



UW Blueprint

Tech for non-profits,
built by students

Outreach Document

Updated Oct 16, 2016



Introduction

Who we are

UW Blueprint is a group of students at the University of Waterloo dedicated to building technology for social good. We partner with nonprofits to provide technology services such as websites, mobile applications, analysis tools – free of charge.

*There are currently
15 members in our
UW chapter.*

Blueprint was founded in 2013 at UC Berkeley. The University of Waterloo is the first Blueprint chapter outside of UC Berkeley.

Mission

Blueprint's mission is to make beautiful engineering accessible and useful for those who create communities and promote public welfare.

We care about social good

We believe that tech can have a large impact on the world and we want it to be a positive one. We take on projects that help a cause we genuinely care about, because we want to build things that matter.

*If you're totally
disconnected from the
hearts and stories of the
people you're building
for, there's always going
to be something missing.*

Decision Criteria

We want to help as many organizations as we possibly can. Unfortunately, we cannot take every project because of the large amount of resources each one requires. These are the primary criteria we use to determine project fit:

- 1. Impact**

How much will the project impact the community? Although there is no exact measure for this, Blueprint generally prefers to take on projects that will provide the maximal benefit to its target community. Note that this does not necessarily mean that it affects the most people. A project that is hugely helpful to a small number of people may have more “impact” than one that is minimally beneficial to a much larger number of people.
- 2. Necessity**

How vital is the project to the non-profit organization, and does the organization have other means to complete the project? Blueprint can only work with a limited number of nonprofits each semester, and the services Blueprint provides are extremely valuable. Therefore, Blueprint tries to work with nonprofits that genuinely need its help and do not possess the resources to seek alternative options.
- 3. Scope**

Is your project achievable within the allotted timeline? Nonprofits often propose projects that are either too large or too small for the the allotted timeline. Completing a project that meets Blueprint’s high standards in a timely manner is very important.
- 4. Technical Fit**

Does your project use the capabilities of technology? For example, an application to manage a classroom is more interesting than a website redesign.
- 5. Credibility**

Is there evidence that your project will have an impact? Does the nonprofit have any data or history to show how this project will be helpful?

Timeline

UW Blueprint works in phases, an initial phase and three four-month phases. We choose four month phases because it matches up with a Waterloo school term.

1

PHASE ONE

NGO & team lead project scope discussion

Blueprint works with the non profit to focus the project idea and scope out an MVP – or a minimal viable product. This is the absolute minimum that is necessary for the project to be useful. Upon identifying the MVP, the project leader will write it up in a statement of work given to the nonprofit.

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PHASE TWO

Building the MVP (Minimum Viable Product)

This phase covers a four month period where intensive development is done on the MVP. The goal is to have a completed MVP at the end of the four months, ready for user testing.

3

PHASE THREE

User testing

This phase covers another four month period where Blueprint takes a more hands off approach to see how the product is received. Common bugs and friction with the product is noted. Any problems that break the product are fixed, but generally not much development happens during this time frame.

4

PHASE FOUR

Product polish and hand-off

This phase again involves intensive development. The bugs and friction identified during phase 3 are fixed during this four-month time period. Blueprint also meets with the non profit to hand off the product to them, and figure out how maintenance of the product is to be handled.

FAQ

Q: How often do project teams and nonprofits meet?

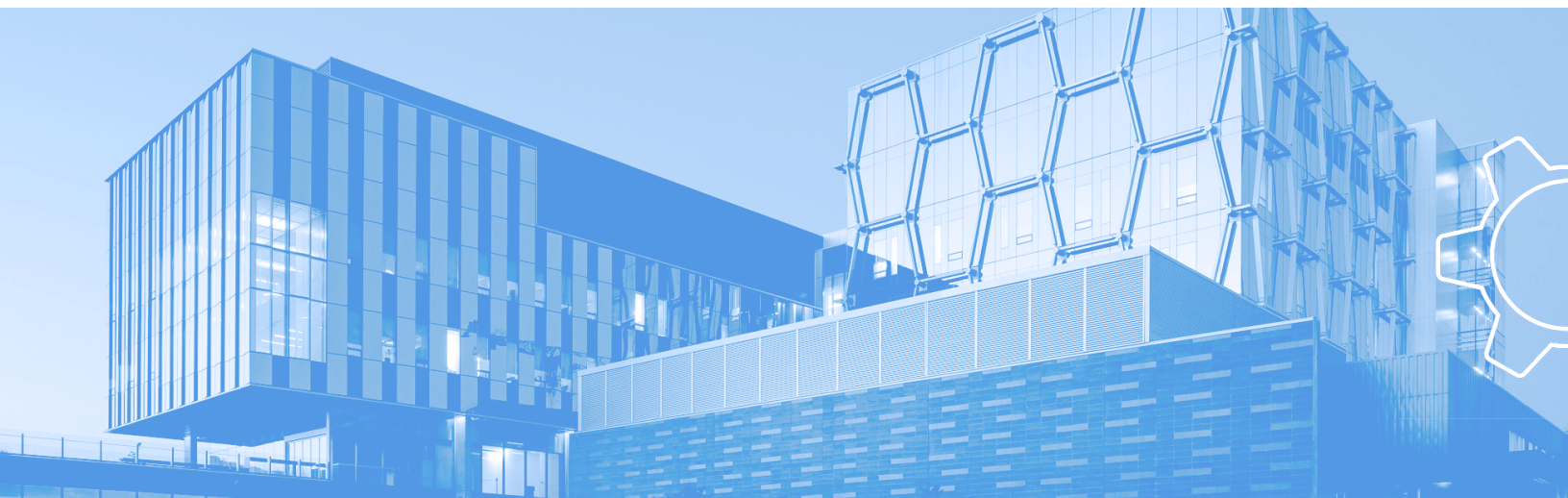
A: The client and the project leader meet on a weekly or biweekly basis to ensure the project's progress. There are project scoping meetings with the project leader at the start of the project, a formal midpoint presentation and a final presentation where the project is delivered.

Q: What is the client-team interaction like?

A: The team works alongside the client's vision for the organization. We hope that our project has significant impact on the organization's efficiency and reach, so the alignment of goals is crucial. At our meetings, we discuss updates on project features, check the timeline, and have discussion on the progress of the project and the nonprofit itself.

Q: How does Blueprint ensure success?

A: Our club recruits the brightest and most hard-working students at uWaterloo, a school known for our engineering and computer science programs. Through effective leadership and frequent check-ins with our clients we hope that the combination of talent, dedication, and care will result in a project that benefits your organization.



Talk to us!

Email	uwblueprint@gmail.com
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