M3 Report

STATUS REPORT FOR MILESTONE 3 – Mar 15 – APR 5, 2013

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Intended Progress

We use the SCRUM development process to determine our workload and tasks we want to accomplish during specific periods of time. This allows us to easily determine if we are on schedule. Using TFS and SCRUM we are able to track our weekly progress and determine what tasks need more time and if we need to extend to another sprint.

At this point in the project we have already released our Minimal Viable Product (MVP). The MVP was released to the Windows Store after it was approved. After the MVP was approved we wanted to add more features and functionality to the app while also polishing up the UI and making it look more professional. There was also a lot of code refactoring we needed to do, thus we spent an entire sprint on code cleanup and refactoring. Some of the key items we hoped to have accomplished by this milestone include the following:

- Polish the UI. This will be a later sprint which we will focus on making the UI very professional looking for the end user. We will try to incorporate as much of the Windows Store app experience as we can in this sprint to enhance the overall user experience of the app.

- Create a front-end. We need a front end for people to update our back end data services. This will probably be written using ASP.NET. This will belong to one of our sprints, but will be one of other tasks for that sprint.

- Enhance our current backend Azure services. We have an Azure web service that we are using for our backend data. However, we would like to enhance this beyond what it currently is (allow updates, new data entries, etc.) This will probably be included in the same sprint as creating a front end for the Azure services.

- Bug fixing / Issue fixing. We will spend a significant amount of time testing the app and fixing any bugs we find present.

- Adding bonus features. There are still some features / functionality we would like to add if we have time. However, the primary focus of the sprints between M2 / M3 will be to polish the app and make it a presentable final product.

The last goal on the list is defined as a stretch goal. This goal means we would like to accomplish it if every other goals was accomplished first.

Progress since M1

For the most part, we were able to accomplish all of our tasks we planned between M2 and M3. In addition to the tasks we wanted to complete, we were also able to finish a few other tasks as well.

- Created a front end for updating Azure

- Enhanced our backend data services

- Worked on bug fixes

- Polishing the UI. Although the UI overhaul isn't 100% complete, we were able to create some new logos, a new splash screen, etc. which improve the overall look and feel of the app.

Some tasks were not completed, for the reasons below.

- Bonus features – after discussing with Eric, he was happy with the current state of the app and wanted us to focus on making the app look as good / as bug free as we can get it by the end of the semester.

Areas of issues / struggle

The biggest area of struggle or issue we had was learning the MVC framework. Initially, we were not going to create an MVC site or work with Azure, but we decided to go with both of these features later in the semester which required a fairly decent learning curve. We've overcome that learning curve in the past few weeks and are now able to work productively with these two environments / frameworks.

Projected Progress

From now until EoS, we will be working a lot on polishing the app and making sure that it works without issues.

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Conclusion

As a group, we feel like we are on track with getting this app completed by the end of this semester. We have achieved most of the goals we initially set forth up to the M3 release. At this point, we do not feel like we will have any trouble accomplishing future goals from now until the M3 release. We have a solid understanding of the frameworks and APIs that we are using and there isn't a whole lot of learning now as there was at the beginning of the semester. We will continue to track our progress through weekly

sprints and make sure that we are on track throughout the semester and make adjustments accordingly to accommodate being behind or ahead of schedule. The group is functioning well. Although we have had a few issues with procrastination on some sprints, overall we feel we are accomplishing tasks and getting our goals accomplished. The initial five weeks involved a lot of learning, both from a development and managerial perspective. Learning a new framework while also learning a new programming paradigm (SCRUM) was definitely a challenge at first.

Appendix

For reference, below is a summary of the tasks we intended to complete for M3 from M2.

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