# Patrick Brossard - Week 4 Status Report

Once again, good progress along the plan, and I’m ahead on a few areas. Only still behind with the signature letter, and we have a visit scheduled with Jon and his new son this week, so that will be taken care of. Requirements documentation was tedious, but finally complete. Here’s my current status:

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| Week | Work Item |
| 1 | ~~Concept Draft~~ |
| 2 | ~~Research Proposal~~  ~~Technology Selection~~  Stakeholder Letter (signature still outstanding) |
| 3 | ~~Requirements Documentation~~  ~~Hosting and Network Documentation~~  ~~Status Report~~ |
| 4 | ~~Database Schema~~  ~~Start Software Architecture~~  ~~Start UI Wireframes~~  ~~Status Report~~ |
| 5 | Software Architecture, continued  UI Wireframes, continued  Prototypes  Status Report |
| 6 | Complete Software Architecture  Complete UI Wireframes  Prototypes, continued  Status Report |
| 7 | Complete Prototypes  Finalize Presentation  Reflection Paper  Status Report |
| 8 | Presentation  Finalize Project deliverables  Final Submission |

## Major Milestones

In addition to completing the dreaded use case details documents, I have taken my database schema created last week and filled it out with some sample data. I’ve had another technology shift in regards to the database. I had been planning to make use of Amazon’s Relational Database Service (<http://aws.amazon.com/rds/>), which is basically MySQL hosted in a cloud environment. The benefits of this are never having to worry about hardware, maintenance, scalability, or availability. However, there is an (albeit low) cost associated with the hosting: $0.11 per hour for their smallest instance. I don’t really feel that the load and availability requirements of the project require that level of infrastructure, so for the purpose of the prototyping, I will instead use a local SQL Server Express instance. So I’ve made another version of the schema for SQL Server… well, the schema is basically identical, but the DDL creation script is different.

I’ve started the wireframes with a very simple page layout. I’ve only completed the first page, but that’s always the most work, and there are not many pages to mock up. I think I will be able to complete the wireframes in week 5 instead of 6.

The actual architecture is progressing as well. I should have combined the prototyping phase with the architecture step, as that is how I am going about much of my research and decision making – trying different implementations out in code, and seeing what works, what’s cumbersome, and what I like. I’ve also decided to use Git for my source control on this project, something I have been looking to learn. GitHub (<http://github.com/>) and Gitorious (<http://gitorious.org/>) are the major online repository providers, so I made a repository at Gitorious – it looked the simpler of the two. I will be hosting all the project assets and source code there, as well as links to my working prototypes, available online. I might also start posting my status reports and other documentation there if that’s acceptable.