

Mid-Term Progress Report

Project Title: 'RateMyClass: using tablet computers to gather student feedback'

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At this moment in time, I believe that I am making very good progress with my project. I have encountered very few (if any) real problems thus far, and everything that I still have to do is all 'mapped out' through the use of meticulous planning. As it stands, I would think that I am heading for a 2:1 (B) grade, which I would certainly be happy with.

Work Done So Far

Aims of the Project

I believe that the aims of my project are summarised well in the following paragraph taken from my report:

"There is an already existing app (rateMyLab), developed by the School of Computing, which aimed to provide a mechanism for obtaining such feedback, but it needed improvement – although it was simple and quick to use, the feedback it obtained was seriously lacking in detail (it allowed users to specify whether a lab was good, bad or average – without specifying why). This problem is what we aim to solve with this new phase of development. The aim is to provide a mechanism which allows for richer feedback, whilst maintaining the simplicity and accessibility of the original rateMyLab app."

On a more personal level, I hope to: further enhance my programming abilities (especially with Android, which has never been my strong point); gain a more thorough understanding of agile methods; learn how to better balance my workloads; provide something which will make a difference in the real world, which could help students like me in the future.

Literature Reviewed

So far, I have used online facilities to review the following papers which are related to my project (both directly and indirectly):

Dufresne, R. J., Gerace, W. J., Leonard, W. J., Mestre, J. P., & Wenk, L. (1996). Classtalk: A Classroom Communication System for Active Learning. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education*, 3-47.

Foth, M., Fitz-Walter, Z., Ti, J., Russell-Bennett, R., & Kuhn, K.-A. (2012). Please Take Out Your Phones: On the Spot Solicitation of Student Feedback in Class . *Proceedings of the 24th Australian Computer-Human Interaction Conference* (pp. 150-153). Melbourne: ACM.

Johnson, B. (2009, February 3). *Student Feedback Helps Teachers Grow*. Retrieved from eduTopia: <http://www.edutopia.org/student-feedback-accountability-teachers>

Sharma, M. D., Khachan, J., Chan, B., & O'Byrne, J. (2005). An investigation of the effectiveness of electronic classroom communication systems in large lecture classes. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*, 137-154.

Theys, M. D., Lawless, K., & George, S. (2005). Tablet computers and the traditional lecture. *Frontiers in Education*, 2005. *FIE '05. Proceedings 35th Annual Conference* (pp. T2G-7). Indianapolis, IN: IEEE.

Methodology

At the outset of my project, I decided to use an Agile methodology. I felt that the intrinsic nature of this project lent itself very well to Agile methods, with heavy user involvement throughout development being one of the main focuses. Using Agile would ensure regular communication between myself and the end users of the software, which would ensure that the final product meets the requirements laid out in the specification.

Intended Users

The end product will consist of various items of software, and likewise the range of end users within the School of Computing will vary similarly. The Android app itself will be used both by lecturers (who will set it up – creating new classes etc.) and students (who will perform the main functionality – actually providing the feedback). The website (which will provide C.R.U.D access to the feedback database), along with the analysis tool (if developed) will be used by lecturers and any other staff as required (perhaps admin staff, etc.).

Results or Prototypes

Since, at the moment of my writing this report, the first development sprint is still underway, no prototypes or results have been produced as of yet.

Anticipated Problems

If things continue as they have been, I do not foresee any major issues arising. As mentioned previously, I have everything planned out, including how any potential problems could be handled. The regular user contact will ensure that no undesirable issues persist for more than 2 weeks, which will prevent the any potential small problems from building up into one big problem.

Appendix A: Product Backlog

As a student...

ID	I want to...	So that...	Business Value	Effort	Priority	Acceptance Tests
1.1	Be able to give feedback on how interesting the class was (and why)	Lecturers can use this knowledge to make their classes more interesting	1005	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The app will contain an input method which allows the user to select a value to represent how interesting the class was This value will be stored in a database The value must be in the range of 0-100 (i.e. a percentage)
1.2	Be able to give feedback on how informative the class was (and why)	Lecturers can use this knowledge to make their classes more informative	797	3	5	
1.3	Be able to give feedback on how interactive the class was (and why)	Lecturers can use this knowledge to make their classes more interactive	798	3	4	
1.4	Be able to give feedback on how intelligible the class was (and why)	Lecturers can use this knowledge to make their classes more intelligible	799	3	3	
1.5	Be able to give feedback on how innovative	Lecturers can use this knowledge to make their	796	3	6	

the class was
(and why)

classes more
innovative

As a lecturer/feedback manager...

ID	I want to...	So that...	Business Value	Effort	Priority	Acceptance Tests
2.1	Give students the option to select why a particular area/factor was bad or good (from a list of predefined statements)	I can get more rich feedback, while students will not have to spend time writing out comments in their own words, and they cannot make irrelevant/inappropriate comments	800	3	2	
2.2	Be able to analyse the data after class	I can make sense of the data and see the bigger picture, along with any trends, and adjust classes accordingly	900	14	12	
2.3	Be able to view the feedback(s) for individual classes	I can determine their quality	400	4	11	
2.4	Receive a summary of feedback for each class that I conduct by email	I can ascertain how well I have done	500	4	9	
2.5	Select which module and lecturer the class belongs to immediately upon starting the app	The data can be referred to later in the correct context	1000	5	7	

As a dean...

ID	I want to...	So that...	Business Value	Effort	Priority	Acceptance Tests
3.1	Be able to view the feedback for all classes handled by a particular lecturer	I can determine if lecturers are doing a good job or not	600	5	10	
3.2	Be able to view the feedback for all classes taken by a particular year group	I can determine how well a particular year group is doing	700	5	8	