

Statement of Work

An Drochaid Eadarainn

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Why are we here?

“An Drochaid Eadarainn” is a web community that focuses on keeping Gaelic culture alive throughout the province of Nova Scotia. It does so by providing its users with important Gaelic historical content such as music, photographs, and stories to always remind its descendants of past but not forgotten times. It allows users to interact by commenting on existing content or by uploading their own stories to the ‘Living Bridge’.

Our team intends to improve the present working conditions of the “An Drochaid Eadarainn” website, which currently contains organization and navigation issues. With these concerns identified, our main objective with this project is to achieve a more straightforward and efficient web page, as well as improve user experience through redesigned navigation. Fewer clicks to get to a desired location would, for example, be an improvement as far as navigation is concerned.

The client’s presentation guided us towards a deeper understanding of the issues with the current version of the website. We concluded that a better-organized scheme for its historic content would be of benefit to our client and the users of “An Drochaid Eadarainn”. A better structured scheme for content such as songs and stories would shorten search time, which contributes to higher efficiency within the webpage. Making such changes would also fulfill our client’s desire to achieve ease when browsing.

Short Pitch

For the public who are interested in learning and/or connecting with the Nova Scotia Gaelic community, the website “An Drochaid Eadarainn” is a social platform and information hub for the Gaelic community that aggregates authentic cultural content to inform and connect individuals.

Unlike the current version of *An Drochaid Eadarainn* website, our changes will provide more intuitive navigation for Gaelic and Non-Gaelic speakers and improved organization of cultural content with an update to the CMS Drupal, and an overhaul of user navigation features.

Project Benefits

Progress made during the term of our project may allow the administrators of “An Drochaid Eadarainn” to pursue further improvements to the website through future user testing and addition of new features. Some of the main benefits that will come out of this project are:

- Gaelic speaking users will be able to find cultural content they are searching for in a maximum of three clicks.
- Non-Gaelic speakers will be able to explore the site and learn about Gaelic culture by choosing to navigate the website in English or French.
- All users will be able to select the cultural content (songs, stories, etc) from a new grid style layout of content.
- Website administrators will be able to easily maintain the website because of longevity provided by the Drupal upgrade.

Project scope

In Scope	Out of Scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drupal upgrade- Working with the client to provide ease of access to information for Non-Gaelic speakers- Overall improvement of navigation so a user can reach content they are searching for in 3 clicks- Organize content (songs, stories) etc in a grid/library format rather than having to page through each item- Develop a list of suggestions to further improve the usability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community testing- Adding additional interactive features to the Living Bridge (virtual ceilidh)
Unresolved	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A mobile friendly (scalable) version of the site available from smartphones and tablets	

Key Stakeholders

The primary users of “An Drochaid Eadarainn” will be Gaelic individuals wanting to learn and connect with the rest of the Nova Scotia Gaelic community. “An Drochaid Eadarainn” was designed as a hub for sharing content as well as appreciating content posted by the administrators. Primary users will likely have some idea of the content they are looking for and will be expecting efficient navigation.

The secondary users of “An Drochaid Eadarainn” will be primarily English or French speaking individuals interested in learning and researching about Nova Scotia Gaelic Culture. These users will expect to be able to explore the site without becoming blocked by language barriers associated with navigation.

NSCAD Interdisciplinary Design Professor Marlene Ivey is the contract holder for the project and will provide our group guidance with design decisions. She will act on behalf of all users during development as well as identify whether or not the final deliverable meets its intended goals.

Proposed Solution

Our proposed solution will increase the usability of the site. The idea is to help retain users by creating improvements to the navigation and display of content, and really focus on the user experience rather than implement new features.

Firstly to assist in this goal, the site requires an upgrade to Drupal 8. This helps the overarching goal by providing responsive design out of the box, making it easier to make the theme responsive. Drupal 8 is also built better to support multilingual sites, which will help our goals with updates to allow non-Gaelic speakers to navigate through the site.

The next biggest thing that needs to be refactored is how content is displayed, so that it takes less clicks and time to view all the cultural content on the site. By displaying all the content in a new grid format, a lot of the content getting overlooked due to the current format, is no longer hidden from the user. This affects all the content saved under the different Gaelic Communities in the ‘Living Traditions’ section of the site, which shows the users the culture. By making this content easily viewable, the site will succeed in sharing the culture of the Gaelic communities.

