

Vision Statements & How They Can Resolve Conflict

A conflict:

To make the team familiar with BlueJ's API, Team BirdFeedr chose to split into two teams to explore:

- Project Chirp was a team responsible for making an extension that would play a chirp noise on compile.
- Project Git was a team responsible for implementing Git functionality directly into BlueJ

Project Git became a massive encounter, and became a focal point when the teams attempted to merge back together. What to do? Git had so much work invested, that team Git rationalized that putting in more work wouldn't be so far of a stretch. Team Chirp argued that Project Git come to a halt. The team as a whole encountered a conflict of interests

Our Vision Statement:

"To inspire people to reach their computer science dreams by providing tools that help them overcome the barriers to programming."

How We Came Up With the Vision Statement

Some of you may be wondering how we came up with the vision statement. We used the naming heuristic presented from "The Project's Name."

What is the naming heuristic? Here's how you do it:

1. Come up with a name
2. Think of three reasons why the name won't work.
3. Create a new name that addresses these three things.

Repeat this process until you come up with a satisfying name.¹

Resolution:

Would Git support on BlueJ help inspire people to reach their computer science dreams, and would it provide tools that helped them overcome the barriers to programming?

... No.

Another Conflict Example

Following the exploration projects, we also had to decide the content of our project at the end of the semester. We had a lot of options. How many options? SIXTEEN options. This is where the vision statement came in handy.

Members:

Josh Gillham, Wei Huang, Thomas Macardi, Miguel Roman, Di Tran, Nate Witt

Our Resolution

This process is pretty easy. Here's what the team did to narrow our list of ideas down:

1. Ask the team if the selected idea fit.
2. Team responds with yay or nay, and explains why.
3. Team moves to next idea until ideas are exhausted.

Conclusion

A vision statement is more than just a vision statement. A vision statement can also help resolve conflicts with project direction. We recommend using it if you ever have a conflict related to project direction.

Additional Resources

Examples of Vision Statements:

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/best-examples-of-a-vision-statement.html>

<http://topnonprofits.com/examples/vision-statements/>

How to Create Your Own Vision Statement:

<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/strategic-planning/vision-mission-statements/main>

References:

- 1: "The Project's Name." <http://www.jodypaul.com/coursematerials/Naming.pdf>

Members:

Josh Gillham, Wei Huang, Thomas Macardi, Miguel Roman, Di Tran, Nate Witt