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##### **Acronyms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Acronym** | **Description** |
| DAOs | Data Access Objects |
| AD | Active Directory |
| AOP | Aspect Oriented Programming |
| Apache OFBiz | The Apache Open For Business Project |
| BRD | Business Requirement Document |
| CSS3 | Cascading Style Sheets 3 |
| ERP | Enterprise Resource Planning |
| HLD | High Level Design |
| HTTPS | Hyper Text Protocol Secure |
| IST | Integrated Systems Testing |
| JDBC | Java DataBase Connectivity |
| JMS | Java Message Service |
| JSF | Java Server Faces |
| JSR | Java Specification Request |
| LLD | Low Level Design |
| MoSCow | Must, Should, Could or Won’t |
| MVC | Model View Controller |
| MySQL | My Sequel |
| MySQLi | My Sequel Improved |
| OOP | Object Oriented Programming |
| ORM | Object Relational Mapping |
| OXM | Object/XML |
| R&D | Research & Development |
| RAD | Rapid Application Development |
| SDLC | Systems Development Life-Cycle |
| UAT | User Acceptance Testing |
| UBE | Unsolicited Bulk Email |
| WAP | Web Application Framework |

# Introduction

The purpose of this document is the detailed description of the project’s plan to design, develop and deliver a digital Pinboard website as a method to minimize the number of junk emails sent and received between students in the University of Surrey. The project is developed as part of ‘COM3001 Professional Project’ module, taught by the University of Surrey, Department of Computing.

## Motivation

Nowadays, electronic mail is the predominant digital communication platform. According to Reuter’s survey [1], 85% of human population is connected online and communicate through email despite the number of other social channels available. The Internet is overflowing with 100 million emails send and received daily [2], of which 97.4 millions are spam/junk [3].

The question investigated is how to reduce the number of ‘junk’ emails send and received within the University of Surrey environment.

## Project idea and description

The lack of an organised way to advertise second hand books or requests for house sharing, leads the students to the creation and distribution of unsolicited bulk email (UBE) emails. These emails are categorised as junk emails.

In this project, a digital Pinboard website is developed as a method to minimize the number of ‘junk emails’ send and received daily within the University of Surrey. Junk emails have a negative impact on the size of users’ mailbox and the management of incoming emails. The Pinboard website, in the form of a marketplace, attempts to resolve this issue and allows students in the University community to connect, buy and sell second hand books and advertise room swaps on campus.

The model canvas shown below as a visual chart (Figure 1), describes the main elements of the Pinboard website idea. The creation of the template in the early stages of the project helped identify potential trade-offs [16] and led to the refinement of the requirements’ list to enable the delivery of the most important priorities.

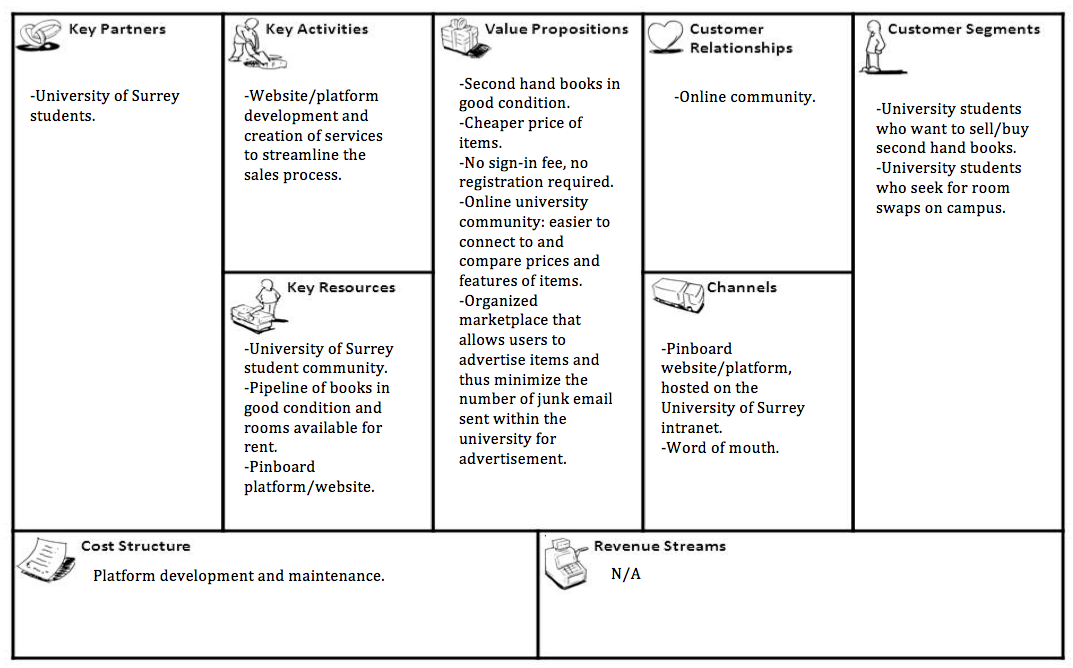


Figure 1: Pinboard - model canvas

## Project objectives and goal statement

The objective of the project is the creation of a dynamic website as a University-specific marketplace. The digital Pinboard website offers an organised way for students to sell second hand books. It also provides functionalities that allow students to advertise available rooms and make house hunting more efficient.

The use of the services offered by the website have the potential to significantly reduce the number of ‘junk’ emails sent daily send between students regarding sales of second-hand books and requests for room swaps on campus.

The personal development objective is the successful completion of the full development lifecycle from general project management and solution design, to the development and delivery of the website. Another personal objective is the use of new technologies as a challenge to perform beyond the comfort zone and gain new skills. The challenge, is the development of the website using Aspect Oriented Programming (AOP), as opposed to Object Oriented Programming (OOB) that was extensively taught and practiced during Year 1 & 2. AOP as well as Spring MVC Framework were introduced only during Year 3 and they were used for the development of this project. The use of technologies to achieve scalability of the website regardless the screen size (mobile phone/tablet/desktop) or Operational System (iOS/Android/Windows) is another personal objective. CSS3 is used to enable the website adapt to different screen sizes and resolutions whether rendered on mobile phone devices, tablets or desktops.

