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# Next Meeting

**Attendance:**

**Agenda:**

**Major Decisions:**

**Action Items:**

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Talk to Cortney about Scott and Ben’s plan. 2-3 weeks

Start in swing states- easier approach and ensures moderate party

Put state next to name (“Represent your state”)

Rob notes for meeting- Bring up parent and child stances (i.e. stance on surveillance, stance on meta data, stance on sms vs. call, etc.) Potentially require a certain amount of user buy-in to open something up even for discussion. Upvote each column like a primary in an election then you have to vote for the column you voted for to prevent upvoting shitty opposing arguments.

Feedback from a friend- College approach is the typical startup approach- (start with a small market, show traction, yada yada) but that approach is toxic to the brand if you’re trying to form the identity and traction we’re looking for. Perhaps license our software to another llc that we own and have a different brand if anything.

Also rockethub phone call

comments- you have a really cool project, the video is fine, you’re actually in good shape, your emotions (frustration, doubt, etc. are normal, just don’t stop talking about it)

ideas- personalized emails go a long way, reach out to bloggers, publically thank donors (keep eyes on it)

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# 6.23.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Maddie, Cortney, Rob, Scott, Sid, Tim**

**Agenda:**

Waiting on releasing to public and try to sell software to colleges instead

* Gives us a chance to gain support and familiarity with official backing from the college
* Creates an incubation period so we can test and develop the software with them and not need to worry about stagnation making people lose heart
* good first step so we can do everything else also, but also an additional possible revenue stream
* We can use student ID’s for verification, so we wouldn’t have to worry about that

Research on attempts to do similar stuff to this in the past

* Some other people have tried to do this, Mark and Austin have compiled a few articles we should look into (Sid has created a folder in the drive under research called relevant news)

Mark and Austin decided to join the team!

* emails - [adreid23@gmail.com](mailto:adreid23@gmail.com) and [mwarring@uark.edu](mailto:mwarring@uark.edu)

The registration problem is very real

* Scott thinks we need a unique identifier to legitimize the stances
  + SSN
  + Public Voter Records
* Much smaller problem with campus pivot

**Major Decisions:**

* Considering a pivot
  + Focus on colleges
    - Step one- talk to colleges/polticians
    - Step two- build out tech
    - Step three- alter for college, for government, for original intent
    - Step four- see which one catches on?
  + Platform instead of party?
    - Collaborative decision making platform
  + Is a diversion from our original goal

**Action Items:**

* DevTeam: Put a bow on the demo
* Team: Try to connect with universities and politicians
* Team: Consider a university pivot
* Ben, Sid, Tim: Touch up the business plan

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# 6.16.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Sid, Scott, Rob, Tim**

**Agenda:**

* Software Development
  + Development Env
  + [APIs](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AlWCJFFn6moAdGowUkxCOU0wdGxyakJMUllhdElWZWc#gid=0)
    - Working towards a solution
* Titles for donor purposes
* Biz plan
* Fundraising
* Bringing on someone with some Washington experience?
* Look at the financials. Should events be under rev or fundraising (semantics)o

**Major Decisions:**

**Action Items:**

* Scott: Post a social media request on [Intern Match](http://www.internmatch.com/)
* Tim: Laravel4 port
* Grant: Investigate Laravel4 API implementation
* Scott: Research the regions problem
* Everyone: think about verification / registration

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# 6.9.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Scott, Tim, Rob, Sid**

