

Engage-Team 2  
Team Experience Report  
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**Objective: Learning**

The course provides us with an interesting experience and a good opportunity to know about the interdisciplinary technologies. We are experiencing an era which is full of informations and technologies. Especially, as computer science students, we should understand this point of view that how can technology be helpful in making our life easier. However, we realized that the latest technologies becomes difficult for older adults, because they are experiencing age-related problems in both memory and physics. This course, specifically, offers us with a different aspect to understand and utilize techniques related to the seniors, such as living environments, health, social engaging and etc.

The most important thing we have learnt is the concept of the Gerontechnology. Gerontechnology is not only related to computer science, but covers multiple disciplines, such as HCI, psychology etc. We now get deep insights on understanding the problems from seniors, for example, social engaging problem of seniors, and also have experiences to analyze those problems.

Furthermore, lectures on software development and testing also provide us with different aspects to understand software engineering better and to understand the way to combine them with Gerontechnology. For example, how we break the requirements of seniors into user stories.

Trips to Bethany Life and Green Hills also let us know how to communicate with senior people, how we form the ideas to solve practical problems, and even how to work with people from care givers, managers and students from other fields. Developing the real application from our ideas also help us practice what we learnt from the courses and related references. What is really interesting is to present our project in front of end users aka. seniors from different community. We get an opportunity to communicate real clients and get real useful feedback from them. Those feedbacks let us know what is the drawbacks of our applications and what we should do to improve our application in the future. In fact we have also been able to implement the future dated events functionality in our project.

**Project Strength: Team Work**

*"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."*  
--Phil Jackson

As quoted, It is an interesting experience to form a team and coordinate with everyone. Our team consists of 4 person. Everyone in this team did focus on their own part of work and we succeeded in finishing our project at the end of the semester. We believed that our advantage of finishing our project on time is our team management and coordination. We had scheduled the meetings on weekends and divided our task. We always try to help each other whenever we are stuck at some functionality and try to overcome with the challenge as a team. Every member of our team is committed and disciplined.

Our team worked on a web application solving the problems on social engagement of seniors. In the first few weeks we discussed the overall database design and architecture of the project and that did helped a lot. Our project contains four parts, which are Events, Broadcasts, Dashboard and Discussion. Dipanjan suggested a basic architecture of the project and then focus on module of Events. Nikita worked on creating a basic UI layout of application, Log In, Registration Modules, Broadcasts for both Users and Admin and their respective layouts. . Prateek was responsible for Discussion module and Lei Liu worked on Dashboard. Merging and integrating project are done together to make sure the application works smoothly.

## **Challenges**

The first difficulty of our project is to have a user-friendly user interface. In order to do this, we would design simple and useful dashboard, easy access for clients to browse and create events, broadcasts and discussions, because our clients are seniors. As the result, seniors would not spend lots of time to learn how to use this application. However with only limited people with front-end coding skills, we had to spent a lot of effort to bring the interfaces to shape.

The second difficulty is privacy of information. In our application, there are different kinds of information being transformed between different users. For example, social events and broadcasts are public to everyone who are living in this certain community, but discussions are hidden from other people. Besides, we also distinguish people who living in different communities by assigning them with different access. In this way, people from one community will not receive information from other community.

We also spend some time learning how to implement web application by using Apache Tiles, which is new to most of us.

## **Vision: Gerontechnology**

Gerontechnology will provide us with more academic opportunities and business opportunities as the growing number of seniors. With the benefits of multi-platform technologies and mobile devices, we shall develop simpler and easily accessible applications to help seniors to improve their lives.