## Project benefits

The project benefit is the introduction of a new communication channel that allows students to sell second-hand books and search for housemates/swap rooms on campus. Therefore, the use of the website can help minimize the creation of ‘junk emails’ sent to advertise second-hand books and room swaps. The deployment of the website on the University’s intranet and the services it provides can also promote the replacement of the physical Pin-boards on campus and thus reduce paper copies and promote environmental friendly behaviour. Lastly, the website can help reduce the network traffic and disk space used by ‘junk’ emails and therefore minimize the cost of storage required as well as other management activities carried out by the IT Services team.

## Project stages

The management of this project is based on the Systems Development Life-Cycle (SDLC) [17]. The first step was the investigation of an existing problem that can be improved.

1. *Preliminary analysis and idea*: To help minimise the creation of junk emails for second hand books and room swaps, the development of the Pinboard website was suggested.
2. *Literature review:* Background research helped identify websites, which offer similar services and then functional requirements were created in order to measure Pinboard’s features for improvement and strengths over existing websites. Examples of existing websites are Gumtree, Preloved and eBay.
3. *System analysis, requirements definition:* Functional and non-functional requirements were defined and analysed to create a Business Requirement Document (BRD).
4. *System design:* To support the BRD, features of the website were defined and screen layouts as well as process diagrams are created.
5. *System Development:* In preparation for the development of the website, a request was made to the IT Services team to enable access to a Tomcat server and a MySQL database backend. Following the creation of Pinboard’s home page, the login functionality for the user was developed. Appropriate measures were taken to ensure that input text submitted by users is secure and the website is protected from attacks. A local as well as a remote database instance was created and additional functionalities were added to improve the usability of the website. These functionalities include creation of bookmarks for the available items, the option to allow the users change their password and additional buttons to share the website on social media channels.
6. *Test and evaluation:* Following the completion of development the system was tested to ensure that each requirement is met. Test of functional requirements ensure that different web browsers can be used to open the website and unexpected behaviour or crash of the web client is avoided. The full list of functional requirements can be found in section *‘3.2.1 Functional and non-functional requirements’*. Tests were also undertaken to tackle security concerns such as unauthorized access to the website or SQL injection by attackers. Finally, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) was performed to ensure that early adopters are happy with the service and functionalities offered by the website.

# Literature review

## Background research

Background research was undertaken to identify other solutions that offer similar functionalities and understand how those websites are developed. Identification of their strengths and weakness helped identify the must-have features of the Pinboard website. The main areas investigated were the target audience and key functionalities that the users would like to see on the website. The comparison made was between a number of open source e-commence solutions such as Apache OFBiz, osCommerce, Magendo [34] and e-commerce websites such as Gumtree, Preloved and eBay,. The strengths and weakness of the services are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Functionalities** | **Apache OFBiz [31]** | **osCommerce [32]** | **Magendo [33]** | **Pinboard** |
| First Release date | 2007 | 2000 | 2007 | 2015 |
| Licence | Apache License 2.0 | GNU GPL | Open Software Licence | - |
| Language | Java | PHP | PHP | Java, JavaScript, HTML, CSS |
| Web Application Framework (WAP) | Appache OFBiz | - | Zend Framework | Spring MVC Framework |
| Free database backend support | Apache Derby, MySQL, PostgreSQL | MySQL | MySQL | MySQL, Apache Tomcat |
| Non-free database backend support | MySQL, Oracle | - | MySQL, MySQLi | - |
| Out-of-the-box shopping cart | Yes | - | Yes |  |

Comparison between open source e-commerce solutions:

Comparison between e-commerce websites:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Functionalities** | **Gumtree [18]** | | **Prevolved [22]** | | **Ebay [23]** | | **Pinboard** |
| Type of site | Classifieds | | Classifieds | | E-commerce | | Classifieds |
| Registration | Optional | | Required [21]. | | Required to sell. Guest checkout avaialble. | | Not required. Student’s University email address will be used to login. |
| Target audience | -Initial target audience: Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans.  -Current target audience: Business customers and general public.  -Current target users in the UK, Poland, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore. | | Business sellers and general public. | | Business sellers and general public | | University of Surrey students and staff. |
| Number of users | 13.7 million [19] | | 5.5 million | | 155.2 million [ 24] | | University of Surrey students and staff. |
| Categories | -Goods for sale;  -motors listings;  -jobs advertisements;  -property advertisement. | | Over 500. [20]  Initially for second hand or vintage items.  Is currently one of the most popular websites used to advertise pets, horses, and livestock. | | Over 35+.  Goods for sale, (new/used) auction, “Buy it now” shopping(fixed price), ticket trading, money transfers etc. | | Second hand books;  Rooms available for rent. |
| Featured adverts | -Free use of the website.  Featured adverts:  -advert in the top of search page;  -advert on the homepage;  -urgent advert;  -site search ranking boost. | | -Free use of the website.  Featured adverts:  -Option available for a yearly membership upgrade (buyers £5, sellers £25). Once an advert is created is only available to membership holders. After 10 days the advert is available to non-membership users too. | | -Free use of the website.  Featured adverts:  -When the seller adds new items and when they’re sold he is charged by an invoice fee. | | - Free use of the website. |
| Delivery services | | Collection from the seller only. | | Shipping | | Shipping | Collection from the seller only.  Students are located on campus and deliveries are be made in person (meeting between student seller and student buyer). |
| Payment method | Online payment. | | Online payment. | | Online payment. | | Students are located on campus and payments are made in person. |
| Presence in social media | Facebook,  Twitter,  Google+,  Pinterest. | | Facebook,  Twitter,  Google+,  Instagram. | | Twitter,  Google+,  Intagram,  LinkedIn. | |  |

## Tackling the problem

The development of Pinboard website provides an alternative process to email distribution for students that wish to sell their second-hand books or request room swaps on campus. By providing an organised system, the target audience can navigate to Pinboard website and check numerous options before they make their decision on which book to purchase / room to swap. The organised service helps minimize the number of bulk emails created by student-sellers that wished to advertise books or room swaps.

## Acceptance and usability concerns

The key concern is for the IT Services/Systems Team to accept the deployment of the website on Surrey’s intranet. If this is resolved, the arising concern is the level of usability of the website by the end users. However, if the deployment of the website is not approved, the project will be seen as an opportunity for hands-on experience, management and completion of the development lifecycle for a website.

