

Meeting notes: 09.17.2014

Team attendance: Charles Stafford, Christopher Hultin, Cory Morewitz, Erich O’Saben, James Ward, Justin Bennet, Sean DeMild

Guest: Professor Raver-Lampman (Mentor)

Activity: This meeting was a general meet and greet the mentor (Professor Raver-Lampman) to allow him to meet and get to know a bit about the team. It also allowed for the team to get a better grasp of what the mentor was looking for from the “ESL COLORS” project. Previous email correspondence set the groundwork for market competition, and project feasibility. Both the team and the mentor agreed that “ESL COLORS” had a market differentiator and that the project was feasible if the correct scope was maintained. Further discussions centered on defining said scope. It was decided that “ESL COLORS” contain the following list of ‘must haves’:

* The ability to change designation of word (i.e. if word is marked noun, change it to adjective)
* The ability to parse text and identify the seven major parts of speech
* A quality front end that allowed for certain customization
  + Showing all of one part of speech
  + Changing display color of part of speech
* The ability to interface with the “ESL SLASH” project
* The ability for future teams to add functionality, scale, tweak, etc.

The mentor would like to also have grammar parsing, which the team will attempt to provide.

The team also discussed ‘wish list’ items that would be addressed on an ‘as time allows’ basis, but would not be included in the initial scope. This meaning that if time were to allow, ‘low hanging fruit’ may be taken into consideration. The following ‘wish list’ was made up of discussions concerning:

* Various input formats
* Scalability (adding more parts of speech)
* Tracking student involvement/achievement
* Variable output formats

After the mentor took his leave, the team discussed various platform options, and currently available/open source software that could be utilized. Discussion centered on the University of Illinois tool which utilizes Java, which does not parse grammar; as well as the NLTK tool which utilizes Python, but is purported to have a slow runtime. The team also went over risks, started a ROIL spreadsheet and the website was updated to include the risks matrix. Lastly, the team attempted to address Christopher Hultin’s upcoming move. It was decided as a team that we would prefer to take on any risk/responsibility and allow him to become a distance member. The team attempted to discuss with Professors Price and Brunelle, but they had already left.

Deliverables for next class include:

* Testing NLTK speed (mentor has said size of documents will be five pages or less, so we are testing against greater than or equal to that user case)
* Finishing risk matrix
* Continue researching tools that can be utilized and pros/cons of said tools
* Finish bios/pics
* Ensure mentor’s bio and pic is provided
* Create a more formal ROIL document