

CS3216 Final Project Progress Report #1

Group 1

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Application prototype. Minimally as functional as what was achieved in Assignment 1.

The prototype will be deployed to <http://coursemology.fuzzie.sg>.

Any changes to the application since the initial project proposal?

The scope of the final project has been amended after meeting with Professor Ben Leong. While the original proposal focused on adopting Coursemology for CS1101S, we found that this would result in there being very little to show during a demo.

Furthermore, there are some upcoming changes to CS1101S that would make developing a solution for it difficult. The course may be undergoing another language shift from JavaScript to Scala, potentially requiring us to duplicate work in future should the language of instruction be changed.

As a result, we have decided to shift from our original proposal of adapting Coursemology to suit CS1101S, and instead aim to further develop Coursemology by implementing a Workbin and a Lesson Plan to provide a more well-rounded teaching environment. This means that NUS modules using Coursemology could partly shift away from IVLE¹, allowing students to use Coursemology for course information and material delivery.

Is your project on schedule according to the milestones and timelines submitted in the initial project proposal? If you are on schedule, great! If not, why not? What is your team doing about the slip in your project schedule?

As our project's scope has been entirely changed from the original proposal, our current progress can no longer be compared to the proposed schedule.

Currently, we have completed a basic implementation of the Workbin. CRUD is functional, allowing users to upload and replace files, as well as create subfolders. Permissions checking is the next

¹With our additions in place, Coursemology would have the same core functionality as IVLE, with the exception of the Gradebook and Multimedia features.

component to be implemented, following which public deployment for testing is possible. Completion will be polish and improvements to the user interface and experience.

We will start working on the Lesson Plan component soon. Depending on the pace of development, this might be deployed at the same time (optimistically) or after the Workbin. Both initial deployments will be minimum functioning products for iterative development.

Finally, the forum is also currently working, and users can log into the forums using the same account they already use on Coursemology. Our next step will be to work on even tighter integration with existing Coursemology features.

What were the problems/difficulties your team has encountered? How have you overcome them, or what plans do you have to overcome them?

As is usually the case when joining an existing project, the first problem our team encountered was the need to set up Coursemology in a development environment. This issue was compounded by the instructions on Coursemology's GitHub repository being incomplete, missing a few dependencies and key steps. Notably, after we set up our clone which we are working on, we were told that we should be basing our code off the "dev" branch and not the "master" branch.

We also ran into issues installing the forum software on Coursemology. We are using forem, a rails engine that is suppose to work out of the box just by performing a mount. However, Coursemology was not written in a way that would allow this to work as intended. We had to fix some variables in the application-wide view partials that did not use the "main_app" reference to fully qualify its variables. Fortunately, finding and fixing the code is not very difficult once we know what went wrong.

Assuming that your team has already deployed a prototype of your application, how has the response been? Any other new insights, plans or strategies your team has come out with?

Though we hadn't deployed our work on a persistent server at the time, we were able to show Professor Ben Leong our progress on the Workbin feature (named "Materials" then) by using a preview link from one of our members' Nitrous.IO development environments. His response has been included below.

OK. I see it now.

Can we call it "Workbin" instead of "Materials".

I actually think that the IVLE visual interface is better leh. Can you guys do better?

I think the [IVLE] visual navigation is better. I can see exactly how many folders there are and how many

documents are in the folder,

and can change to another folder by clicking on it instead of having to traverse the link tree.

Actually, it's okay for now..... we can improve the interface over time. Just make sure that the underlying schema is ok.

Can you send me the schema?

How about the Lesson Plan? Can we finish a prototype for both the Workbin and Lesson Plan and push it live?

I always use [the Lesson Plan]. It's actually quite important to let students have a place to find information about a class.

I have granted you permission to CS1010S. You can see how it's being used. Yes, I suspect that a lot of prof don't use it because it's too much a pain in the behind.

I would like Missions and Trainings to automatically appear on the Lesson plan.

Updated project schedule: milestones and timeline.

This weekend: initial deployment of Workbin. Start development of Lesson Plan. Tighter Forum integration with Coursemology.

Next weekend: iterate on Workbin (based on feedback). Initial deployment of Lesson Plan. Additional Forum features.