**Agenda:**

* Life Updates
* Concerns about Selling Information to Candidates
  + It goes against the information party principles
  + It would give us bad publicity
  + Make people less inclined to use the site
  + The information party should make all of it’s information public
    - Determined that all information is public, but we could package it into a specialized, even personalized dashboard that aggregates and displays candidate-relevant information
    - Less selling information, more selling a consulting service
* A new suggested revenue streams
  + Donations
  + Selling the Software
    - This Can still be done if we are open source
    - We can offer to customize the software to meet their companies requests.
  + Ads
  + Seminars
  + Merchandise
* Password changes?
  + Current passwords are quite cumbersome
    - **Next Step:** If Sid wants to change the password, he will need to change the password on all sites where we currently have an Info Party account
* Rockethub Campaign
  + Make a email template to be able to spam out
    - A draft can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CcPhjKhk21vwbiFJdF91NgOFm5NiwP9ooa_2OToFFzM/edit)
  + figure out how to link our documents and what to link
* Privacy settings
  + I know we have talked about this already, but I think it is crucial to gaining users
  + There are a lot of people out there that don’t want their political beliefs to be public. I don’t want to exclude that demographic from participating. Don’t leave out the cowards.
    - Solution is to leave voting records public. Require a First and Last name at registration, allow users to provide whatever biographical information they want. If users want to remain anonymous, nothing keeps them from using an assumed name that hides their true identity. Votes are still tied to the identity they choose on the site, and we’ll make efforts to keep people from having multiple accounts / identities
    - Validation
      * Goal: Ensure that each user is a real American citizens
      * Possible validation options require exploration
* Tim’s edits to the business plan
  + Cleaned up the document
  + Removed redundancies
  + **Key Deliverable:** Business plan to be completed by Sunday, June 23rd
* MailChimp Email
  + Draft can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CcPhjKhk21vwbiFJdF91NgOFm5NiwP9ooa_2OToFFzM/edit). If you want to review and make edits, please do so before 10 am, Tuesday morning (6/11)
  + **Action Item:** Plum to send email out at 10 am Tuesday (6/11).

**Major Decisions:**

* Seeking someone who will be our marketing and social media guru
* Possible Revenue Model: Packaging and selling information and insights to politicians
  + Determined that all information is public, but we could package it into a specialized, even personalized dashboard that aggregates and displays candidate-relevant information
  + Less selling information, more selling a consulting service
* Privacy
  + Solution is to leave voting records public. Require a First and Last name at registration, allow users to provide whatever biographical information they want. If users want to remain anonymous, nothing keeps them from using an assumed name that hides their true identity. Votes are still tied to the identity they choose on the site, and we’ll make efforts to keep people from having multiple accounts / identities
  + Essentially, all of their activity is public, which will create an info party identity, but not attached to their real life identity

**Action Items:**

* Plum to send email out at 10 am Tuesday (6/11).

**Key Deliverable:**

* Business Plan due by Sunday, June 23rd

# 6.2.2013@3pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Scott, Tim, Rob**

**Agenda**

* Life Updates
  + Scott started his new job at Chalkfly doing PHP development, and PHP the hard drug. It’s going about as well as you could expect.
  + Ben turned 25. Is old.
* Updates on workstreams
  + [Business Plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zcS8-qSquLUhR51mTOzL36whGLK52Z4t2XIsanvjBqg/edit)
    - Work in progress
    - **Action Item:** Ben to discuss College Outreach Plan with Sid
  + AmEx Innovation Challenge
    - As of meeting, we’re at just over $2,000 (5th of the way there)
    - Still a lot of work to do to get to our goal
  + Development
    - Geocode API
      * We ping Google through Geocode API everytime someone inputs a unique new zip code
        + Tim spoke with Google about using Google Maps for business
        + $10,000k a year to use it if you ping more than 2,500 times/day, unless you’re a 501(c)
    - Functionality
      * Functionality on the site is coming along well
        + Still lots to do, but very impressive so far. Good work, guys 8D
    - Laravel 4
      * Moving to Laravel 4 framework.
      * Laravel is great! But they’re dumb for removing their Laravel 3 resources, documentation

**Major Decisions:**

* Spending crowdfunding money on:
  + Creating a nonprofit corporation

**Action Items:**

* Plum to send an email update through MailChimp to pre-regs about rockethub
* Scott to investigate sticker campaigns
* Bios needed from everyone. 300 words-ish about who you are, where you came from, what you want to be when you grow up, favorite dinosaur, etc etc

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# 5.26.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Scott, Rob, Sid, Tim, Jason (!)**