## Research on technology

## Types of MVC Frameworks

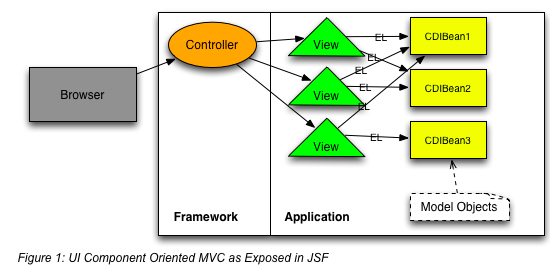
There are 2 types of MVC Frameworks (i) UI Component oriented MVC and (ii) Action oriented MVC [37]. The differences between Component Oriented Frameworks and Action Oriented Frameworks are shown below.

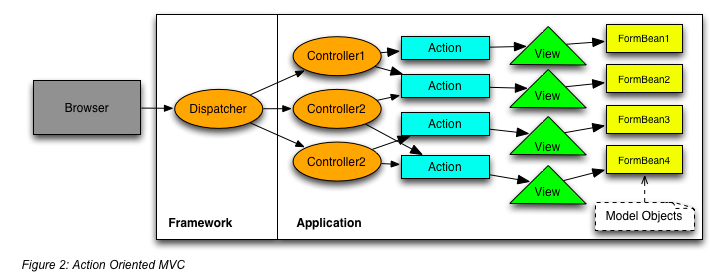
The table is taken from the ‘MVC 1.0/JSR 371’ presented during JavaLand 2015 by David Delabassee [38]. The same table was shown during Devonxx 14 by Mafred Riem [39].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | UI Component Oriented MVC (JSF) | Action (or Request) Oriented MVC (JSR) |
| Example [36] | -JavaServer Faces JSF  -Wicket  -Tapestry | -Spring MVC.  -Apache Struts (known as Jakarata Struts).  -Stripes. |
| Characteristics [36], [37], [38] | -Automatic request parameter procession.  -View kept around.  -Component libraries that implement re-usable behaviour.  -Components render HTML/JavaScript.  -Automatic input conversion.  -Automatic input validation.  -Page centric. | - Manual request parameter processing.  -No view kept around.  -Limited support for re-usable behaviour.  -Developer responsible for all HTML / JavaScript.  -No automatic input conversion.  -No automatic input validation.  -Request centric. |

The main difference between the two MVC Frameworks is that in Component Oriented MVC (JSF) the framework provides the Controller by default and therefore the developer has very little control over the output of the objects. On the other hand, Action Oriented MVC (JSR) is configuration-intensive but enables the developer to define the controller(s), which allows full and detailed control of the output and help him focus on business logic.

Regarding the diagrams:





## Spring MVC Framework

The client and web server website is developed using Java and the Spring MVC Framework.

Spring MVC is a lightweight action oriented framework (also known as request oriented implementation). *Spring Framework* is an open source, Aspect Oriented Programming (AOP) framework for Java based applications. *Spring MVC Framework* is an extensible MVC framework and a component of Spring that is used for the creation of web applications. It’s developed on core Spring functionality that provides technologies for views (JSP) [10].



Figure 1: Overview of the Spring Framework

The Spring Framework consists of a number of modules: Data access/integration; Web; AOP; Aspects; Instrumentation, Messaging; the Core container and finally the Test module.

In Data access/integration module provides support to: (i) JDBC, (ii) ORM, (iii) OXM, (iv) JMS and (v) Transaction module.

1. The Java DataBase Connectivity technology (JDBC) defines how a client accesses the database and provides methods to query and update the database.
2. The Object Relational Mapping (ORM) converts data between incompatible types and systems. In particular, this technique is beneficial in modern systems where systems include a number of subsystems.
3. The Object/XML mapping (OXM) converts objects to XML and vice-versa.
4. The Java Message Service (JMS) sends messages between two or more clients and enables reliable connection between different components.
5. The Transaction module coordinates the transactions for management APIs and Java objects.

The Aspect Oriented Programming (AOP) manages the application challenges, such as security, logging and management, into aspects and helps create modules that enable reusability. AOP complements OOP (Object Oriented Programming) by creating a new program structure. The difference between OOP and AOP is that is OOP the key element (unit of  modularity) is the class where in AOP the key element is the aspect.

The Core container is Spring’s key module and it’s used to provide BeanFactory and ApplicationContext containers.

The purpose of the Test module is to support the services for unit and integration testing.

## Benefits of Spring MVC framework

Spring MVC Framework was chosen over other MVC technologies, such as Struts, due to the support features it offers. Struts is a sophisticated framework, strictly focused on presentation. On the other hand, Spring is a “*Lightweight inversion of control and Aspect Oriented Container Framework*” [10]. It’s a popular framework used by a lot of web developers because it offers quality from design to implementation, promotes best practices and it’s adaptable.

The creation of specialised objects helps escape duplication and result in clear separation of roles from presentation to business logic. This is achieved by the implementation of objects in specialized classes such as Model View Controller (MVC), DispatcherServlet and Handler Mapping. Also, the AOP module allows definition of method-interceptors and pointcuts to achieve separation of code that is used to implement functionality that must be separated [35].

The use of existing business objects allows reusability of code. The application classes are configured as JavaBeans and therefore enable reference from the web controller to the business object to be made.

Name and value maps support integration with any View and therefore the system flexibility is increased. Also, implementation of a number of separate controllers instead of a single controller for everything helps improve maintainability of the application [10].

-Requires implementation of HTML, CSS, JS, however enables full control of their output. [36]

-Configuration-intensive.

-Requires implementation of boilerplate code.

-Allows the developer to focus more on business logic.

-Logic separation between model, view, controller.

-Utilises a single controller.

-Form elements enable automation of validation.

Use of annotations to reduce configuration.

- Clear separation of roles (business, presentation, navigation, logic).

-Provides Spring tag library.

