Group 12 Bi-Weekly Report

Blurb of the Project:

"London Cancer is the integrated cancer system serving North East & Central London and West Essex. The website for London Cancer (londoncancer.org) is in need of an update in terms of content and build. The site currently doesn't work on all devices and has content dating back to 2013.

We would like the site to be rebuilt so that both of these issues are addressed. The site should look similar in design and fit London Cancer branding (to be provided by UCLPartners), it should work for IE8+ and use WordPress as its CMS. By October we will have a finalised site map and begin creating the new content."

Group Progress

So far we have scheduled a meeting with client on Tuesday 20th October 2015, and confirmed Zheng Gao will be our Teaching Assistant for this project. We have also started research on the WordPress Content Management System as well as understanding how to create a responsive website.

Group Plan: 16th October - 30th October

After meeting our client on October 20th, we will work together to create a detailed specification of what is required for the site, specifically its page structure and look to agree on milestones to be able to measure progress.

Three things we want to focus on:
1) The sites structure: what pages are needed, the hierachy of those pages, and how the user will navigate to view these pages.
2) The sites content: what content is being kept, updated or removed, what content is 'dynamic'
3) The technical skills needed to develop the site

Site Structure & Content

It will be important to have a full understanding of the pages that are required by London Cancer, and the content on the current they want to keep, update or remove. It's mentioned that some content is outdated, and we will need to be thorough to understand to ensure that the content on the new website is correct.

Furthermore, we expect our client to want to be able to easily update the website through the use of WordPress, however we will need to know which additional functionality the site requires. For example, being able to add events, or the Find a Hospital search function that are both currently present on the 'old' website. Understanding which of these functionalities are required will be important since they are more custom and hence will have a larger technical investment.

Site Design

Once we have received the London Cancer branding from UCL Partners we will work to develop the initial design of the site. However it is unclear as of yet when we will receive the branding, and will be something to bring up in our client meeting.

Technical Skills

Since WordPress is the client's CMS of choice, we will evaluate the best way to learn how to develop the site using WordPress collaboratively through a version control system, probably git. WordPress is a CMS system that uses substantial use of the PHP programming language alongside the MySQL database. A key part of our ability to deliver will require a fundamental understanding of these technical skills, therefore we will spend time familiarising ourselves before we engage in developing the site.

Moreover, it seems that having the website work responsively on all devices will require significant time and investment in understanding Front-End development, specifically the HTML5 and CSS which so far includes understanding of the viewport meta tag and media queries.

We envision our plan to perhaps change after our first meeting depending on the client's priorities.

Work Done

Yun: This week I have mainly responded to contact our client and TAs in order to schedule the first meeting with our client.
Henry: Has researched WordPress development and responsive design as well as the scope of the current site which is detailed in Group Plan.