**Agenda**

* Life Updates
* Workstream Updates
  + Development
    - Added upvotes and comment sorting by upvotes. Close to done with filtering stances
    - Goal: Demo on Thursday, May 30th. What that requires:
      * Finish stance filter
      * Add stance sort by endorsements
      * Add Activity History to user profile
      * Add styling
    - Note: Google geocode API is only free for up to 2,500 pings per day
  + Business Plan
    - Meeting 5.29@8pm
  + Funding
    - Rockethub Campaign Launches May 30th
      * “Goods”
        + Thank you note on seed paper, so they can plant it and watch it grow :]
      * Goal: $10,000
        + We’re matching $5,000
        + $5,000 at $20 / person is **250 people**
      * This will be a lot of work, but it’s worth it. If we raise more than any other VFA team, we get $10,000k, which would be a huge win for us at this stage in the game. Here’s what it will take:
        + Step 1: Personally call or email close friends and family, requesting their support. It’s uncomfortable, but that’s what gets the ball rolling. Here’s a [doc](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AlWCJFFn6moAdEtpV2Y2aGp0YV9kQTlHTlJ3VkpVT3c#gid=0) to track our progress
        + Step 2: Personally thank those friends and family who support us through social media. That way the campaign gets exposure without us actually asking for money from our connections
        + Step 3: Scan your network for individuals with a lot of connections. Personally ask them to share our idea
        + Step 4: Scan your network for connections to press. After the ball starts rolling through support from family and friends, we’ll need media attention in order to draw in a wider audience and be a success
        + (Optional, if we haven’t met our goal using Steps 1 - 4) Step 5: Blast your social media
      * Notice that Blast your social media is the last thing on the list. It’s the easiest to do, but it’s also annoying to our friends, and we don’t want the info party to be something that’s annoying. If we want to win this thing, we’ll have to execute

**Decisions / New Ideas**

* Activity History is an instance of Activity feed, filtered to just one user
* Considering selling data to candidates as a potential revenue stream
  + Our candidates get data for political strategy for free
* Beta goes up until we add an official registration
  + Need a unique identifier. Options:
    - Verisign
    - Social Security
    - Drivers License #
* We’re outsourcing verified registration
* Marketing blurb
  + People complain about politics/government not using the internet. We are changing that.

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# 5.19.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Scott, Rob, Sid, Tim, Jason (!)**

**Agenda**

* Life Updates
  + Scott has a new bike!
  + Also, starting a new job or something
  + Sid is going to compete in a state championship for ultimate frisbee next weekend! Go Sid!
  + Tim likes the new Daft Punk album
    - Rob concurs that it is most excellent (paraphrase)
* Workstream Updates
  + Software Development
    - Comments and Replies are live
    - Next steps:
      * Upvotes
      * Reputation
      * User Activity
      * “see all” / sorting stances
  + Outreach
    - Matt Bower, Varnum Lawyer
      * Need to make non-profit ASAP
      * Matt wants to help us with Terms of service, privacy policy
        + Said we should not waste legal services on incorporating, because that’s easy
      * **Action Item:** Finish [business plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_-W9DAXzT7umG-vnosa-JRRQjUMM-qqmZ92qcmwukl8/edit#heading=h.uc40cn5guxuf) for free legal services
      * **Action Item:** Create funding [wish-list](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zrc_11TJ1gsQgOBXDt8dPu2uIDLzTgVej4M3wBZWi18/edit)
      * **Action Item:** Plum to assist Rob in finishing up business plan
  + Innovation Challenge Update
    - Page is under construction
    - Scott and Plum are project leaders as of now
      * Can add anyone who’s interested in helping
    - Ideas for reasons to fund us:
      * Intern Programs
        + University Ambassador Intern
        + Social Media Intern
      * Google AdWords
      * See [funding wish-list](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zrc_11TJ1gsQgOBXDt8dPu2uIDLzTgVej4M3wBZWi18/edit)
    - Goal proposal:
      * $8k, with $5k seed
        + Scott and Tim willing to put up the initial $5k

**Decisions / New Ideas**

* Beta testing
  + Need to get a couple thousand people who would be willing to be part of this.
  + People who we’ve spoken to seem to be pretty interested in the idea. I don’t think it’ll be a tough sell
* Seal of Approval
  + This will be a bridge between political party and website, for use with endorsements of politicians
  + Imagine an Info Party logo on a politician’s yard sign who is running for a particular office, to indicate that we support them
* Never spend info party money on a candidate
  + We’re all of one mind that we will not spend Info Party money on putting anyone in any office
    - Will support our in-house candidates in their fundraising efforts. Will not actually give them money from the party itself
* Transparency with our finances
  + Income Statements, Balance Sheets to be made available to the public
  + The idea is that this will help us long-term with IRS, those who are skeptical

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Innovation Challenge feedback:

Scott, Rob and Sam,

Thanks so much for submitting your application for the Innovation Fund! Hopefully this will be a great way to make the first big push for Information Party support. We're big fans of the idea (and I'm always a fan of those animated videos you guys do).

