

BU ProPane Technical Specification

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This document contains the technical specification for the Professional Portable Automatic Note Extraction (ProPANE) system as determined by both the ProPANE team as well as Dr Robert Midkiff and Dr Douglas Gabauer. Each specification describes a quantifiable, measurable aspect of the system in addition to providing a testing procedure.

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1 Overview and Scope

1.1 Overview

The goal of this project is to create a system that captures information written on whiteboards throughout the course of a class. The system should be useable by professors during a standard lecture. The system must be portable so that it can be transported from classroom to classroom.

1.2 System Breakdown

The ProPANE system will be composed of two subsystems: the capture system and the analysis system. There will be a single analysis system for multiple capture systems. This ensures a centralized location for data storage and accessibility.

1.2.1 Capture System

The responsibility of the capture system is to record all of the information presented on a whiteboard during a class and send it to the analysis system. The capture system will be composed of the capture device and any other components. The capture device is responsible for actually taking the pictures of the whiteboard.

1.2.2 Analysis System

The responsibility of the analysis system is to receive images from the capture system and identify/construct key frames. The analysis system will allow professors to browse all images from the capture system, browse key images, and export selected images.

1.3 Use Case

The following steps show an end-to-end high level description of how the ProPANE system will be used.

1. Setup capture system in classroom
2. Start the capture system
3. Use whiteboard during class
4. Stop the capture system
5. Browse images on analysis system
6. Select desired images
7. Export images to desired location

The analysis system will be designed to ease browsing of images described in step 5 by identifying key frames. The idea behind these frames is that they show the maximum amount of information that is on the board before it is erased and used again.

2 List of Deliverables

Software source code
Users guide
Fully assembled capture system
Fully assembled/installed analysis system

3 System Specifications

3.1 Setup

3.1.1 Maximum Time Required

Priority Level: MEDIUM

The maximum time required to prepare the capture system for recording shall not exceed 5 minutes. This requirement exists to ensure that setting up the system does not interfere with class time.

This requirement will be verified through a demonstration of a third party setting up the system in fewer than 5 minutes.

3.2 Capabilities

3.2.1 Information Capture

Priority Level: HIGH

The ProPANE system shall capture all of the information written on a board and within the capture field provided that there exists a clear line of sight from the capture device to the information for a minimum of 5 continuous seconds. This requirement exists to ensure that no information is lost.

This requirement will be verified through a test of covering a portion of a board for all but 5 seconds and ensuring that the system captured all of the board.

3.3 Operating Specifications

3.3.1 Minimum Distance from Board

Priority Level: HIGH

The minimum operating distance from board for the capture system shall not exceed 220 inches. This requirement exists to insure that the capture system can be used in the majority of rooms in the Dana Engineering and Breakiron buildings on the campus of Bucknell University.

This requirement will be verified through an examination of the "Operating Parameters" section of the user manual and determining that the minimum operating distance is no greater than 220 inches.

3.3.2 Maximum Distance from Board

Priority Level: HIGH

The maximum operating distance from board for the capture system shall not be less than 60 inches. This requirement exists to insure that the capture system can be used in the majority of rooms in the Dana Engineering and Breakiron buildings on the campus of Bucknell University.

This requirement will be verified through an examination of the "Operating Parameters" section of the user manual and determining that the minimum operating distance is no less than 60 inches.

4 Hardware Specifications

4.1 Dimensions

4.1.1 Maximum Weight

Priority Level: MEDIUM

The total weight of the capture device shall not exceed 2.5 kg. This requirement exists to maintain the goal of portability. Professors must be able to carry the device to classes and weight should not be an issue.

This requirement will be tested by weighing the system and verifying that its weight is less than 2.5 kg.

4.1.2 Maximum Size

Priority Level: MEDIUM

The capture device shall fit inside of a cube with 0.75 m sides in its most collapsed and fully assembled state. This requirement exists to maintain the goal of portability. Professors must be able to carry the device through door frames.

This requirement will be tested by ensuring that the final product can fit inside of a box with 0.75 m sides.

5 Software Specifications

5.1 Operating System

5.1.1 Analysis System

Priority Level: LOW

The analysis system shall support the Ubuntu 10.04 operating system. This requirement exists to ensure that the software can be run on a free-of-cost operating system.

This requirement will be verified by developing the analysis system on the Ubuntu 10.04 operating system.

5.2 File Formats

5.2.1 Proprietary Formats

Priority Level: LOW

The ProPANE system shall generate images that are in an open format (no proprietary formats). This requirement exists to ensure that the images can be viewed with free-of-cost software.

This requirement will be verified by demonstrating that the output file formats are in an open format.

5.2.2 Editable

Priority Level: HIGH

The images generated by the ProPANE system shall be editable—to the extent of rotating and cropping—through the use of a free-from-cost editor. This requirement exists to ensure that professors have the ability to share selected portions of the captured images with their classes.

This requirement will be verified through a demonstration of image rotation and cropping utilizing a free image editor.

6 Interface Specifications

6.1 Capture System

6.1.1 Starting Mechanism

Priority Level: LOW

The mechanism for starting the capture system shall be simple enough to use as to require no special training aside from reading the user manual. This requirement exists to ensure that any professor will have the ability to use the system.

This requirement will be verified by having a third party with no special training start the capture system with only the help of the user manual

6.1.2 Stopping Mechanism

Priority Level: LOW

The mechanism for stopping the capture system shall be simple enough to use as to require no

special training aside from reading the user manual. This requirement exists to ensure that any professor will have the ability to use the system.

This requirement will be verified by having a third party with no special training start the capture system with only the help of the user manual

6.2 Analysis System

6.2.1 Image Browsing

Priority Level: HIGH

The analysis system shall provide a mechanism for accessing the identified key images. This requirement exists to ensure that the end user does not have to browse all of the images taken to find the key images by hand.

This requirement will be verified through a demonstration of the system showing that key images were identified and referenced in some fashion.

6.2.2 Export System

Priority Level: HIGH

The analysis system shall provide a graphical interface for exporting image files to a specified location. This requirement exists to ensure that the images can be shared without difficulty.

This requirement will be verified through a demonstration of the system showing that images can be exported to a specified folder.

7 Additional Features

This section contains a collection of features that are not required for the ProPANE project, but have been formally requested by the clients for the next iteration of the project.

7.1 Boards

7.1.1 Multiple Boards

The ProPANE system shall be able to capture information from more than one board in a classroom.

7.1.2 Blackboards

The ProPANE system shall be effective for capturing information on blackboards as well as whiteboards.

7.2 Interface

7.2.1 Browsing

The ProPANE system shall provide an interface for browsing collected images.

7.2.2 Editing

The ProPANE system interface shall provide features for image editing.

7.3 Corrective Measures

7.3.1 Skewing

The ProPANE analysis system shall correct images for off-center viewing angles.

7.3.2 Color

The ProPANE analysis system shall alter images to make the board appear to be a single color set apart from the writing.