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**The notifiers**

**Version 1.0**

**IUNotifier Application**

**Vision and Scope**

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# **Problem Statement**

## **Background**

In the recent years, along with the development of information technologies, the Internet and telecommunications (3G, 4G), the mobile technology is enjoying a boom. The world has entered the post-PC era leading by mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. These post-PC devices emphasize on the portability of mobile applications and cross-platform web applications. Unlike traditional computers which are having long boot up time, smartphones and tablets are fast and always ready. In addition, with the help of 3G and 4G network, users can connect to the Internet anywhere, anytime.

The mobile technology is truly a revolution as it changes the way we obtain the information. Daily news, announcement, mails and all kinds of information are now pushed to us automatically. The time when we have to open websites every day is long gone. Mobile applications such as Flipboard, Google Currents and Pulse on Android and iOS automatically update news from many websites, including online newspaper, magazine, and social networks (Facebook and Twitter), so users do not have to go through each of them. Many organizations, company, and famous universities have already taken advantage of this feature to create a new way to broadcast information. Students now can receive daily notifications about learning materials and news and events happening around the campus.

However, in Vietnam, mobile technology is still a new field, so such tool of info transmission is unavailable. Many universities, including The Ho Chi Minh International University (HCMIU), has been developing many mobile applications, nevertheless, they are simple application like dictionary, bus route and mostly games. Even for HCMIU, which has a reputation for applying new technologies in teaching and management, still hasn’t utilized mobile technology to create a low cost broadcast system. The current information transmission system in HCMIU has 2 main disadvantages, which are:

* HCMIU has the advanced and sophisticated network, which is the main channel providing information for students. However, HCMIU network has a lot of websites like IUPortal and Edusoft, plus other websites for each departments, so checking news is time consuming. Furthermore, the student forum IUCommunity is also deserted, since not all students use the website regularly.
* The quick announcements broadcasting is inefficient and inconvenient. Like most universities in Ho Chi Minh City, HCMIU is still using the traditional notice boards as the main source of announcements and events. In addition, IU is located in the outskirt of Ho Chi Minh City. Imagine that students has to travel a long way to school just to get a little notice, e.g. class cancellation. This brings frustration to students, which will eventually lower the university reputation.

Therefore, as one of the students of HCMIU, we acknowledge of the problem and we want to solve it using the advantages of the mobile technology. Since a lot of students at HCMIU has smartphones or tablets and no one has use these devices as an information transmission tool. We will create a mobile application “IUNotifier” as the one-stop application that delivers all HCMIU news and information. With this application, everyone will always be connected to the latest news and events in the palm of their hands. Students will always be up-to-date with the latest announcements.

## **Stakeholders**

There are many stakeholders involve with IUNotifier application, which are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Type | Description |
| 1 | Customer:  Dr. Phan Viet Hoang | The one who will purchase for the product and introduce it to the people at IU. |
| 2 | Teachers and staffs | * One of the main users. * Obtain news and information. * Push announcements, such as: classroom change, class cancellation, incoming quiz, etc. |
| 3 | Students | * One of the main users. * Obtain news, information and announcements daily. * Check out the upcoming events. |
| 4 | Guests and new students | * One of the potential users. * Obtain useful information about IU. |
| 5 | IU Information Department | * The official student department that is in charge of broadcasting information and news. * Gather all information and news in IU and provide them to other students using IUNotifier application. |

## **Users**

The ones who mostly benefit from IUNotifier application are IU teachers, staff and students.

* Student as a subscriber can use IUNotifier to check out announcements every morning before going to school, e.g. class cancellation. They will not miss any exciting events with the help of the events notification feature.
* Teachers and university’s staffs can use IUNotifier as a tool to broadcast news, quick announcements, material… to all subscribers of the IUNotifier application.
* IU Information Department’s staffs can use IUNotifier as a tool to broadcast news, incoming events to the subscribers of the IUNotifer application.

## **Risks**

Software projects always face risks, and our IUNotifier application project is not an exception. At the moment that this document is created, our group has only analyzed some major risks:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Risks | Description |
| 1 | Team members lack of experience on the working field. | Team members haven’t done any mobile development before. |
| 2 | Team members lack of experience on the working platform. | Team members lack of experiences about Android programming. |
| 3 | The team get problems when designing the user interface on mobile. | Designing convenient user interface on small screen mobiles is really a challenges to the team. |
| 4 | Team members have no knowledge about the push technology. | The push technology is the most important feature of IUNotifier even though team members hasn’t done any project involving the push mechanism before. |
| 5 | Need to study other subjects at school and spend time for exercises. | Team members are still full-time students. Furthermore, all members are 4th year students so they will be busy doing the pre-thesis and thesis. |
| 6 | The project scope is too big to be completed in a limited time. | The business group identifies too many functions. |

## **Assumptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Assumptions | Description |
| 1 | Most of potential users have smartphones or tablets running on Android 2.3 or higher. | Since Android is the most popular platform, so we will mainly focus on this platform. Furthermore, the push technology only apply since Android 2.3, so old devices that running the previous version of Android will not be supported. |
| 2 | The team can learn the basic of Android in 2 weeks. | All team members are familiar with Java, which makes it easier to learn Android. |
| 3 | We can find out similar applications and study their features. |  |

# **Vision of the Solution**

## **Vision Statement**

When finished, IUNotifier will be a one-stop app that offers International University services through smartphones and tablets. The application provides on-demand access to International University news and events. Students can use IUNotifier in morning before going to school to get up to speed on the latest announcements. It will also provide a campus map, bus schedule and all emergency and non-emergency phone numbers.

## **List of Features**

IUNotifier application will mainly focus on the most basic and common features, which are the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Features | Description |
| 1 | News | Help users browse IU news, publications and past articles. |
| 2 | Events | A calendar with marked incoming events with details information. |
| 3 | Courses | Get access to your courses information, documents and latest announcements. |
| 4 | Notification Board | Show all the updates from news, events, courses, images,…etc. |

We also lists some optional features that may be added to IUNotifier application in the future. We believe these features will enhance the users’ experiences.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Features | Description |
| 1 | Video | Watch the exciting events through videos and relive the wonderful time once again. |
| 2 | Clubs | Provide information, news, practice schedule and recruitments of all clubs in IU. |
| 3 | Interactive map | Find your exact location and locate any building nearby.  Add an interactive, self-guided tour and experience IU campus.  Show the main bus route and schedule. |
| 4 | Images | Browse and download images of IU campus, exciting events, and more. |
| 5 | Helps and Guides | Get useful guides about frequently asked questions and emergency numbers.  Find an office number with the tap of finger. |

## **Scope of phased release**

We plant to release the software in phases. Each phase will contain a set of features. For the first cycle of the project we will develop the News and Events feature. In the second cycle, we will concentrate on the Courses feature. The third cycle is optional, which we may consider developing if we have enough time.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Features | Milestones |
| 1 | News feature.  Events feature.  Notification mechanism. | Release 1.0 |
| 2 | Courses feature. | Release 1.1 |
| 3 | Help and Guides feature.  Image feature. | Release 1.2 |