-Provides several form objects and therefore reduces definition of those objects duplication

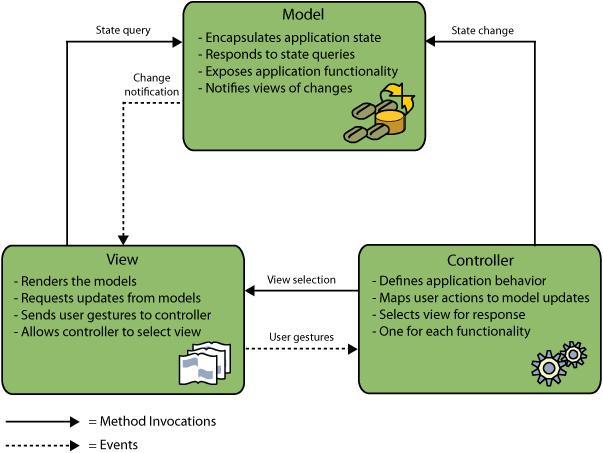
* **Quality**—From(the(overall(design(of(the(modules,(packages,(class(structures,(and(APIs(to(the( implementaCon(and(test(coverage(of(the(source(code,(the(Spring(Framework(is(a(great( example(of(highIquality(open(source(soVware.(
* •  **Modularity**—As(we(menConed(earlier,(the(framework(has(evolved(into(roughly(20(modules,( giving(developers(the(freedom(to(choose(which(parts(of(the(framework(to(use(in(their( applicaCons(without(the(need(to(include(the(enCre(framework.(
* •  **Promotes#best#prac>ces**—Spring’s(plain(old(Java(object((POJO)Ibased(programming(model( promotes(decoupled(component(models,(unit(tesCng,(and(other(best(pracCces.(
* •  **Modest#learning#curve**—Due(to(the(consistency(and(simplicity(of(the(APIs,(Spring(isn’t(hard( to(learn.(As(we(make(our(way(through(the(framework,(you’ll(see(that(common(paAerns( emerge.(Plus,(hundreds(of(resources(online(and(in(print(are(at(your(disposal,(including( message(boards(where(the(core(developers(oVen(parCcipate.(
* •  **Popularity**—As(evidenced(by(myriad(publicaCons,(websites,(and(job(posCngs,(the(Spring( Framework(is(almost(ubiquitous.(

## Features of Spring MVC framework

* *Model, View, Controller (MVC) design pattern:*

Model View Controller is a well-established software architectural pattern. It’s used in web application development in order to separate the business logic from the user interface [11]. The MVC consists of three modules: Model, View and Controller. Controller is the front servlet and acts as an interface between the View and Model.

The diagram below shows the detailed list of actions that is module is responsible for.



The client sends requests to the Controller. The Controller then forwards the input to JSP pages. In Spring Web MVC terminology, JSP pages are named Views and are managed by the Controller. In response, the View (JSP) calls the Model.

The Model (JavaBean) represents the state (data) and business logic of the application. The Model connects to the database to retrieves/saves data.

The View (JSP) generates the response and sends it back to the client. Note that in complex applications the Controller also manages the Service entity whenever it needs to perform business logic. This helps improve maintainability, as the business logic is not contained directly in the controller [12].

The diagram below shows the integration between the modules.

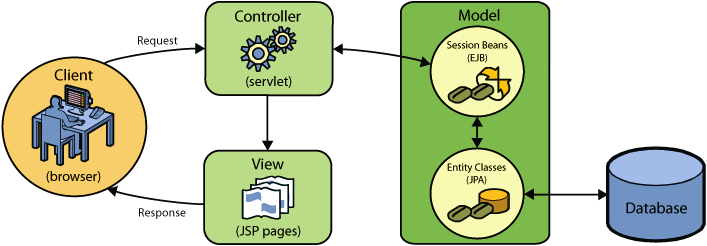
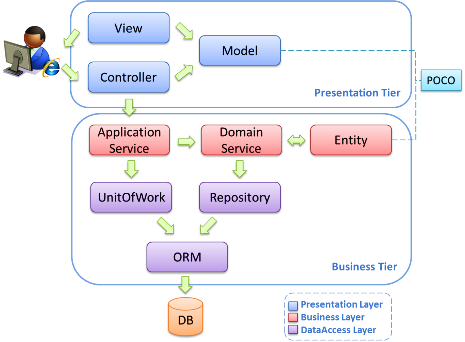


Figure 2: Context hierarchy in Spring Web MVC



<http://howtodoinjava.com/2015/02/05/spring-mvc-hello-world-example/>

* *DispatcherServlet* (How the *Controller in Spring MVC Framework* facilitates the *Controller in MVC)*:

The Controller(s) in Spring MVC Framework make use of the Front Controller to dispatch requests to Controllers in MVC [10]. This process is managed by the DispatcherServlet, which and acts as the front controller and is configured in XML. The Front controller receives the incoming request from the client and then delegates the request to a Controller. The Controller receives and handles the request, performs business logic and creates a new model. In order to delegate rendering of response, the Controller forwards the model to the Front Controller. The Front Controller selects a View and forwards the model in order to create a render response. Finally the View returns control to the Front Controller and the response is sent to the client.



Figure 3: Request processing workflow in Spring MVC

# System analysis

## Current process

Currently, there’s no organised process for the University of Surrey community to advertise second hand books or request room swaps on campus. As a result, the sellers/seekers create and distribute bulk emails (known as UBE) hoping that someone will get back to them. This process generates numerous unwanted emails for students that are not interested, and it’s possible that overloads the network as well as the amount of storage on servers.

## System requirements and analysis

The requirements listed below will be used as the basis for the development and testing of the web application, to determine the completion of the project and assess its success.

* Requirement Type: Functional or Non-Functional.
  + Functional: Requirements are classified as Functional if their aim is to provide information on what the system should do. [6] Examples include: authentication and authorization processes, historical data, audit tracking, database requirements etc. [7].
  + Non-Functional: Requirements are classified as non-functional if they cover constraints of the solution, targets and ways to control its mechanisms. Examples include performance, scalability, maintainability etc. [7]
* MoSCoW: ‘Must or Should Could or Won’t’ business analysis and prioritization method. The prioritization shows the importance of each requirement however it does not mean that requirements classified as Musts will be developed first; it means that by the completion of the project they must be delivered. Requirements classified, as ‘Won’t’ should be listed even if they won’t be met during this sprint. The list of ‘Won’t’ requirements represents a number of suggestions that Would be implemented as part of future development to improve the system [25].

