

Dublin City University - School of Computing

BSc in Enterprise Computing
4th year project proposal (CA472)
Idea Proposal
2014/2015

Updated November 2014

Student name	Student Number
Clare Faughey	11715049
Nikita Puri	10366791

Project Title:

Pre-Positions4U Application

Date:

6th November 2014

Is the proposal for a Prototype or a Proof-of-Concept:

This proposal for the Pre-Positions4U application will be a prototype. It will assist with the comprehension of preposition usage within the English language. This application will provide an interactive and stimulating approach to the identification and correct placement of prepositions in an English language sentence.

The Project Idea/Concept (1 page max):

Include a brief summary of the project idea and describe why you chose this project? Please provide enough detail so that a reader can understand your concept without needing additional explanation.

This project aims to develop a prototype for a mobile/tablet application to assist adult learners in the understanding of the English language. This application will focus on the area that causes the most complexity for learners of English as a second language; this being choosing the right preposition. Examples of prepositions are displayed below:

Preposition of Place (e.g. **on, in, below, above, under, with, between**)

Preposition of Time (e.g. **before, in, at, on, after, during, since**)

Preposition of Direction (e.g. **into, in, towards, beyond**)

This application would be of great assistance to learners of English, as this is the most difficult aspect of English and prepositional usage is not well-defined in learning materials. It can be construed that the choice of preposition frequently relies not on literal meaning but depends on knowledge of language idioms. This can only be fully understood by an English speaking person but assistance needs to be given for those who wish to learn English as a foreign language.

For example, beginner learners of English may find it difficult to choose between *at, in, on* and *to* in the following sentences:

She always goes __ bed __ midnight

James will see them __ January

They arrived __ the concert __ time

Peter wants to go __ Prague next year

This application will allow the user to choose from categories such as travel, sport and so on. Sentences will then be displayed for them to complete using any of the 150 English prepositions available to them. They can keep track of their score and the sentences will become more difficult as the learner improves.

We have chosen this project as we both have an interest in teaching and developing this application will provide us with an opportunity to pursue that interest while also making use of our skills gained while studying for this Enterprise Computing Degree.

The Expected Project Delivery (1/2 page max):

For this project, what do you intend to deliver?

For this project we intend to deliver a prototype of the application that can be used on Android devices. The application should function flawlessly, will be elegantly designed and will focus only on prepositions. Also work will be done to prepare a website that will give details for downloading this application.

A preposition is "A word used with a noun or pronoun to show place, time or method" (*Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd Edition 2006*)

With English being recognised as the global business language and modern communications being so accessible to all, there is a growing need for adults to gain an understanding of the English language more efficiently and effectively than before. This generates the demand for an application that provides an easy to understand way of looking at prepositions. "It has been estimated that over a billion people are using or learning English as a second or foreign language, and the numbers are growing not only for English but for other languages as well. These language learners provide a burgeoning market for tools that help identify and correct learners' writing errors. Unfortunately, the errors targeted by typical commercial proofreading tools do not include those aspects of a second language that are hardest to learn." (*Leacock, Chodorow, Gamon, & Tetreault*).

The Reason why this Project has a Market (1 page max):

Include a brief summary of the market for project outcomes, as well as who the potential users would be. Suggest how you intend to validate this market.

The philosophy adopted for this final year project is "Do not try to do everything, do one thing well" (*Steve Jobs*).

The reason this project has a market is because there is a lack of real world applications addressing the understanding of prepositions. Incorrect choice of prepositions represent the most common mistakes made by learners of English and this application should therefore be a popular 'go to' source of learning.

This application will be catered to adults and their difficulty understanding the correct flow of a sentence. It will also give these learners ample examples for them to practice when learning English. This is an aspect of the English learner domain that is proven to be in particular need of recognition and assistance.

It is becoming increasingly evident that these language learners, who are growing in numbers, need assistance with this aspect of their second language as it proves the most difficult part of the language to learn.

Understanding of where and when to make accurate use of prepositions, be it preposition of place, direction or time is very difficult to find in text books. Using interactive methods with bespoke areas of interest for the learner will help them develop an appreciation and complete understanding of how to speak and write correct English.

While alternative applications focus on other areas such as articles and collocations, this application will solely focus on developing a complete understanding of prepositions. This application could be used as a template for future development into those other areas mentioned. There are also idiosyncrasies within other languages and perhaps this application could be developed as a language learning tool for those languages also.

The other applications available are quite simple and are catered to children. Alternative applications that are available are concentrating on the occasional traveler who may need some English phrases to keep them going while traveling to an English speaking country. There are many people currently learning English in the world and a huge majority of these are adults.

Validation of this market will be addressed through the cooperation of a language school for their own English learners to make use of the application and give their feedback on the applications effectiveness.

