In Class Meeting Summary: Informal Consensus on project ideas, Plan, and more

6 messages

Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com> Wed, Feb 25, 2015 at 4:52 PM
To: Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>, Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com>, Nathan Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com>, Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com>

Greetings!

I have included a meeting summary post script. Di and Nate I was thinking that this would be last internal email you guys receive until we rejoin if that is okay with you both. To everyone, please respond with your comments and questions.

Di and Nate, I forgot to ask you about how working together on a presentation in the future would work. Tell me what you think.

Best Regards,
Josh Gillham

PS Meeting summary

Informal Consensus on project ideas:

- Everybody likes interpretter, but, JP said its already in BlueJ so we got shut down.
- Everybody likes the stack and thread visualization ideas.

Plan

1. Find out what stack holders want. Thus, we will conduct surveys to identify the problem students are having.
2. Once we identify problems, we can see which project ideas will solve the problems (if any).
3. Brainstorm new projects as needed.
4. We will pick one project and research the feasibility. This will make sure we can do the project.
5. If we can't do the project then we will back up and reassess the scope and possible repeat #4.
6. If we can do the project then we will pick a process model and work on the first step of that process model.

Presentation Feedback

- Make the subtitle more profound i.e. How to get the most out of pair programming.
- Last slide with the cast was not such a great ending. Instead end with the messages.
- Audience might want to see something on the screen about what the pair was working on.
- Begin with the conclusion.
- Include citations.
- Focus on core message.
- Keep the slides in sync.
- Give a larger picture on the topic of the presentation.

Assignments

- Di and Nate will be pairing off into team Tiger.
- Wei and Miguel will go talk to students and teachers to identify barriers to programming.
- Thomas will be making a survey. His survey will be another tool for us to understand their barriers to programming.
- I (Josh) will be having conversations with students and teachers to identify the barriers to programming. I will document those conversations and upload my findings.

JP's Input:

- Sounds okay, but, nothing exciting.
- Propose project in a way to contextualize.
- Focus on how this is helping to solve the problem.
- Visualizing threads is not bad.
- What do early students struggle with.
    - They don't know how to design.
    - They don't know what quality code is.
    - They have trouble debugging.
- A tool to identify nouns, verbs, and attributes.
- JP can see any Project as feasible if it addresses the needs and problems.

Di's Input:

- Does not really like OpenGL.
- Does not think the clippy idea and thinks it is out of scope.
- If we go back to project Git then we must use the final decision policy.

Nate's Input

- If we go back to Git then we have people w/ experience. In that case, we can add all features.
- We should consider the available time minus presentation time minus people's weekly time.

Top ideas:

- Interpreter -- BlueJ already has codePad. So the idea got shot down.
- Thread visualization
- Stack/heap visualization
- API Documentation Offline viewer

Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 2:09 PM
To: Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com>
Cc: Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>, Nathan Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com>, Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com>

I don't anticipate that Nate and I will be gone so long that we will miss out on a presentation; it's worth noting that neither of the 2 upcoming presentations requires all members.

I think you can still keep us in the loop regarding internal emails, since we are still part of the team (although currently absent). I just won't respond. Nate, what do you think?

Finally, to tackle some of the preliminary issues that CS1 students have, here are some articles that actively address that. It also addresses the double hump population curve of beginning programmers; students either do well in programming or crash and burn. This may help inspire new ideas that can excite Jody and our other stakeholders.
http://blog.codinghorror.com/separating-programming-sheep-from-non-programming-goats/
http://www.bricklin.com/wontprogram.htm
http://www.eis.mdx.ac.uk/research/PhDArea/saeed/paper1.pdf

Once we're done with our RFID project, we'll jump right back in. See you soon!
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N Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 2:23 PM
To: Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com>
Cc: Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com>, Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>, Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com>

Yes I like that idea, that way there wont haft to be a dedicated meeting just for catching us up when we get back. Also if you absolutely need help with something while we are gone, research, ideas, lame jokes, I could attempt to help in whatever way y'all need.
[Quoted text hidden]

Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 3:15 PM
To: N Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com>
Cc: Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com>, Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>, Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com>

Thanks for your input guys. I will check out those links.
-Josh
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Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 6:39 PM
To: Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com>
Cc: N Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com>, Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com>, Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>

http://www.cprogramming.com/beginner_programming_mistakes.html
After doing a brief survey after class on Wednesday, I found that these 5 issues, at least one of them, were made apparent by the surveyed people.
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Josh Gillham <usajoshgillham@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 7:23 PM
To: Wei Huang <wei.huang2012@gmail.com>
Cc: N Witt <nawitt8@gmail.com>, Di Tran <thedi.ness@gmail.com>, Miguel Roman-Roman <mromanro117@gmail.com>, Thomas Macari <tmacari09@gmail.com>

I thought this was interesting because it reminds me that when I explain the details of how the programs work to the students, they seem to understand programming more.

"Van Someren looked at novices learning Prolog [29]. He came to the conclusion that those who were successful had a mechanical understanding of the way that the language implementation - the Prolog virtual machine - worked"

Di's link: http://www.eis.mdx.ac.uk/research/PhDArea/saeed/paper1.pdf
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