



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						
User experience testing for Drupal's new Layout Builder						
Project Goal or Description						
Drupal is a content management system that powers over a million websites including whitehouse.gov and weather.com. Drupal currently does not have a visual layout builder as part of Drupal core(the main Drupal project). Members of the Acquia's OCTO department along with others in the Drupal community are currently developing an experimental module that will add a Layout builder to Drupal.						
Early prototype: https://youtu.be/Hx4EEzI7aNE						
The Layout Builder will allow users to visually construct the layout and contents of a page. This will include one of kind landing pages and also layout patterns based on content types such as blog posts, galleries, and user profiles.						
This project will provide user experience testing and evaluation for this Layout Builder as well provide designs or prototypes for improvements to the Layout Builder. This will include:						
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine if users can perform tasks using the Layout Builder:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Create Landing Pagesb. Create layout patterns for content typesc. Arrange content type fields into a given layoutd. Edit existing layouts2. Determine if users understand basic concepts of the layout builder<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The differences between landing pages and content type layoutsb. Changes made to content layouts will affect all content of the type and not just the current page3. Provide a prototype or design for an improved Layout Builder based on the user experience testing.						

What activities are necessary to achieve the project goal?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Research into other visual layout builders.2. Conduct user experience testing with the new Layout builder module.3. Provide actionable feedback to the developers of the module.4. Provide recommendations for changes to the Layout Builder.

1. Research into other visual layout builders.
2. Conduct user experience testing with the new Layout builder module.
3. Provide actionable feedback to the developers of the module.
4. Provide recommendations for changes to the Layout Builder.

<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 it was able to provide feedback from users testing the new Layout Builder.</p> <p>Deliverables from the project would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of problems users experienced while trying complete tasks with the Layout Builder 2. Suggestions for improvements to the Layout Builder 3. Examples of improvements to the current Layout Builder design which could include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mockups b. Example designs c. Functional prototypes
<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>General familiarity with tools that allow users to build websites visually with coding. Basics of conducting user experience research.</p>
<p>What are the skills and experience required to complete the project that the students may learn while completing the project?</p> <p>Ability to conduct user experience studies.</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? <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? <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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please elaborate.</p> <p>The new module is being developed publically on Drupal.org. 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>I will help facilitate access to testers from inside Acquia as well as Drupal users from the larger Drupal community.</p>
<p>Please consider other contributions listed below. Are you willing to make these contributions? (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide existing industry and company data as background at the beginning of the project. <input type="checkbox"/> Pay one or more team members to travel to your location for initial briefing / work session / final presentation. Please elaborate.</p> <p>I can provide background on Acquia, the Drupal project, and the content management space in general.</p>

Our team is remote but I will most likely be able attend to the project's final presentation at Cornell.

Please send your completed project proposal to the MPS Project Coordinator: is-mps-projects@cornell.edu