We reviewed your application, and overall, we think this will work really well in a crowdfunding setting.

Our main suggestion is that you should think of something more action oriented/tangible that you will use your funders' money for. People don't want to pay for legal services, web design, overhead etc. You could even crowdfund for something more specific, and then if you win the Innovation Fund money, you can use that for all the boring legal stuff you want!

Try to think of something that people can get behind-- this money could allow you to undertake your first cause, hold the first event for the Information Party, support the first Information Party “candidate”-- get creative.

Other than that, your idea and purpose seems very well formed. We just want to make sure you guys frame it in a way that you can make the most of your campaign-- RocketHub could possibly be a good resource for this, as well as coming up with additional perks.

Let us know if you have any questions about our suggestions-- we're happy to give feedback along the way!

Talk to you soon,

Megan

# 5.12.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance: Plum, Scott, Sam, Tim, Sid, Rob**

**Agenda**

* Updates on workstreams
  + MVP
    - Site is functional (sort of)
    - Scott led demonstration of how the site is doing
      * Users can:
        + Register
        + Fill out Bio / Profile

Including links to personal content

Fields on the left side of the page are required, fields on the right are optional

* + - * + View other people’s profiles
        + Leave stances
        + Endorse / Protest stances
      * Once site is live, we will be able to fill out our profiles
        + All questions, comments, concerns should be entered through [github](https://github.com/lowe0292/TheInformationParty-Bugs/issues?milestone=1&state=open)
      * Next steps:
        + Comments

Algorithm for organizing these exists, just a matter of implementing the code

* + - * + Courtney to start beautifying the page, now that foundational elements exist
        + Tim to work on random stuff
  + AmEx Innovation Challenge
    - Application Update
      * RocketHub submission due May 24th (see [submission steps](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m_VDBTPyCB7xbhDFpn6aBnFs4yIMSFivSt1Gh-LKvzI/edit))
      * Plum’s note on fundraising
        + We need to raise $5,000

We’ll have to push very hard individually to make this goal

* + - * + Rewards:

$25 - Frisbee

$50 - T-Shirt

$100 - Initial Supporter Badge / Status

* + - * Next Steps:
        + **Action Item:** Plum to work on RocketHub submission
        + Will create in Google Doc, email link to everyone so they can review / edit
        + **Action Item:** Scott to update team on status of application to VFA
  + Team $ Contribution figure
    - Update from Scott
      * **Action Item:** Delayed, Scott to update next month
  + Pirate Party Email
    - Update from Sam:
      * [US Pirate party](http://uspirates.org/states) main dude: Trevor McCree (@teamcoltra)
        + Leader of Canadian / US Pirate Party
        + <http://travismccrea.com/> <- Travis McCree’s personal site
        + <http://uspirates.org/states> <- US Pirate Party site
        + Considers himself a “domestic terrorist” (?)
        + Probably not worthwhile to contact International Pirate Party at this time

Sam’s recommendation: Should reach out to McCree first

Approach him from an informational perspective

* + - * Next Steps: Someone communicate with Travis McCree (TBD)
  + Representative email API
    - Update from Matt
      * Matt absent from meeting
  + Grassroots organization strategy
    - Update from Zach
      * Zach absent from meeting
  + Discussion on Absentee members
    - How do we manage those who can’t show up to every meeting, take on responsibilities?
      * Case-by-case basis evaluations
      * We shouldn’t eliminate people from the group, because that will only incentivise people to not evangelize
      * If someone can’t contribute, we should just not ask them to
      * In meeting notes, call out which workstreams have been missing deadlines, will re-assign projects to people who have bandwidth

**Feedback**

* The Team
* Coordinated plans to spread big news and excite
* Motivating individuals
  + Don’t be negative
  + Build more of a community