## Functional and non-functional requirements

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Req. no.** | **Requirements Description** | **Req. Type** | **MoSCoW** |
| **Database** | | | |
| 1 | The centralized database that contains the products must update automatically and in real time. | Non-functional | M |
| 2 | The system must update the list of products so that a product becomes unavailable after a user purchases it. | Functional | M |
| **Seller/Buyer requirements** | | | |
| 3 | The system must ask the users (byers & sellers) to agree with ‘The Sales of Goods Act 1979’ and adhere to it: “*"traders must sell goods that are as described and of satisfactory quality”* [4], [5]. The Terms & conditions must be accessible, meaningful and fair. | Non-functional | M |
| 4 | The system won’t require the users to register. The login process will be based on the existing Active Directory (AD) groups. New users will be automatically added in the database. | Functional | W |
| 5 | The system must validate the user information upon registration e.g. text fields that require information and valid email that contains ‘@’, ‘.’. | Functional | M |
| 6 | The system must allow the users to search products based on categories e.g. books or room swaps. | Functional | M |
| 7 | The system must provide a search functionality (text-box search) to allow the users enter keywords. | Functional | M |
| 8 | The system should enable the users to sort the products based on price (Low to High, or High to Low). | Functional | S |
| 9 | The system must provide information about the product: Title, Description, Price, Category and Seller contact information. | Functional | M |
| 10 | The system must ask the seller to fill specific fields regarding the product: Title, Description, Price, Category and Seller contact information such as email address and/or mobile phone number. | Functional | M |
| 11 | The system should provide a ‘My profile’ area for each user. The personal information of the user will be shown on that page (Name, Contact details, email address, telephone number). | Functional | S |
| 12 | The system should allow users to bookmark items as ‘Favourites’. | Functional | M |
| 13 | Items marked as Favorites must be protected from external unauthorized access by other users. | Non-functional | C |
| 14 | The system won’t offer in-poge zooming of product image. |  | W |
| 15 | The system won’t offer integration of cart and payment gateway. \*PayPal services are not required because students live on campus and they’ll meet for the delivery and payment of second hand books. | Functional | W |
| 16 | The system won’t provide information about product delivery cost, or keep track of any product dispatch information. | Functional | W |
| 17 | The system won’t provide refund functionalities. | Functional | W |

## Feasibility analysis

Feasibility study [9] is conducted as part of the assessment process. The aim of the project analysis was to identify trade-offs and outline alternative options. The feasibility analysis helped recognise issues and potential risks in the early stages of the software development system. One of the first risks identified was that the Service Team might not accept the deployment of the website to the University of Surrey intranet. After the discussion of the project with the Service Team, the feasibility of the project was also discussed with the project supervisor and the decision made was to go ahead with the development of the digital Pinboard.

Even though the Pinboard website might not be deployed on the University’s intranet, it is an opportunity for the final year computing student to plan and deliver the project through the different phases of systems’ development lifecycle. It was also an opportunity to achieve a challenge and develop a project based on a new Framework without previous Spring MVC experience.

## Summary of deliverables

I might not include the summary of deliverables as the key deliverable is the full development of the website (including the report and video). Those deliverables are assumed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deliverable name** | **Description** |
| Project Report | The project report provides detailed description of the project including literature review; objectives; system analysis, design and implementation; test and evaluation; reflections and achievements. |
| Project Design | The structure of the solution and the plan to implement the functional and non-functional requirements in order to meet the project objectives. |
| Project Video | The project video presents the key functionalities offered by the system created. |
| Definition of functionalities and services | The services delivered by the project should be clearly defined for the benefit of:  i) the customer: to describe how navigate thought and use the website;  ii) the IT team: that will be responsible for the maintenance of the website if the deployment of the solution is accepted. |
| Specification of Roles and responsibilities | Clear specification of roles and responsibilities of:  i) the user and the policies that must adhere;  ii) the IT Team that will be responsible for the maintenance of the website if the deployment of the solution is accepted. |

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders [8] are individuals or organizations with interest in a project. Typically they are internal or external investors, employees, customers and suppliers. Stakeholders of the digital Pinboard solution include the target audience, which is a subset of students; sellers of second-hand books and seekers of room swap on campus.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Support Role** |
| A subset of University of Surrey students /and academics | A group of volunteers that wish to test the application and are interested in the functionalities that the application offers. |
| University of Surrey IT and Service Desk | The support team if the deployment of the solution is accepted. |
| Chara Katiri | Computer Science Student, the developer. |
| Dr Steve Wesemeyer | Professional project supervisor and coordinator. |

# System design

## Design method

Waterfall methodology was chosen over Agile as the development approach. In the project environment, Waterfall methodology can be easily understood not only by the developer but also the client due to the clarity of the linear sequence.

In contrast to Agile methodology, in Waterfall, the complete scope of requirements is known in advance and therefore each phase must be fully developed and delivered before the developer moves to the next one. Tasks are divided chronologically in achievable chunks and delivered in a number of phases. Specific deliverables and review process makes each phase easy to manage [40].

The diagram below shows the Waterfall Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) and the tasks required in each phase:



## Design plan

The purpose of the design phase was to define i) the Architectural design, ii) the High-Level design and iii) the Low-Level design [41].

The Architectural design phase aimed to answer the most fundamental questions that affect the system as a whole. Some of the decisions made in this phase include: use of a database instead of regular files to store the content that the system will make use/generate and use of a computer instead of a distributed system of numerous computers to run the system.

In High-Level design (HLD) phase the system was divided into a number of modules to enable delivery of tasks in achievable chucks and therefore make the system more manageable.

Finally, in Low-Level design (LLD) phase the data structure, logic and algorithms for each module were defined for each module and class diagrams were created.

The main resource that the development plan was based on is the final year student - developer (CK) and the supervisor (SW) that supports and guides the project.

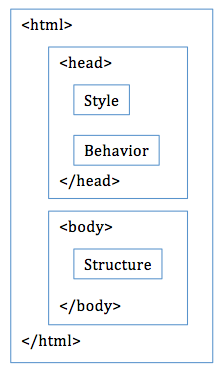
## Technology options

## Architecture and programming language

The system architecture is separated in several layers to achieve efficiency and maintainability of the website.