The overall theme of the website is great for representing the people and landscape, but there are aspects that need to be moved around so that the navigation itself is more intuitive. This would involve moving links like the language, the terms and conditions, and the about us link to the top of the page from the bottom. This is something that is common in most web pages and where users will expect to see these types of links.

Risks

Scope creep is the largest foreseeable risk for this project. There are many improvements that could be made to enhance the user experience of “An Drochaid Eadarainn”. Aleysha, as team lead, will take ownership of this risk and act as an advocate for the team to ensure a reasonable scope. As a team we can mitigate this risk by working with the client to prioritize improvements, and divide them into a “must have” and “would be nice” categories.

Because our team has limited experience working with Drupal, it may take longer than anticipated to perform the Drupal upgrade and other technical tasks, so falling behind schedule is a risk. The project team will take ownership and mitigate this risk by seeking technical support in advance, and by becoming familiar with Drupal 8.

Our project may also fall behind schedule because improvements to navigation that will enhance the user experience may take multiple iterations to achieve the desired effect. The project lead is responsible for monitoring the schedule and attempting to minimize the number of iterations it takes to achieve ease of user navigation by carefully analyzing existing user feedback and careful planning with the client.

The client has requested an upgrade from Drupal 6 to Drupal 8, however Drupal 8 has not been officially released. This could cause several unexpected technical difficulties during development. The project team has ownership of this risk and to mitigate it we will seek advice from a Dalhousie Faculty member which may result in an upgrade to Drupal 7 rather than Drupal 8.

Another risk is that users may feel that “An Drochaid Eadarainn” no longer is an accurate representation of Gaelic culture due to organization and updates to the layout. The team lead will take ownership of this risk and will mitigate it by working closely with the client to ensure that the website maintains its cultural integrity, and our improvements to navigation and organization are based on existing user feedback, and input from our client.

The Schedule

The week of September 28th marks the first weekly development iteration of the project. This sets the project timeline at approximately 10 weeks, with development ending on December 4th 2015. Below is a tentative schedule of development work and client meetings, items in the schedule are subject to change as the project moves forward.

Iteration Start/End	Tuesday	Thursday
Sept 27 - Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drupal upgrade 	
Oct 4 - Oct 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drupal upgrade cont'd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Meeting • Demonstrate mock-ups of improved navigation for feedback before development begins
Oct 11 - Oct 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin development on navigation and content reorganization 	
Oct 18 - Oct 24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Meeting • Demo
Oct 25 - Oct 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue development 	
Nov 1 - Nov 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Presentation 	Client Meeting
Nov 8 - Nov 13		
Nov 14 - Nov 21		Client Meeting
Nov 22 - Nov 29		
Nov 30 - Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentation 	Client Meeting

Identifying and measuring success

Our project providing upgrades to “An Drochaid Eadarainn” will be successful if the following criteria are met:

The Drupal version is successfully upgraded from Drupal 6 to the newest available version of Drupal 8, providing the client with longevity of design and implementation.

Any user is able to navigate to desired content within 3 clicks. This will indicate that the navigation has been significantly improved.

A user can see an overview of specific cultural content (eg: songs) for a particular region laid out in a grid format so that they can be precise when selecting the content they would like to learn more about.

Non-Gaelic speakers are able to explore the website without becoming blocked by language barrier because navigation throughout the website will be available in English as well.

List of team members and skills

Team Member	Relevant Skills
Aleysha Mullen - Team Lead Email: aleysha.mullen@dal.ca Phone: 902-802-7315	My co-op and relevant employment experience has been in mobile and web-development with a focus on quality management and design. I am looking forward to working on enhancing the user experience of An Drochaid Eadarainn! Some of my technical skills include: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL and some Drupal experience.
Brittany Kelly	▣My coop & job experience lies in web development. I'm comfortable doing front end ▣design (and development with HTML, CSS and JS) and have experience with PHP, Wordpress, Drupal 6 making custom modules, and very recently sass. ▣I have a lot of experience dealing with teams in a programming environment and also doing documentation and making sure project requirements are properly recorded and referred to often.
Darcy Fernando	I am glad to contribute with all the knowledge I have acquired from both java courses as well as from the website creation course. Even though I may not be an expert on a matter, I am expeditious at researching different ways for the achievement of a task.

Thomas Corkum	<p>Knowledge of database design and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding of HTML and basic web design tools (laravel & vaadin).- Experience with the agile development model from CSCI 3130 Software Engineering.
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