**Major Decisions:**

* + Weekly agenda to now include life updates
    - Before we talk about Info Party stuff, spend 10-15 minutes to give everyone an opportunity to just chat about what’s new in life, what’s current, etc.
  + New focus on motivating individuals
    - Kicking people out of the group is obviously not a good way to build the party and evangelize
    - If certain members are not able to finish workstreams, don’t punish them. Rather, re-assign workstreams to members with bandwidth

**Action Items:**

* + Plum to work on RocketHub submission
  + Scott to update team on status of application to VFA
  + Scott to come up with $ contribution for team members (Due: mid-June)

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# 5.5.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance**

Plum, Rob, Scott, Tim, Zac, Sam

**Agenda**

* Updates on workstreams
  + MVP
    - downVotes
      * Decided against these on the basis that we don’t want people downvoting comments just because they disagree with those beliefs. Want to provide an area for open discourse, not bickering.
  + Amex Fund
    - [Editable Application](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S2cD_G9NIv1rrRyOBGuuRA8DyBrMqzZWjt4cWK99fCQ/edit)
    - Key Dates:
* **Action Item:** Scott to submit application, due to VFA by **May 10th**
* **Action Item:** Ben to submit campaign on RocketHub by Friday, **May 24th at Noon E.S.T**.
* Campaigns kick off **May 30th**
  + Research
    - Representative email API
      * Matt absent; no update
    - Political Implementation Strategy
      * No update
      * **Action Item:** Looking for Zach to submit new ideas for grassroots strategy
        + Note: the website must come first before we organize as a party
* Team requirements
  + 3 in a row
    - If going to miss more than three meetings in a row, you **must** Email Rob with a written reason
    - Penalty for truancy is ejection from the Team, following a Team discussion
  + $X / month
    - Google Apps for Business
    - Trello
    - AWS - hosting
    - Mandrill
    - MailChimp
    - **Action Item:** Scott to determine a $/mo value
* Next Steps
  + Connect with Pirate Party
    - **Action Item:** Sam to draft up email, reach out to PP

**Decisions / New Ideas**

1. **Stances replacing other Stances.** If we’re voting on a Stance that contradicts a previous Stance, it should replace the Stance it contradicts if it becomes official. This would require that the submitter select which Stances their Stance contradicts. We will alert the users who endorsed the original Stance, to let them know the stance they endorsed is being replaced with a decidedly more relevant Stance. This could require as much support as the one it’s replacing.
2. **In Stance view, highlight best Endorsement comment and best Protest comment as windows below the Stance and before the rest of the comments.** This will be helpful for people seeing the Stance for the first time, as they’ll be presented with the absolute best arguments for and against the view, which will aid them in making the best, most informed decision possible.

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# 4.28.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance**

* **Scott Lowe**
* **Ben Plum**
* **Tim Crowe**
* **Matt Friedrichs**
* **Sam Stites**
* **Cortney Robinson**

**Action Items**

**+Plum: Investigate AmEx innovation fund.**

**Agenda**

* Updates on workstreams
  + Development
    - Database & Models done
    - Stance promotion algorithm (minimum # votes)
    - View => Stance
    - Stance/Stances Sketches
    - Issue tracking - GitHub
    - Beta
* High profile supporters - we need a pipeline
  + Do we need Salesforce?
* Address “What problem are we solving”
* Next Steps
  + AmEx innovation fund

**Decisions**

* We need a lot of people for the Beta. Ideally in the 4 digits (hopefully late June)
  + What sites or communities can we target to get users?
    - Reddit
    - People who are into EFF
    - United Republic
    - Americans Elect
    - Michigan Voice
    - Campus Interns
      * Young Democrats
      * Young Republicans
      * Other political clubs
    - Occupy movement
  + Goal: 200 users by fall semester
  + The beta will be closed
* We’ll run an internal Alpha to test
* What problems do we solve?
  + Tim: Bipartisan gridlock & Plutocracy
  + Money is changing the way politics works
  + People aren’t engaged politically
  + Groupthink: Democrat or Republican are the only realistic options
* How are we solving these problems?
  + Providing a space for people to be engaged
  + Bottom up political party rather than top down
* For Region, we’ll eventually need to get:
  + Country
  + State
  + County
  + Municipality
  + ZIP
  + Precinct
* Min reputation helps multiple accounts
  + If it’s a fundamental part of the site to give everyone a voice, then maybe we shouldn’t restrict voting
  + We don’t think the site will be legitimate until we are checking that new registrants are adult US citizens
  + Votes
    - Min Reputation: to comment and leave stances, can vote
    - Min Reputation: to vote, can comment and leave stances
    - Free Reign after registration
  + **Decision**
    - **Can vote and Comment, cannot post Stances until min reputation: 1,000**
* **Decision: Min voters per region**
  + **100**
  + This will effectively roll out the site starting with national them moving down to smaller regions

