Maintenance Plan

The costs of maintenance were discussed some in the deployment plan. Since we are deploying a website, the cost will come from the domain name and the hosting mainly. Optionally we could have advertisements which would raise the cost. Currently, for the first year of having our site we could expect to minimally pay for the domain name and the hosting. quizmania.net is an available domain name for $12.99 per year. An estimate for hosting the site would be around $360. A virtual private server seemed like a good choice for our site to be scalable. The average cost for hosting a virtual private server is around $20 - $40 / month. Overall, including the domain name cost and the hosting, the site will probably cost about $375 for the first year. If we wanted to gain some revenue, we could deploy ads on the website. Using Google AdSense, we could expect to make ~$4000 for every 50000 page views that the site receives on average. If we decided to implement ads during the year it would greatly reduce the cost of the site. However the cost could go up in the future if we needed better more expensive to host more site traffic.

If we expanded in the future to make this project a full business, we could hire developers. We could implement new features and more quizzes. A good feature that we could implement would be a sharing feature. Since our website is meant to be entertaining, it would be great for users to be able to share quizzes with their friends and share their results from quizzes they have taken. We could just use a standard share feature that allows users to copy their results or quizzes into messaging apps or social media platforms to send to other people. Having a share feature would make our site reach far more users. As people share the site it will gain more and more popularity. With an influx of users we would need better hosting that could handle the traffic. An option would be dedicated hosting, which the average cost of is $100 to $400 per month. We could also need to hire a professional to manage the server in certain cases. Another feature that we could implement is user accounts. We could make accounts for users to keep track of the quizzes they’ve taken. For this we would need a database to store user information. With a database of user credentials it would be good to have something to encrypt user’s information. A SSL certificate could be used to encrypt data as it passes from the browser to the server.

Starting out it will be very easy to maintain since it is just a website. As it is now, the site would only need to have a host and domain. With that it would be available on the web. The real cost would come from updating and changing the site in the future. Implementing new features is what would have the most impact on the cost.