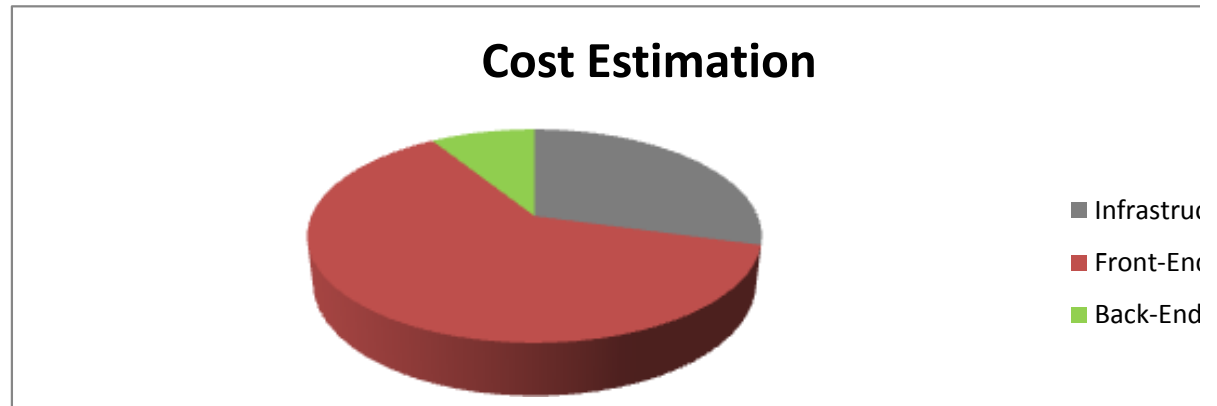
The Estimated Costs of getting the Idea to Market (max 1/2 page):

Please outline the costs of getting your idea to market. Please include all reasonable costs that you anticipate, including staffing an adequate team.

Team Composition

iOS Developer:	1 developer at €400 per day
Android Developer:	1 developer at €400 per day
Graphic Designer:	1 designer at €325 per day
Project Manager:	1 manager at €400 per day
Quality Assistance:	1 quality assistance member at €300 per day

Cost Estimation Chart



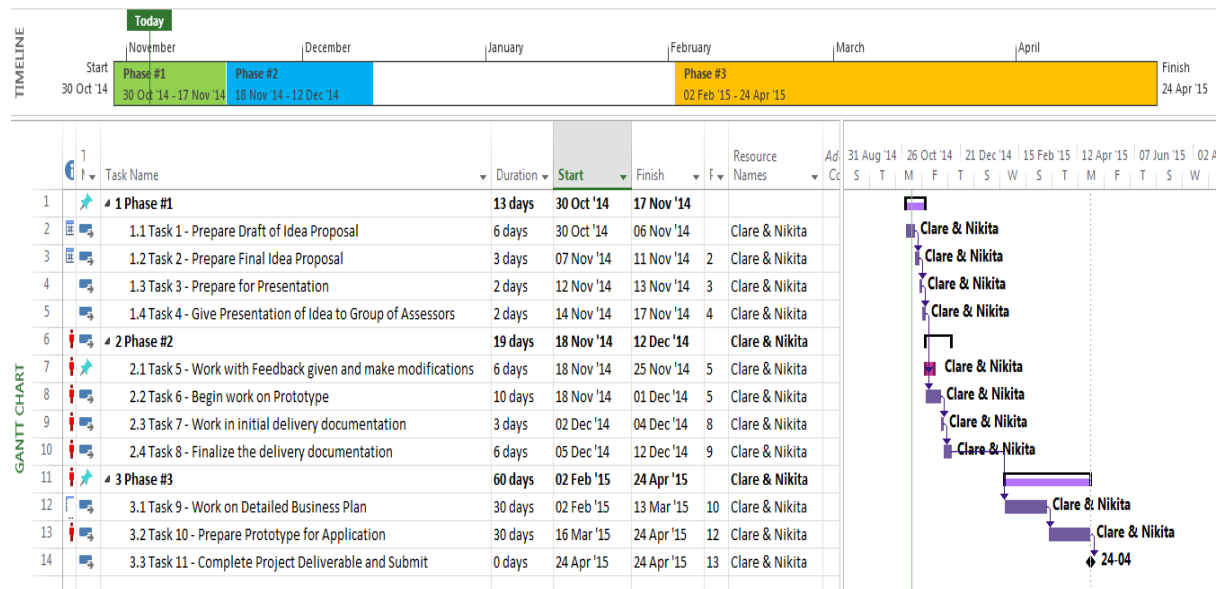
Cost Breakdown

Average cost per day: €365

Section	Days to complete	Total(€)
User Messaging & Engagement	6	2,190
Start page/Splash Screen	2	730
Data Storage	6	2,190
App Security and Distribution	2	730
User Experience	5	1,825
Login/User Management	17	6,205
Social	10	3,650
Number of Pages	56	20,440
User Management	5	1,825
Data Storage	1	365
Custom Business Logic	7	2,555
Lifecycle Management	2	730
Infrastructure	-	18,000
Total		€61,435

Proposed Timeline (1 page max):

Please provide a basic timeline plan for the project from now, until the end of semester 2. What are the tasks that need to be addressed and who will take responsibility for them?



MS Project has been resourced and installed for developing this application, above is a basic timeline prepared for this current project.

Workload Distribution (for teams with 2+ members):

How will the workload be distributed? Technical and Commercial components? Bullet point listing is adequate.

- Clare Faughey
 - Project Management
 - Database & Website Development
 - Marketing & Administration
- Nikita Puri
 - Java Development
 - Application Prototype
 - Marketing & Administration

Bibliography:

Automated Grammatical Error Detection for Language Learners, Second Edition, Claudia Leacock, Martin Chodorow, Michael Gamon, and Joel Tetreault (2010)
 Quote regarding Preposition taken from the Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd Edition (2006)