AppRumen

1. Concept: This application is developed as a collaborative brainstorming tool for creating new apps that may, in a broad sense, benefit dairy producers and consumers. From a Dairy Extension’s perspective, the app is partly motivated by the need to gain experience with managing user interactions through design and user engagement. Certainly, we expect great ideas discussed in this platform will lead into the actual development of apps. This application is initially targeted for student users, who could benefit from the opportunity to collaborate with one another and contribute to various dairy stakeholders.

Status: Very Preliminary

2. Goals:

* Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation among users in the targeted area of dairy-oriented app development
* Connect users of similar interests and ideas
* Inspire users to build apps!

3. Design

A. User-Interface:

Components:

The app consists of the following UI panes:

* All Posts: filters, sorts, and displays existing “posts” (user-generated ideas for apps) and lets the user comment on those posts and update his/her own posts in the subpanel Details
* My Posts: lets the user view his/her posts and post a new idea for an app
* People: filters, sorts, and displays existing user profiles and lets the user view their profiles, follow their posts, and send messages in the subpanel Details
* Table View: displays the data of existing posts and users in the table format
* Messages: lets the user read and write messages
* About: lists credits and contact information etc.

Interactions:

The entire UI is built on a dashboard-format platform. To post, edit, or comment, the user must sign in through a user-authentication process (currently via Google account). The dashboard has a notification feature that notifies the user on the comments he/she received on his posts and the update status of the posts he/she is following etc. (UNDER DEVELOPMENT).

The user browses recent posts or posts on certain topics and provides comments. He/she may also post a new idea. The text box for describing the idea has an upper limit (e.g., 250 words) so as to encourage the user to communicate the idea concisely.

The user is expected to update his/her post after several comments accumulate. When updated, the comments on this post will be moved to archive, giving a fresh look on the updated post. In this way, the app intends to avoid the long and endless accumulation of comments that make it distracting for future viewers from the owner’s idea. Eventually, the owner of the post is responsible for changing the post’s status from active to either completed, resolved, or discontinued.

The design should ensure that the user effortlessly and intuitively browses between posts and users, comments, and edits posts.

B. Server:

Components:

“session\_populate.R”: populates All Posts and People pane with posts and users.

“session\_post\_comment.R”: processes new posts and comments

“session\_details\_edit.R”: renders the selected post and processes the updates of post

“session\_user\_edit.R”: processes the updates of user profile

“session\_notification.R”: creates user notification at the top of the dashboard app (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)

“session\_misc.R”: deals with user authentication etc.

Interactions:

Databases: The app reads and writes databases (MongoDB) in mongolab.com.

4. Coding Notes: