NGO Information Management Suite

Feasibility Study Report

TEAM 16

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Version 1

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1. Introduction

In today's date, a lot of NGO's have been working for the betterment of the backward nomadic and denotified tribes for helping them provide an identity. But as we can see that there is no organized documentation of their work and collected information. So as to ease their work, make it public and store it for a longer period of time using the technology at our disposal, this project has been undertaken. It will focus on information management system for NGOs, paperless entry by NGO volunteer using Android application, public website of NGO and socially mapping the areas.
The aim of this feasibility report is to analyse the challenges of the project and how much and why it is feasible to implement this idea.

2. Ideas Thought On- Rejection and Finalisation

2.1. Faculty Information Management

It was about managing all information about all faculty members of our college. It proposed making a common website that contains all faculty details and automatically searches the web for updates.
Rejection Reason: This idea was not accepted because this project does not require a group of 9 members to work upon for four months and all faculty members may not like to have the same format for their personal pages and show all details as we wished to build a common platform for it.

2.2. Digitalising the Census Procedure

This project would digitalize and manage all the data collected by govt. officials at one server and analysing the data accordingly. The census form was supposed to be paperless. It would have used the government promoted Aakash tablets and would have been helpful a lot.
Rejection Reason: But, this idea was not undertaken because of the fact that a fully functional census website was there, and there were not many more features to add then on that part.

2.3. Student Application

In this idea the mail account of a student, Moodle page, online social networking sites related to studies, buying and selling of second hand books from other student etc. would get managed through a common application. The main aim was to easy the process for DA-IICT students to login at the application and automatically access all their personal accounts, somewhat similar to i.google.
Rejection Reason: This idea was rejected because of the fact that similar thing was already been done by a SEN Group last year and it would have being difficult to integrate Moodle, daiictpdc and webmail all in one.

2.4 NGO Information Management Suite

This software aims to help NGO's to manage and collect all the data from various areas of operation in real time, automate the analysis and maintain proper database.
This idea seemed the most feasible and not much work has being done in the area, so it was more relevant to take this up as SEN project.

3. Project Description

Our Project involves Information Management System for NGO, NGO's public website and a data entry application for NGO volunteer . We aim to develop a web based information management system. The IMS will be equipped with several relevant statistical analysis capabilities. The IMS is going to consist of 3 parts (both software and hardware wise):

1) Client application (which will be with the volunteers) for easy data collection and updation. This will be an android based application (can run on Aakash tablet).

2) Server application (at main centre of the NGO) for database management and analysis of the collected data.

3) Generic public website (which will be test-implemented for the client NGO) to let public view their activities and its progress via social maps; the generic format of the website gives options to customise the settings and information displayed on the website according to an organisation's specific needs.

4. Market Analysis

After talking to various NGO's and searching the Internet, we found that some NGO's have their own websites but they are not able to update it properly because of the late coming of input data from volunteers and the kind of wrong submissions they do. This kind of concept is new and is not used at least by the people we met and as much we searched on net. The idea is to send properly organized information to the NGO in real time and automate the analysis .The paperless data collection and submission by NGO volunteer would save NGO's time.

Our project includes social mapping based on people statistics and the data collected by the NGO volunteer. Social mapping would help NGO's in locating any place in the village. Presently no such software is available for any kind of NGO.

5. Feasibility

5.1. Technical

The project requires a proper analysis of inputs from NGO with some person who has knowledge of this area. The team leader has worked with social problems and has good understanding of the needs and this will be helpful in designing our product.

Also the languages needed for the 3 major subdivisions of the project are known to at least one of the team members. The coding languages and platform are the following:

Client side : Android (Android plugin in Eclipse IDE , it's like Java mostly)

Server side : MySQL

Website: HTML, CSS, Javascript

5.2. Economic

Cost based: The detailed budgeting has been provided in the proposal for the same. As in general, we need android devices (preferably Aakash tablets) for all volunteers. This would increase the cost of work in material sense but it would give correct, improved and faster information. Also, it will be possible for one volunteer to do work of three with these user friendly devices. The NGO needs to have a laptop/desktop with Internet connectivity to maintain the incoming data . They as user of the product will also have to buy a website domain, cost details of which are present in proposal. But in all it's a very economic conversion of paper work to digital information.
Time based: For this project total man-hour required according to our estimation is around 3 hrs. daily working 7 days a week for 3 months by a team of 9 members which is feasible enough.

5.3. Social

The penetration of tablets is not much though, as they have become cheaper from android phones (which is the emerging technology now), they will soon be widely used. We can do the same project even with android mobile phones which have penetrated the markets a lot by now. This kind of system may take some time to be deployed and used by the people who are sceptic about technology, but will be in demand soon, if we keep in mind all user requirements which we surely will.

5.4 Legal

We will be using a Windows OS in the laptop/desktop , so we need to buy a proprietary software. Also, there may be a contract with the site hosting on web, else our entire software platform is open source, so no other legal issues.

8. Team Capabilities

8.1. Strengths

All team members are eager to learn about the needs for this product and do field work and simultaneously learn new coding languages. Many team members know basics of website development languages like HTML, Javasript, CSS, Jquery, PHP and MySQL and a few also have knowledge of Android. Three of our team members were ex-group leaders in previous course projects and know the importance of team work, planning and organization.

8.2. Weakness

Only few team members have previous software development experience. Therefore this is the first complete software development for many of us.