Assessment Dates Manager

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Version 1.0 (Draft)

Note: This document is an example of a draft Outline Project Specification. It would require further work to refine this, and make it fit the requirements for the document. It is made available so you can see an expectation on the level of detail that would be appropriate. You should also take into account any guidance from your supervisor about what they would like to see in your report.

Example Report for MMP
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Project Description

The Assessment Dates Manager project will develop a web-based application to help staff to enter and track the assessment dates for modules in the Department of Computer Science. The information will also be visible to students.

In recent years, the Department's year coordinators have been responsible for providing a list of assessment dates for all modules for the relevant academic year, e.g. Year 3. Whilst the information has been consistent within a year, there has been variation in the detail provided to students in different years. In the 2014-2015 Academic Year, there was more consistency in the way that the information was collected from staff and presented to students. However, the process is still manual and involves editing static web pages.

This project will develop a web application to assist staff, in particular the Year Coordinators, to manage this information. There will be a web-based interface for the Year Coordinators to specify the hand in, hand out and estimated feedback dates. This should calculate the estimated feedback dates, based on the University's policy. The information will be available to students in tabular format. A graph may also be used to illustrate the timeline for each assignment; the timeline could show the time to complete the work and the time for the feedback.

The project will also develop a way to enter and manage the information about the modules and the module assessments available. Such information does exist in the University's student and module record system. However, it is unlikely that it will be possible to access that data directly. Therefore, the project will need to determine where the relevant module information can be accessed and how this will be updated in future years.

The final part of the project will be to implement a system to check with staff on the progress with returning the feedback for each module. A manual process already exists. This work plans to automate that process, but it will be desirable to discuss this with staff in the department to discuss whether or not the process could be improved as a result of automation.

The application is being developed for the Department of Computer Science. Early discussion with administrative staff in the department indicates that the application could also be useful elsewhere in the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (IMPACS). This won't be the focus of the initial work but, if there is sufficient time, adding support for multiple departments will be investigated.

The project will use a modified form of the Extreme Programming (XP) methodology to manage the different tasks. An early part of the work would be to confirm how XP will be used on this single person project.

Proposed Tasks

The following tasks will be performed on this project:

- **Investigation of the server configuration and build process.** This task will explore the options for hosting this application. This work will establish the type of server that is being used and the development language and data persistence options. It will also be necessary to determine which type of authentication system can be used on this site. Ideally, the project will be able to link to the University's existing LDAP authentication system.

  There will also be a discussion with the Computer Science support group to determine what deployment process will be available.

- **Setting up local build environment and version control system.** Having established the deployment platform, it will be necessary to install and configure a comparable environment for local development.

  A choice will also have to be made between using a svn repository or a git repository. The department provides a svn repository that is supported and backups are taken locally in Aberystwyth. The department does not currently provide a git repository; therefore, if git is selected, it would be necessary to use an external service such as that from GitHub [1].

- **Development**. The development will be divided into two main subtasks:

  - **Entering assessment dates and displaying information to students**. The first part of development will establish the framework for the application. A template library will be selected to allow separation of content from the controlling logic in the application. During this phase, module and assessment will be defined in a list that is not editable through the user interface.

  - **Module and assessment management and feedback monitoring.** The second part of the development will focus on adding features to enter and edit module details and module assessment information. The feature to generate email reminders to staff about feedback will also be added.

- **Project Meetings and Project Diary.** The project will involve weekly supervisor meetings. A project diary will be kept each week to make it easier to remember what has happened and provide a concise report at the meetings. The diary will be in the form of a blog on WordPress.

- **Preparation for demonstrations.** There are two demonstrations planned for this work. One is in the week before Easter and the other is following submission of the Final Report and the technical work. At this point, the plan for the Mid-Project demonstration is to show the functionality to mange the dates and display the information to students. At the Final Demonstration, it should be possible to demonstrate facilities to manage the module and assignment information and track when feedback has been returned.

Project Deliverables

The following project deliverables are expected.

- **Mid-Project Demonstration Notes** – A set of project notes will be produced to summarise what was presented at the demonstration. This will be included as an appendix in the final report. A draft will be discussed with the project supervisor before the demonstration.

- **Server software** – The server application code will include the necessary files and third party scripts to run the application. An installation script may also be added, depending on the process that will be used to install the software on the production server. A version of these files will be submitted for assessment and they will also be available on a version control system. This will be provided as part of the technical submission.

- **Test scripts** – A set of tests will be provided as part of the technical submission. These scripts will cover automated tests and some manual tests that are expected to be required. The development and testing process might use tools such as Cucumber, PHPUnit and Selenium, although the exact toolset will be decided during the project.

- **Story Cards and CRC Cards** – A document will be produced to summarise the stories that were defined on the project and any CRC cards used for design. This will form an appendix in the Final Report.

- **Final Report** – This document will be the report and associated appendices. In addition to discussing the work, there will be acknowledgement for any 3rd party libraries, frameworks and tools that are used on the project.
- **Final Demonstration** – No documentation will be produced for this demonstration, but it is noted here as it is one of the deliverables that should be considered when planning this work.

Initial Annotated Bibliography

[1] GitHub, Inc., "GitHub homepage," 2016. [Online]. Available: http://github.com/. [Accessed 30 January 2016].

This offers a free private repository for students. It offers a useful set of features, although other services might also be considered.

Note: include other resources, books, papers, that you have looked at in association with this project.