gaps in my time logs. Creating my own coursework allowed me to chew a lot of my required 180 hours.

Alternative 4

*Selecting a different development model (Assessment score 5)

Advantage: Using a disciplined method such as Waterfall would have worked better because this project has critical consequences (I need it graduate), is large, and I don't have much project management experience.

Disadvantage: There aren't any downsides to using the Waterfall method. My requirements, goals, objectives, and circumstances, all remain stable and reliably will not change. It would have been better than the Scrum practice I'm using now.

Section 6: Select the best alternative:

The best alternative is to replace using PayPal with a payment method that works better with Google products/services such as Google Wallet.

There are many reasons for selecting this option:

- Better integration with Google Products/services
- No processing charges. (PayPal charges 2.9%)
- Users never need to leave Google to send payment. PayPal requires logging into their interface using either desktop or their app.
- Google offers better security, for disputes and refunds. Moreover, their day limit for disputes are 120 days longer compared to PayPal.

Section 7: Implementing the alternative:

Implementing Google Pay requires for key steps:

1. Review developer documentation

- This step requires enabling easy checkout for users of my service who want a verified certificate. I can set up the Google Pay API to request any credit or debit stored in the Google Pay account of the customer. This is done with a few lines of code.

2. Get access to the APIs

3. Integrate and Test

4. Go Live

The cost of setting up Google Pay for business is free. The time varies depending on what options developers want for the users of their business.

Section 8: Evaluating the decision effectiveness:

When attempting to replace PayPal with Google Pay there were many unforeseen problems that arose.

For users who are looking for a service that makes online shopping easy, PayPal is the better option.

Moreover, Google Pay is still in its infancy. The service hasn't matured yet – many of its options won't be available until the future.

Another problem was the geographical reach of PayPal compared to Google Wallet.

At this current time Google Wallet integration with Google Classroom is limited in reach. The services of Google Wallet are being rolled out slowly and aren't initially made to compliment this classroom service provided by Google Classroom. If your creating a MOOC that has the potential to reach users from all over the world, you can expect to have payments being made from places outside the United States. Google Pay doesn't work will – at least for the time being. While, their service will expand in the future, at this current time PayPal is a better option because it offers more tools and services for online businesses.

Implementing Google Pay was a failure.

While I failed to replace PayPal, this doesn't mean I have to get rid of the option for paying for a verified certificate. I can insert instructions for contacting me after a student has completed the course. If someone requests a verified certificate, I can send them a PayPal link where they can submit payment. This requires drafting a technical document instructing users on cost, time of expected delivery, and refund procedures.