* *Presentation layer:* is responsible for the (i) View and (ii) the presentation of data.

1. The View, which is also known as JSP pages in Web MVC terminology, generates responses and forwards them to the controller. The controller than sends the response to the client.

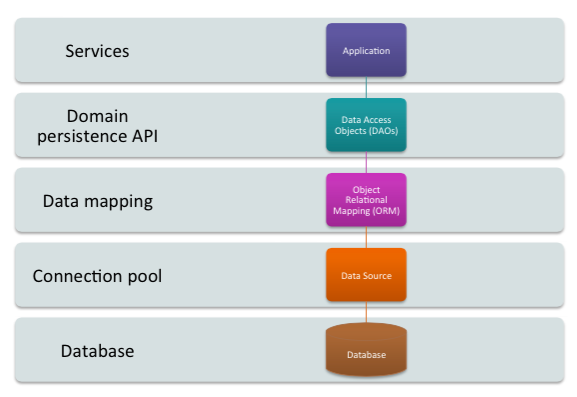


1. The presentation of data is archived by HTML5 and CSS. In order to ease maintenance and achieve maximum efficiency, the Style, Behaviour and Structure are clearly separated. The Style includes links of imported style sheets or external CSS files. The Behaviour includes links to local script elements or imported JavaScript files. Finally, the Structure includes the HTML structural elements.

Figure 4: Separation of Style, Behavior, Structure

* *Security layer:* it deals with security concerns and it’s implemented in layers using a number of technological controls. First, the use of the University of Surrey email address restricts access only to students and staff of the University. Then, upon login, authentication of the user and authorization to access the website is applied. Spring MVC framework libraries also provide security. Finally, Hyper Text Protocol Secure (HTTPS) is used as a communication protocol for secure communication over the network.
* *Business logic:* it consists of Spring MVC framework controllers and services. The business logic receives the incoming information, performs specific operations and defines the content that needs to be returned to the user ensuring that the required functionalities are always available.
* *Database layer:* it consists of the MySQL database.

The typical Java-based Persistence Architecture consists of 5 layers: Application layer, DAO, ORM, Data Source and Database.



* The Application layer consists of the core services that form the business logic of the application.
* The Data Access Objects (DAOs) consists of the database services and domain persistence API. The DAO is a specialised service used by the controller to access and retrieve data from the database.
* The Object Relational Mapping (ORM) is a powerful object-oriented functionality and its purpose is to convert data between incompatible types and systems. For example it can transform an object to XML, JSON or Java based on the needs of the system. It’s particularly useful in modern Web applications where different types of subsystems are part of the same system.
* The Data source layer is the connection pool and finally, the Database layer provides access to the data.

## Security levels

* *Security defence – SQL injection*: Login is required for buyers in order to view the list of available items, and for sellers in order to add new items. There’s no need for the users to register as they’re using their University email account. During the login process the students provide their username (email) and password. The submission of their personal information generates an SQL query [13]. The query is then executed on the database and the user’s account is authenticated and authorised to allow access to the website. Text submitted by the user is always treaded as suspicious thus not only client side but also server side validation was applied. Lack of validation will allow cybercriminals to submit specifically crafted SQL commands (known as SQL injection) aiming to attack the application and reveal information about the database’s structure such as numbers and names of tables. The knowledge of such information will allow them to manipulate the tables, create admin accounts to manage the database and access users’ private information.

In order to defend such operations from attackers, the SQL query is parameterised to prevent execution of malicious code.

* *Form validation:* The jQuery validator [14] plugin is used to validate the input submitted by users through the login form. The customisation options offered by the plugin provide easy validation of input content. These include ready-made validation methods such as email validation and delivery of prepared error messages.

Validation is applied both on client and server side. Client side validation offers a smooth user experience and it helps reduce the load on server by identifying user errors. Server side validation checks the data submitted by the user to prevent SQL injection attacks of cybercriminals attempts to submit untrustworthy data.

## System Challenges

A number of issues make the development of the website a challenging task.

* *Use of Spring Web MVC Framework:* The use of Spring MVC with no previous experience is a steep learning curve.
* *SHH Tunnel:* Connectivity issues due to SHH Tunnel problems from local workstation to remote server. Support was provided by the IT Services team and the project supervisor to overcome this issue.
* *User’s profile:* The user’s profile must be kept secure to ensure that no other users can gain access to it and modify sensitive information.

## System risks and issues

## System risks

* If the deployment of the website on the University of Surrey intranet is not approved, the deployment to early adopters cannot be completed and neither feedback can be collected.
* UAT depends on testers being available when required (CS students, volunteers).
* End user expectations unrealistic compared to solution.

*Contingency plan to mitigate risks:* The development of the website is based on Rapid Application Development (RAD) which allows visual prototypes to be shown to the stakeholders. This keeps stakeholders engaged and feedback can be received in early stages of the development lifecycle.

## System issues

*Collection of junk emails:* One of the initial aims of the system was to collect the number of the junk emails sent within the University. Then, the plan was to analyse the number of emails sent before and after the deployment of the website in order to measure the efficiency of the website through the functionalities it offers. A request was submitted to the IT services team to extract the average number of junk emails exchanged on Surrey’s network. In response the team explained that there is no way to pull out the junk emails as all Surrey accounts are automatically listed as ‘safe senders’ and they can’t be filtered as junk unless those emails are marked as junk by the receivers. (The email trail can be found in section 10. Appendix). Mitigation

## System risks, dependencies and timescales

## System risks

* Time constraints due to 5 other modules that run in parallel with COM3001. All the modules are assessed based on at least one coursework and an exam.
* Time scales for set up, development and deployment of the website are aggressive in order to meet the demands of COM3001 Professional Project deadlines and deliveries.

*Contingency plan to mitigate risks:*

* Timescales were set up with the work required by other modules in mind.
* If for any reason the timescales shift, the requirements categorised as ‘Could’ will not be implemented.

