

Project Name: SME Alternative Financing
Team Members: Heidi Tan (Team Leader), Bill Ma
Date: 30th October 2015

Overview

We spent the last two weeks doing a fair amount of research on our project. Our research included who the target users are for this portal and what sort of programming languages are the best to use for designing the website. We had a conference call with our client as well as an Atos technical representative, and this meeting allowed us to gather more information on the technical requirements of the application. We also discussed the design process related to the project with our client. After getting a better grasp of what is expected of us for this project, we will start self-learning the specific programming languages and produce a more detailed project timeline as well. For the moment, we have a very clear idea of what we have to do for the project and we do not consider to have any problems at the time being.

Summary of Meetings Held

1. Meeting date and time: 28th October 2015, 2pm

We had a conference call with our client and John Davenport, an Atos technical representative. John gave us some recommendations on which languages we should use to code our website in, such as HTML 5, CSS, SQL and JavaScript. He also informed us that there was a similar website in uk called www.alternativebusinessfunding.co.uk which we will take a look at to draw inspiration from. John advised us to focus on architecture over functionality, which is to say that we should build something with less functions but works well on different platforms over something that might have many functions but does not work well on different platforms.

Michael gave us his feedback on the UCL project reference document that we sent to him and he suggested that we manage our scope better by focusing on companies that are less than 5 years old and have an annual turnover less than £10 million. In addition, he told us to put ourselves into the perspectives of both the companies requiring financing as well as the alternative finance sources and think about what would motivate them to use such a website and how the process of them using the website would be like. We would also be putting in some thought concerning the role the portal owner will play and how the portal will be maintained.

List of Tasks Completed

1. Researched on alternative finance sources as well as ways to build the finance portal
2. Had a second meeting with client and obtained more information about the technical side of the project
3. Decided on which programming languages to use
4. Obtained feedback on the UCL project reference document from client

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Problems to be Resolved

We are currently not facing any pressing issues as after the conference call with our client, we now have a much clearer picture of what is expected of us and how we should go about tackling this project.

Future Plans

Over the next two weeks, we plan to edit and improve on the UCL project reference document based on the feedback and comments that our client gave us and take a look at the alternativebusinessfunding.co.uk website. In addition, we will still continue to carry out our research as well as to think about the portal from both the companies' and alternative finance sources' point of view. We will also start learning the languages needed to build the portal and hopefully start coding the core framework of it. We plan to write out a more detailed project timeline to keep ourselves right on track.

Individual Tasks

Heidi:

Most of the time during the last two weeks was spent on researching more on alternative finance sources and reading up on the many resources our client kindly emailed to us. I was also responsible for the email correspondence with our client as well as setting up a second meeting. Bill and I both edited the UCL project reference document before sending it to our client for his feedback. Before the second meeting, I wrote down an agenda of what we needed to discuss during the meeting.

Bill:

During the last two weeks, I carried out a research on the programming languages that we could use of to design the website with specific facilities. Heidi and me produced a short documentation for the project in which I included the technical specifications and final deliverables for the project. Also before the second meeting with our client, I prepared several questions regarding the combination of programming languages that is most suitable for our project. Last but not least, I tested the website server using a HTML5 template I downloaded from the Internet and it worked perfectly.