



Master of Professional Studies in Information Science

Sponsored Project Proposal Form – Spring 2018

Please complete the following project proposal form to sponsor an MPS Project. This form will be used to determine if your project is appropriate for MPS students and whether it is of sufficient scope for a semester long project (~400-500 person-hours). We will assign teams with complementary skills based on the skills and experience you list in this form. We will also share most of this form with the students to help them make their top project choices before we assign the projects.

Please direct any questions to the MPS Project Coordinator: is-mps-projects@cornell.edu

Sponsor Name	Acquia			Date	12/11/2017	
Contact Name(s)	Ted Bowman	Email(s)	ted.bowman@acquia.com		Phone	607-793-6608
Description of the Sponsor						
Acquia provides the leading cloud platform for building, delivering, and optimizing digital experiences. Acquia provides software-as-a-service enterprise products, services, and technical support for the open-source web content management platform Drupal.						
Acquia's Office of the CTO(OCTO) is lead by Dries Buytraert, the Drupal project lead and founder, and is focused on helping maintain and develop Drupal.						
Please indicate which academic year and semester you would like to propose your project.						
Year	2018	Semester	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring			
Project Title						
Measuring Contributor engagement on Drupal.org						
Project Goal or Description						
Drupal is a content management system that powers over a million websites including whitehouse.gov and weather.com. Drupal and the surrounding software ecosystem are developed by over 100,000 contributors on the drupal.org website. Drupal.org has over 15 years of project issue data containing both code changes and the user interactions associated with the changes. The aim of this project is to analyze this data to provide meaningful insight into patterns of contributor interaction, engagement, and retention.						
Part of the project would be to formulate meaningful questions but some example questions could be:						
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How long does the average contributor remain active in the community?2. What factors lead to contributors staying involved in the community?3. What factors lead to contributors taking on more complex tasks?						
What activities are necessary to achieve the project goal?						
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Extraction of data from the drupal.org issue queues(for example: https://www.drupal.org/project/issues/drupal)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. A data export may be available but depends on resources from the Drupal Association which may not be available.2. Conversion of data from drupal.org into a searchable database for analysis.3. Analysis of issue queue data4. (optional) Discourse analysis of issue interactions.						

<p>What outcome would determine that the project is a success? Do you expect specific deliverables?</p> <p>The project would be considered a success if the data analysis was able to point to any factors that lead contributors to the Drupal ecosystem staying involved and/or become involved in more complex coding or support tasks.</p> <p>Deliverables from the project would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extracted drupal.org issue queue data(if not available from the Drupal Association). 2. Details on methods used to analyze the data. 3. A report with the findings from the data analysis.
<p>What are the skills and experience must the students already know to start work on the project? Please be specific and keep in mind that students will be building their skills during the duration of the project.</p> <p>Experience analyzing large datasets.</p>
<p>What are the skills and experience required to complete the project that the students may learn while completing the project?</p> <p>Extracting data from a website. (optional) Automated discourse analysis.</p>
<p>The project representative must be available 30 minutes per week for status reports, the interim report, and the final presentation. As the project sponsor, are you able to make this time commitment?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please elaborate.</p>
<p>I will be able to spend at least 30 minutes a week.</p>
<p>Some sponsors may choose to spend additional time with the student teams, e.g. phone contacts for monthly status discussions, reviewing research results, providing midpoint project feedback, and offering input to the final deliverables in advance of its completion. As the project sponsor, are you available to participate in these or any additional activities?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please elaborate.</p>
<p>I live in Ithaca. I will be available on the phone or in person for monthly status discussions. I will also be available, time permitting, via chat for more immediate feedback.</p>
<p>The project representative needs to facilitate access to company resources as needed and approve expenses. As the project sponsor, are you able to facilitate access to such resources, should the need come up?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please elaborate.</p>
<p>The data that will be analyzed is publically available. I don't foresee company resources, except my time, being needed. I will also help connect the students to other members of Acquia's OCTO and the larger Drupal community who may be interested in this project.</p>
<p>Please consider other contributions listed below. Are you willing to make these contributions? (check all that apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide existing industry and company data as background at the beginning of the project.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pay one or more team members to travel to your location for initial briefing / work session / final presentation.</p> <p>Please elaborate.</p>
<p>I can provide background on Acquia, the Drupal project, and the content management space in general.</p> <p>Our team is remote but I will most likely be able attend to the project's final presentation at Cornell.</p>
<p>Please send your completed project proposal to the MPS Project Coordinator: is-mps-projects@cornell.edu</p>