## System constraints

* Spring Framework 4.0 is the latest version released and it requires minimum Java SE 6 and above. Spring Framework 4.0 supports fully Java 8 features and use of Java 7 or above is recommended [28].
* Tomcat server is required. As shown in ‘The 2014 Leaderboard of Java Tools & Technologies’ [42] Tomcat is the most popular application server used in Spring Framework. This is due to the easy of download and installation, tooling support and server configuration.
* MySQL server is required to save user data and items data.

## System dependencies

I could only think of dependencies as the issues described in section ‘4.5.1 System Risks’. Can I remove the system dependencies section?

* Additional dependencies are required to configure authentication in Spring MVC and allow the application to function. Some of the dependencies are: [43]
  + ‘spring-security-confiq’ that is used for Spring Security namespace configuration.
  + ‘spring-security-web’ that is required for applications that use Servlet API.
  + ‘spring-jdbc’ that is used for Spring JDBC authentication,
  + ‘DelegatingFilterProxy’ that is used as a filter to intercept the HTTP requests for authentication purposes
* authentication service.

## System timescales

Following the gathering and definition of functional responsibilities a project plan is developed. Time limits for scheduling were created to ensure that the required time is allocated for the completion of each task. Milestones and deliverables were defined to keep track of the project progress and help get closer to the finished product. Then the Critical Path was defined. Activities included in it are critical and any delay in delivering those will have a negative impact on the rest of the project and will result delay in the delivery of the project [29].

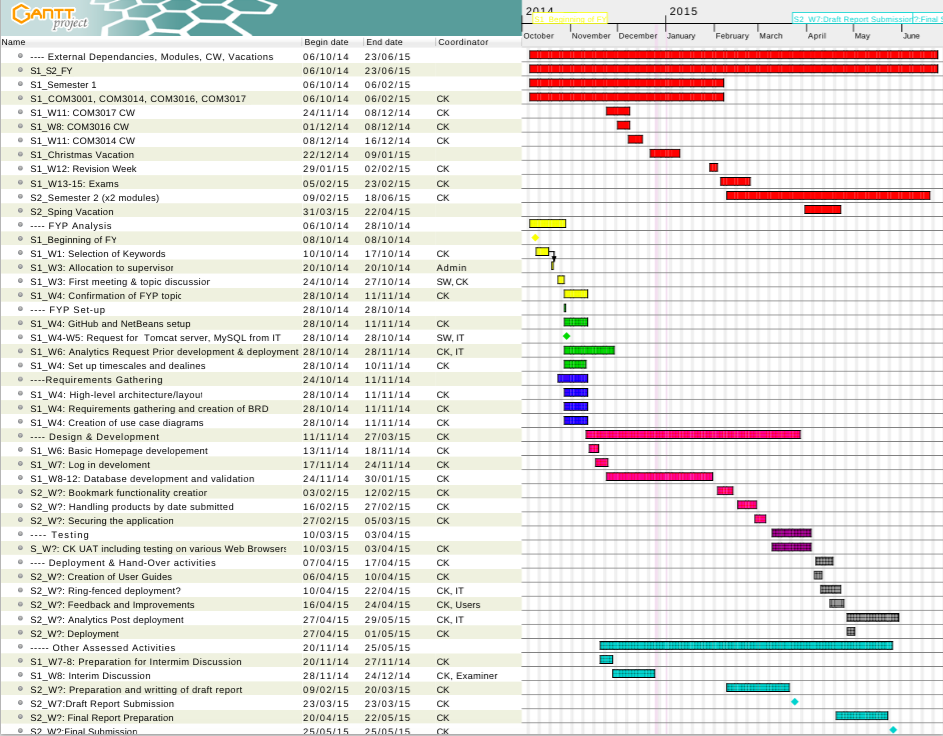
The aim of the project plan was to ensure balance between timescales and project quality. Details in the R&D phase were important but it was equally important to avoid destructions and remain focused on the project goal [30].

The detailed project plan including Milestones and resources allocated for each task is shown in the Gantt chart below. The optimal strategy to estimate timescales for system’s development is: [44]

* Phase 1:
  + Research and planning: 5%
  + Solution design: 5%
  + Design: 25%
* Phase 2:
  + Front-end and back-end development: 15%
* Phase 3:
  + Testing: 30%
* Phase 4:
  + Contingency: 10%







# System implementation

## Implementation plan

The main resource that the development plan was based on is the final year student - developer (CK) and the supervisor (SW) that supports and guides the project.

To be completed

## Build tools and libraries

To be completed

## Database creation and integration

## Creation and remote connection to the database behind the firewall

Due to security reasons, direct connection to a service (database console), hosted on a protected network (University of Surrey network), is not possible [26]. The steps followed to enable the connection are described below:

1. Creation of a remote server on the protected network as well as a local workstation (a local MySQL server, database). Following the completion of the development phase on the (i) local workstation, the Pinboard website is deployed on the (ii) remote server.
2. To establish the connection between the (i) local workstation and the (ii) remote server a tunnel that uses a secure protocol is created.
3. Access to a free port can only be achieved from the localhost and not remotely [27]. For security reasons a high, local, port such as 10,000 is used and PuTTY listens to it for incoming connections.
4. The MySQL database that runs on the server listens to port 3306.

$ ssh ck00113@student01.eps.surrey.ac.uk -L 10000:mysql0.ee.surrey.ac.uk:3306

The use of ‘-L’ states that the port is being forwarded. The use of ‘10000:mysql0.ee.surrey.ac.uk:3306’ forwards the connections from the local port (10000) to the server port (mysql0.ee.surrey.ac.uk:3306). During this step a connection (Tunnel) is made between the local port and the server port.

1. Following the port set-up, the details for connection are pulled from the config file and the connection to the remote server is established.
2. The use of ‘mysql -h mysql0.ee.surrey.ac.uk -u ck00113 -D ck00113 -p ck00113’ enables the connection to the database.

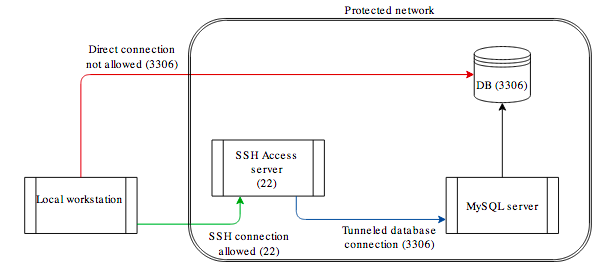


Figure 5: SSH Tunnel

## Success criteria

* The deliverables and software development requirements met.
* The objectives are met.
* The website is functional.
* Delivery of final project in agreed timescale.
* System testing (requirements and UAT) is documented and completed.