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# 4.21.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance:**

* **Rob Solomon**
* **Scott Lowe**
* **Ben Plum**
* **Ajooni Sethi**
* **Zach Berlin**
* **TIm Crowe**
* **Sid**
* **Matt Friedrichs**

**AI’s:**

**+Fill out bios: Ajooni Sethi, Cortney Robinson, Matt Friedrichs, Sam Stites, Zac Berlin**

**+Touch base on Registration**

**Agenda:**

* Updates
  + Project Management - Freedcamp
    - Everyone must commit to this software
      * Mark projects as complete as they are completed
      * Will help us keep track of what still needs work, and what is complete
      * Discussions tab: Scott opened one about registration.
        + Should we use this moving forward? Or hold for Sunday convos?
        + **Hold decisions until Sunday’s status meeting**
  + Software Development
    - Database Updates
      * Complete!
      * View Algorithm

Two things that make a View good:

1. Endorse to Protest ratio
2. Vote magnitude

Proposed requirements:

1. 2/3 of the Active Users have to have voted
2. 2/3 of the votes have to be Endorsements
3. Should be able to segment by region (based on zipcode)
4. Minimum number of users necessary
   1. 50?
   2. 100?
   3. 1%
      * + Next Steps:
          - Models
          - Controllers
          - Views
        + Action Items: Courtney missed deadline for mock-up screens
          - Is on the clock for Tuesday
      * Bug Tracking
        + Will need to implement solution for bug tracking
          - Feature Requests and bug fixes should be treated the same
          - GitHub allows for public bug tracking system

Aligns with Info Party processes

If public really wants a feature more than we do, should prioritize by issues that gain the most public support (democracy!)

* + Political Implementation Research
    - No new updates
    - Identifying which cities will allow online voting
    - What excites users, gets them to vote? What are user’s passion points?
    - What steps are necessary to become nominated by a political party?
      * Check out Matt’s research [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1837FX2pk6C-IxoXJWy08pBw2HX-nJ4TQ3Mrb4rRp04Y/edit).
* Bios
* Recruiting
  + Finance
  + Legal
* Business Plan
  + Necessary for free legal help
    - Will allow us to move forward professionally

**New Items**

Contradicting stances?

* When local and national stances conflict, which wins?
* Not a priority item for MVP
* Proposal: let the site vote it out

What does it mean to be a member of the info party?

* It means you have your own views
* But you support majority rules

What do we represent

* Purpose
  + To improve the representation of the American people and the efficacy of their government
* Values
* Transparency & Open Minds
* Respect & Humility
* Data & Information
* Logic & Reason
* Analytical Discussion
* Valuable Insight
  + Absolute best arguments for and against each view should rise to the top, giving each member the best resources to make the most informed decision possible
* Majority Rules
* Moderates/Independents
* Technology to solve social problems
* A new way to engage with politics

Onboarding experience

* Recruiting committee - 2 or 3 to talk to them
* Stock Welcome Email
  + Send FAQ & Elevator
  + Link to fill their bio & contact info
  + Our bio & contact info

What do we call people who are Members of the info party?

* iParty
* informant
* informatic
* Member
* Tips
* **Let it happen naturally**

**Next Steps:**

* Design
  + Models, Controllers, Views
* Business Plan
  + Flesh out marketing plan

