FFPAC Application Milestone #3

Team GVSU

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Milestone #3 Report

Intended Progress:

The third milestone presentation reflects weeks 12-14 of the winter semester. During these few weeks, the group intends to have the following implemented:

- Implement new features brought up by the FFPAC. (Week 12)
  - There were a lot of great ideas given to the team during the FFPAC meeting. Unfortunately not all of them are going to be possible. We hope that another meeting will address the issues from implementing previous ideas and maybe spawn new ideas that are plausible.
- Finalize all production data and have everything be up to date with GVSU's current classroom information. (Week 13)
  - We will keep in contact with Laura Przybytek to get the classroom list for downtown as well as any revisions going on in the Allendale campus to prepare for the next FFPAC walkthrough.
- Run the revised project to our FFPAC representatives a final time to note any last minute changes that are crucial to the functionality of the web application. (Week 14)
  - Any more discrepancies found with the application can quickly be revised before the end of the semester. By this time, we hope to have the live instance already up on a server, so they are able to note any changes and email us anything they want to see fixed. With a live site, the changes can happen that same day and response between the team and the FFPAC members will be quick and easy.

Progress Made:

During this phase, we have been able to add a few new functions to the application. There is very little on the front end that the users will notice but a lot of back end work has been completed to allow the application to progress. The changes that we have made for this milestone include:

- Creating user accounts for the FFPAC and ourselves for testing
- Changed theme colors and minor table updates
- Downtown database information input
- Tracking user actions such as complaint and note input
- Database schema update which includes user ID

Setbacks:

The first setback experienced during the development process is the amount of time we had to accomplish these tasks. With the end of the semester quickly approaching and a multiple variety of class and work schedules to work around, the later into the semester we got it seemed the harder it was to work on the project. Time later into the semester gets much more scarce for the entire group and having to find odd hours to work on the project was the main motive to get the features into the application.

Software testing for us has been an accumulation of various inputs to try and break the application whereas we need more software testing to ensure the functionality of the code altogether. We find it difficult to test a web application in this sense because there are only a few pieces where something can go wrong. Other than the errors we were getting for getting our MySQL on GVSU's servers, there has been no failure on our application that the group has found. Everything functions properly and is as user friendly as we can make it.

Getting notifications to the users was difficult to implement for a number of reasons. The amount of time we had for this session of development was small and that was the biggest hold back for the rest of the ideas we accumulated for the design critique and client feedback. Being able to go through an email client to send out a formatted email to the correct address was extremely time consuming and was forced to be put to the side in order to finish out other ideas. This idea isn't completely lost, we just need more time to try and work it out properly.

Another setback we had that was a huge delay in our eyes was the web application being hosted on the GVSU servers. Right now the instance is on a server provided by a friend of Chris. We do not want this to be the long term solution for many reasons, so Amazon EC2 server hosting services is going to be the main motive. We have tried keeping in contact with the system administrator but with MySQL issues has caused a much longer delay than desired. The only thing is that the GVSU option is free while Amazon is free for only a certain length of time.

Projected Progress:

From now until the days before the final presentation, our team wishes to have the following features and meetings accomplished within this timeframe:
- Implement a variety of features to be ready for the last week of the semester. (Week 14)
    - One feature would be to implement the ability for a file upload for complaints. We want to be able to attach images to our complaints. This is expected to provide a more elaborate idea of a complaint than a text description.
- Get in contact with the FFPAC to finalize the whole application. (Week 15)

- - This project was originally intended for the individuals on the FFPAC and we must make sure that this application becomes something that they find useful.
  - With the close of the project there are a couple of presentations coming up that will need the groups attention.
    - Preparation for the PCEC (Week 15)
  - Preparation for the Final Presentation. (Week 16)

Conclusion:

The main goal for the remainder of the course is to work on testing and prepare for presentations. We want to find and prevent any bugs that we may have and demonstrate a solid and functional application. We are going to finalize all the database information so that when we are done with the project the users can have something meaningful to use. After finishing our future goals, we would like to add in more functionality that the FFPAC has suggested.

Intended Progress Gantt Chart:

	Task Name	Start Date	End Date	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24
1	Implement various features	04/11/16	04/15/16	Implement various features		
2	Consultant feedback	04/18/16	04/19/16		Consultant feedback	
3	Implement feedback	04/20/16	04/22/16		Implement feedback	
4	Prepare for PCEC	04/18/16	04/20/16		Prepare for PCEC	
5	Prepare for Final Present	04/22/16	04/25/16			Prepare for Final Present
6	Testing	04/11/16	04/22/16	Testing		