Team Name: Smart Park

11/14/2021: Individual Journal

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Week of Nov 8th

**Product Title**: “Smart Park System”

**Update**:

I did not have a particularly useful week with my team. I fell behind a little bit, especially regarding the product reflection paper due for the team back on November 7th, 2021. However, I was able to get two interviews from two co-workers at my current employer, the Kansas Star Casino (Boyd Gaming specifically). One was from a gentleman by the name of Tim Griekspoor, who’s also a great acquaintance. Another, was from my best friend, who’s also a co-worker, Jonathan Sponamore. These gentlemen are not engineers by nature. Though I considered them because they’re inquisitive, in my opinion, and I also wanted and outside (possible consumers also) perspective on my team’s product. I’ll discuss those findings and their words to me about it in the Application section of this document.

Any way, I have communicated that information to my team on Microsoft Teams and through our personal group chat through text messages. We also have a discord with the CS team, though I personally hardly use that in general. I’d imagine all of us are still having a rough time managing our time between our jobs and school. I also know everyone had a lot of tough midterms recently so that has soaked up all a good portion of our time. I can tell you that it has soaked up most of my free time away from my job. Otherwise, considering that situation, we’ve all been trying to piece together a working prototype to test and incorporate for real life consumers. Our goal next semester is to be able to build the product for consumers but at the very least a few working units, even if they aren’t being sold. To conclude, We are now finalizing our prototype so that we can test and show off our product idea at the show casing in a few weeks. Wish us luck

**Personal Product Reflection:**

The interviews I had regarding my co-workers were essentially about the application of our product and how we could police it. What I mean is, if the parking space that is utilizing our unit is being obstructed, we’d have to figure out a way to let the consumers know while possibly figuring out a way to remove the obstructions. For example, a client is trying to go to a sporting event and they have paid to reserve a parking spot utilizing the sensor. They have a k-tag or a phone qr code to use it so they can park there. However, someone else that is not utilizing our services parks there, so what do we do? Perhaps we can incorporate the means for the product to sense that there is un-allowed parking (sort of like a digital parking meter that you would have to pay to use to park there) and that they get towed or police removal. At the very least, a parking lot detail employee can fine that assailant for illicitly parking in that space reserved for the customer. That was the conversation I essentially had with my co-worker Tim Griekspoor. However, my friend Jonathan also had a unique perspective though it was different from my friend Tim’s.

Jonathan and I talked about the cost and maintenance. I told him about my teams solutions for those possible ailments. He essentially expressed to me that it was a great idea but a ton of work, especially from the software side. I expressed to him that though I have some skills regarding software and coding, they’re not great so I’d be more useful with the physical build of the units, which is what I’m doing with my team. However, I did not express to him the whole details. That didn’t matter to me though. He also said that universities don’t have such a system and that it would be great to do it in that environment. Especially for paid parking by the university’s patrons that visit the sporting events like the basketball games. I told him that it was the plan. He also expressed concerned about potential legalities such as copyright issues and patent claims. I told him that we’re working on that. Otherwise, he’s down with the idea and he believes that we can do it, given that we’re all adamantly and equally working hard (he was concerned about possible internal conflicts but I told him not to worry about it).

We have all been working hard, but I’ve been personally having many battles to overcome and many sacrifices that I’m not sure I can justify. I can’t even enroll for Spring 2022 right now, so I’m going to need help doing that somehow. I have to continue, I can’t let my team down. Most importantly I can’t let myself down. However, I have overdue bills that I cannot pay. My parents can’t help me either, though I have been their supporting benefactor, during their troubles, for many years now. Any way, I’ll figure it out. The goal for me right now is to focus on ensuring that I pass all of my classes and that I ensure loyalty for possible future employers (which is why I haven’t left the Kansas Star yet, and after nearly four years of being there already).

**Goal of the Week and Potential Problems:**

Continue helping my team on the prototype build. Potential problems may lie in the power source, at least regarding a more permanent solution so replacement of it isn’t tedious or costly. What we have should suffice for the moment though.