**Action Items:**

* Courtney to deliver mock ups by **Tuesday**

# 4.14.2013@2pmEST

**Attendance:**

* **Plum**
* **Scott**
* **Sid**
* **Tim**
* **Sam**
* **Rob**

**Agenda:**

* + **New Research**
    - How do current political parties pick candidates?
    - Matt to research, return to group next week with update
* **Management Software**
  + - Freedcamp decided on as best solution
    - Rob to sign up account, report back on recommendation moving forward
  + **Moderator Role**
    - We spent a couple hours reviewing the moderator role, and what it entails.
    - We also discussed how moderators are created, and how many of them there should be.
    - Consensus was reached on what the [moderator dashboard](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1od6FxzBv63T5m3C8IGHD2FOK1gniLWZRHn_y11qj7l0/edit#bookmark=id.tantt9jix2a2) will entail.
    - To read up on the details, [check out the Moderator Role document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1od6FxzBv63T5m3C8IGHD2FOK1gniLWZRHn_y11qj7l0/edit).
  + **Reputation System**
    - There was significant progress in detailing how reputation will work on the site. We also discussed how we will reward individual actions on the site (engagements), and detailed how many points each of those engagements are worth.
    - We also came to consensus that users will **choose how they want their name to appear in their posts**. The username will then act as a link to that user’s profile page, which will show whatever information they’ve chosen to share publicly.
    - **Required Registration Information**
      * We will require users to provide the following items for registration:
        1. Email address
        2. Zip Code
        3. First Name
        4. Last Name
    - **Optional Registration Information**
      * Providing additional information will provide you with more reputation points to start out with, so you’re incentivized to share more of your personal information, and thus accept accountability for your views. It also doesn’t disallow users from being anonymous, it just creates a challenge for them to gain reputation. Optional demographic fields are:
        1. Gender
        2. Race
        3. Age
        4. Profile Pic
    - If you want to know more, check out the [Reputation System document](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AlWCJFFn6moAdFBGWENhcWVsa3ZMU0xOLUJ1WEN4SkE#gid=0) for the deets.
  + **View Promotion Algorithm**
    - Agreement was reached within the small group meeting on the rules for how views become promoted into stances. [In summary](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fAWwkt5ilARtjEmXUGKuNJlP5ObuT_Rm-G5JFRhaGf8/edit):

1. 2/3 of the Active Users have to have voted
2. 2/3 of the votes have to be Endorsements

**Action Items:**

1. **Matt&Rob: Figure out how current political parties pick candidates**
2. **Rob: Set us up with a Freedcamp email**

# 

# 4.7.2013@1pmEST

**Agenda:**

* **Updates**
  + Core Group will aim to convene every Sunday for core status meeting from 2-3
    - There will be a Google Hangout invitation sent out the week before the meeting
    - If you have a conflict, the onus will be on you to propose an alternate meeting time
    - Small Project Group meetings will also be held outside of the Sunday Status
* ~~Generic platform instead of~~ **political party** 
  + Consensus opinion is that we will pursue a political party
* **Stances biased by initial user base will likely be highly liberal, alienating others**
  + **We ought to be taking control of these conversations**
    1. No current political party appeals to every American
    2. We are a better solution than the current political infrastructure, because we’re giving Americans direct access to the conversation that forms the consensus political landscape
    3. **If we intend to speak about the Information Party to people who are outside of our core group, we all must absolutely know and understand the FAQ, like the back of your hand**
       - We have to be consistent in how we answer questions. We’ve done an exceptional job of creating the FAQ document so we can remain in line with how our party responds to criticism and confusion, so let’s stick to the script
       - If you have updates to the FAQ, leave them as notes. It’s a living, breathing document that should evolve as our idea evolves
* **The team is growing, we need more structure**
  + **Organizational Structure**
    1. We will begin dividing particular problems / challenges into sub-committees
       - This allows us to have subject matter experts who can take time as a small group to propose a solution, and then report back to the group at-large with their recommendation
  + **Project Management software and roles**
    1. Rob and Zach taking lead here
       - Current proposals are Google Sheets and Free Camp
  + **Scheduling tools and frequency**
    1. As mentioned earlier, we will plan to meet once a week, on Sundays from 2-3
       - If you’re a part of a sub-committee that is dedicated to finding a solution for a particular task, **you must coordinate with members of your group to find a time to meet and discuss**
       - The hour following our core status may provide a good opportunity
* **NEXT STEPS / ACTION ITEMS**
  + **CMS for our** [**team**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AlWCJFFn6moAdEVmTTk3dEFLWGtEREJDRThqdlVnZEE&usp=sharing)
    1. **Everyone:** 
       - Fill out personal bio / profile within the Team Folder on GDrive, as well as the contact info spreadsheet linked above
       - If you’re interested in forming a sub-committee or being part of an existing one, reach out and establish an objective, and a meeting time
  + **Zach:** Research what states offer online petitions and how many signatures are needed in that state
  + **~~Zach and Rob:~~** ~~Form a consensus, final opinion on project management software~~
  + **Ben:** Create business plan document, share with Courtney, Rob, Zach as sub-committee
  + **Dev Team:** Update rest of group with minutes for your development / design meeting
  + **Everyone: Please be thinking about your preferences for the registration process**
    1. What will be required?
    2. Open registration, or individual small-scale launches with testing groups?
    3. Do we enforce first and last names, or allow usernames? Both?
    4. **Please have an opinion on each of these points, and be prepared to speak to your stance. Have some research or data in your back pocket to support your stance, and be able to articulate exactly why you feel that way. Everyone will have a chance to make their pitch.**

