

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

DATE: 14 October 2015
TO: Professor Thuyuyen Nguyen-Newby
FROM: Group 6: Huy Le, David Slusser, James Tack, Phong Vu, Dennis Wu
SUBJECT: Reflection on Solicited Proposal Project

Attached is Group 6's word document for the solicited proposal project. The proposal is in response to Dr. Flores of Family Health Clinic requesting M-Global's expertise in creating a mobile application for his medical facility.

Since we were the first group during the proposal conference, we were confused as to what was really expected. Since the conference was only to last no more than 15 minutes, we wanted to make sure all the topics (design, program, warranty, security, maintenance, training, cost, etc) were covered. After the other groups presented, we realized that we did not go in-depth or technical enough.

The idea of documenting an application was difficult, since nobody in our group has ever attempted to build an application for profit before. We had to research the cost of everything (cloud service, hourly wage, design cost), and also business practices (warranty, liability, support).

As software engineering students, we tend to over analyze things, so we had difficulty trying to juggle/balance the proposal project contents. As we went through the topics, we kept adding more and more features, which created unnecessary work. At the end, when we realized that the proposal was not actually 10 pages in full text, we began to remove all the "extra" content.

Editing was also difficult, each person in our group had a different writing style. Some were quick to follow the formatting outlined in the textbook, while others did not. Combining all the portions was very time consuming. There was a lot of editorial things to consider: grammar, formatting, relevance of subject, technicality, and partitioning the sections.

An important lesson we learned from the project was that we needed to realize who our audience was. Dr. Flores was our audience, who is not a software programmer, so we had to avoid being too technical. It was not until we brought our rough draft to you, that we realized we needed to define key terms. Something that would have seemed obvious to us, would have been very confusing to those who are not computer science majors.

Although we sat at the same table in class, we felt that the group project was the icebreaker and helped us get to know one another. The project was both interesting and challenging.