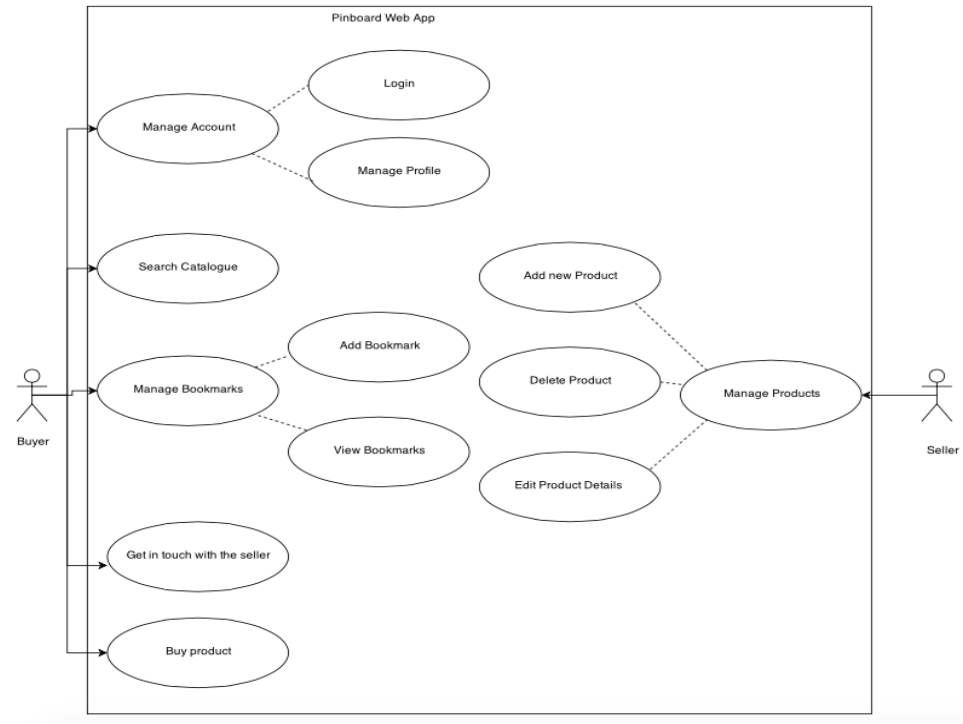
# Diagrams

## Class diagram

To be completed

## Use case diagram

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use Case Name: | System Functionalities |
| Triggering event: | When the user browses the website |
| Description: | The diagram shows the functionalities available on the website. |
| Actors: | The user (seller and buyer) |
| Prerequisites: | 1. The user is logged in. 2. Access to the Items database and User database is successful. |
| Flow of activities: | 1. The user searches the books/rooms catalogue. 2. The items available in the database are shown to the user. 3. The user saves items of interest suing the bookmark functionality. 4. The user gets in touch with the seller to purchase the item. |



# Test and evaluation

## Requirements testing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Req. no.** | **Requirements Description** | **Req. Type** | **MoSCoW** | **Test result: Fail/Pass** | **Notes** |
| 1 | The solution must automate and simplify the process of selling and buying goods, such as second-hand books, within the University of Surrey environment. | Non-functional | M |  |  |
| **Database** | | | | |
| 2 | The centralized database that contains the products must update automatically and daily. | Non-functional | M |  |  |
| 3 | The solution must update the list of products so that a product becomes unavailable after a user purchases it. | Functional | M |  |  |
| **Seller/Buyer requirements** | | | | |
| 4 | The solution must ask the users (byers & sellers) to agree with ‘The Sales of Goods Act 1979’ and adhere to it: “*"traders must sell goods that are as described and of satisfactory quality”* [4], [5]. The Terms & conditions must be accessible, meaningful and fair. | Non-functional | M |  |  |
| 5 | The solution won’t require the users to register. The login process will be based on the existing Active Directory (AD) groups. New users will be automatically added in the database. | Functional | W |  |  |
| 6 | The solution must validate the user information upon registration e.g. text fields that require information and valid email that contains ‘@’, ‘.’. | Functional | M |  |  |
| 7 | The solution must allow the users to search products based on categories e.g. books or room swaps. | Functional | M |  |  |
| 8 | The solution must provide a search functionality (text-box search) to allow the users enter keywords. | Functional | M |  |  |
| 9 | The solution should enable the users to sort the products based on price (Low to High, or High to Low). | Functional | S |  |  |
| 10 | The solution must provide information about the product: Title, Description, Price, Category and Seller contact information. | Functional | M |  |  |
| 11 | The solution must ask the seller to fill specific fields regarding the product: Title, Description, Price, Category and Seller contact information such as email address and/or mobile phone number. | Functional | M |  |  |
| 12 | The solution should provide a ‘My profile’ area for each user. | Functional | S |  |  |
| 13 | The solution should allow users to bookmark items. | Functional | C |  |  |
| 14 | The bookmark functionality must protect users’ bookmarks and follow data privacy policies. | Non-functional | M |  |  |
| 15 | The solution won’t allow items to be purchased online (PayPal services) provided that the users are students that live on campus and they’ll meet for the delivery and payment of the product. | Functional | W |  |  |
| 16 | The solution won’t provide delivery charges, stages involved in ordering process and dispatch information. | Functional | W |  |  |
| 17 | The solution won’t provide refund functionalities. | Functional | W |  |  |

## Security testing

To be completed

## UAT testing

To be completed

# Conclusion

## Achievements, review of objectives

To be completed

## Issues and shortcomings

To be completed

## Future work (system as application)

To be completed

Additional functionalities can enrich the search user experience by offering a number of browsing categories like unwanted tickets for events, sports equipment, electronics etc.

## Final evaluation and conclusions

To be completed

## Summary

To be completed

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I know that the references order in the report is messy. I will get back to this once my research is completed.

# Appendices

Is it recommended to have Appendices section before or after References?

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