**AI’s:**

**~~Cortney & Scott: setup private GitHub~~**

Decision: We need to take control of the argument when spreading the idea

* We are a better solution than the current infrastructure
* No current parties appeal to all Americans

Decision: Meeting regularly at 3pm on Sunday

Decision: We’re going to spend a week thinking about registration

# 

# 

# 3.23.2013@3:30pmEST

**AI’s:**

**Sam: Create info party account to represent the info party**

**All: Promote the submission to solicit comments, and be active in the comments ourselves**

**Zac: Learn how to start a political party**

**Plum: Questions about how Congress works / political questions we need answered**

**Scott, Tim, Sam, Cortney: Start learning Ruby and Designing the site**

Agenda:

1. Knight Challenge
   1. It's a great idea, but my cynical side says it will end up being exclusive. Yes, in an information age, we have the tools necessary to engage the voting public more in the political process, increasing transparency and reducing corruption. W**hat we don't yet have is a voting public that has any capacity to sort good information from bad or logic from emotional appeal.** And the mainstream media keeps them drunk enough on half truth to sell themselves that they never have to go looking. **The propaganda machine has a lot of money behind it**.  
      Even if, through a Reddit-esque voting system, you manage to cultivate a community that truly values reason and can engage with the issues in a meaningful way, and even if you manage to keep such a community accessible, **you still alienate anyone coming in "ignorant" and unwilling to challenge their existing paradigm**. Which, sadly, accounts for an overwhelming majority of the American populace, I believe, liberal and conservative.  
      That said, one could optimistically argue that if you create greener pastures, people will flock to them. Perhaps if the bar is set high, it will create a top-down cultural shift, or at least pull the entire political environment a little higher.
      1. my cynical side says it will end up being exclusive.
      2. We have the tools necessary to engage the voting public more in the political process, increasing transparency and reducing corruption.
      3. **What we don't yet have is a voting public that has any capacity to sort good information from bad or logic from emotional appeal.**
      4. **The propaganda machine has a lot of money behind it**
      5. Even if you manage to cultivate a community that truly values reason and can engage with the issues in a meaningful way, and even if you manage to keep such a community accessible, **you still alienate anyone coming in "ignorant" and unwilling to challenge their existing paradigm**.
      6. That said, one could optimistically argue that if you create greener pastures, people will flock to them. Perhaps if the bar is set high, it will create a top-down cultural shift, or at least pull the entire political environment a little higher.
   2. Thanks for your honesty Ethan, your cynical side shouldn’t be discounted and the points you mention are definitely valid. I think you very accurately touched on the our main concept - right now we do have the tools necessary to wholistic right that we have the tools necessary to

[Moved to a different doc](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xlYK1fzPmv6PInKJsdOUu4w2gRhOhi_53RXupXZTuvQ/edit)

* 1. We’ve been discussing this as a team and

1. Next Steps
   1. Design
   2. Development
   3. Research
      1. Figure out how to start a political party

Goals:

* MVP of the website
* Political clout

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# 3.10.2013@3:30pmEST

**AI’s:**

**Tim, Bryan, Cortney & Scott - Landing page**

**Zac & Sam - Idea Documentation**

Decision: We’re going to submit The Information Party to the [Knight News Challenge](https://www.newschallenge.org/open/open-government/brief.html)