**Project Proposal**

Piggy.ie

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**BSc (Hons) in Computing**

**Networking and Mobile Technologies)**

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# Objectives

# The objective of this project is to create an online service which allows people to establish specific objectives and then save funds to achieve these objectives. The users are then allowed to set out savings plans which are suited to their needs and situations.

# They are also able to set a specific time-lock on their funds which prevents them from accessing their saved until a date which they have specified. They are also able to nominate a recipient of their funds other than themselves. The user can open multiple accounts under the one username and give names to each account which denote what the user is saving for.

# Users are required to give details of their paypal account in order to retrieve money while saving and return money when saving has been completed. It is intended to create an API so that websites such as ticketmaster or travel agents are able to incorporate the service into their websites without the user interacting with the main site as long as they hold a pre-existing account.

# Background

# The background of this project stems from my own savings experience to date. Currently it is only possible to save funds in lump sums in a single savings account in a bank or credit union or to save money in jars at home.

# This does not account for the nature of people lives where at any one time a person may be saving for numerous things at once such as a festival ticket, a holiday and funds for returning for college.

# If they sit down and develop a spread sheet breaking down how much each item will cost and how much they will have to save over a specific period to achieve this then they may be able to achieve their goals without the use of the proposed service however even in that case it does not mean that should other bills fall due, they will not tap into their savings derailing their attempts to save the desired amounts as all of their funds are in a lump sum accessible to them with ease.

# Saving in a deposit account does not give the person an itemised list of what they are saving for. It does not allow them to break down how much their weekly or monthly payments to each goal will be and how much progress they have achieved towards each goal.

# Also allowing people to break the price of items down will allow them to do more with their money. An example being a concert goer who cannot currently afford an €80 concert ticket for a concert four months hence but could afford the ticket by paying €20 per month for the next four months. It is the aim of this service to provide that service.

# This service also seeks to widen the available market for companies by locking customers into buying something over a period of time. An example of this is Apple announcing that people who have just purchased the iPhone 5 will be able to open piggy accounts to commence saving for the iPhone 6 which will be available a year hence. This allows users to save over a period of time for an item which as a once off payment is quite expensive. It also allows the user to nominate Apple as the recipient of their savings ensuring that they are able to receive their new phone without any need to subscribe to a cellular carrier. This provides Apple with a more direct source of income and assures increased sales of a product.

# Having researched the proposal I have not found a competing application which provides the same functionality and view the appeal of the service to be substantial to both customers and online vendors.

# Technical Approach

# It is envisioned that this project will follow an agile development with scrums taking place every three weeks in which objectives are assessed and reset. Informal documentation will be kept through a github with formal documention submitted through the NCI moodle website. Testing will be carried out initially on a trial and error basis and then with more sophisticated means when testing background security as would be expected with this form of site. Research will involve both technical and legal information and utilize all forms of media.

# Special resources required

# None.it is intended to carry out all programming and research for this project on the Microsoft windows & Apple osX platforms using standard coding tools

# Project Plan

# See Appendix

# Technical Details

# Implementation language and principal libraries

# Intend to create as java applet within api for use in exterior websites and to create custom website using HTML5, XML, XHTML, PHP, CSS, ASP.net and webDNA languages to create site. Will use MySQL to facilitate transactions Also intending to use Java and xCode to develop Android and iOS applications.

# It is intended to host the site on the Microsoft Azure cloud service. Each variable is currently open to change pending further research and recommendation.

# Evaluation

# It is intended to simulate data for demonstration purposes as holding cash may engender regulatory issues. As part of the research for this project it is intended to fully investigate regulatory compliance requirements to fully implement project and if permitted then demonstration will involve live funds transfers and logging on the site.

# Consultation with Project Specialisation Coordinator

# I have consulted with Adrian Skehill who queried regulatory aspect of project and advised that security aspect of project should not prove too difficult. I have advised that this is an intended area of research and that the outcome of this research will impact on how the service will be demonstrated.

# Consultation with Academic Staff

# Unavailable at time of writing

# Proposed Supervisor

# I have currently been unable to negotiate a supervisor for this project however it is intended to seek the supervision of Paul Hayes, Paul Stynes, Vikas Sahari or Adrian Skehill

\_David Ward\_\_27/9/2012\_\_\_

Signature of student and date

**Appendix 1**

