

Project Vision Document

Bestimator
Project Vision Document
Version 1.5
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Reviewed By	Summary of Changes
1.1	9/22/2024	All Members	All Members	Introduction, Purpose, Scope, Definitions, SWOT, Assumptions, Constraints updated
1.2	9/24/2024	All members	All members	Introduction, Definitions updated
1.3	9/26/2024	All Members	All Members	References added
1.4	9/29/2024	All Members	All Members	Stakeholders and User Descriptions, Stakeholder requirements, System Features added Definitions updated
1.5	10/1/2024	All Members	All Members	Reformat table spacing, Correct table contents

Document Approval List

Version	Approved By	Signature	Date
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Project Vision Document	Prof Laily		9/29/2024
High Level Requirements	Prof Laily		9/26/2024
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1 Introduction

Bestimator is a web app that aims to alleviate the pain points associated with quoting and material sourcing within the construction industry. Bestimator aims to directly connect consumers to vendors thereby streamlining the operations of both parties.

1.1 Purpose

We have created this document for the sake of clarity, liability, organization and expectation. This document will be used to remind ourselves of what our vision is and what needs we are to address, this will in turn help us to narrow our focus and most effectively apply our craft. By having clearly defined roles, we will know who is responsible for which part of each section of the project, this document will keep us liable in that regard. Once our ideas and outcomes are in place, this document will lead us to better implementing solutions that are iterative because we will know where to find our assumptions, our definitions, and our scope, among other things, as we've defined them. Everything mentioned above as captured in this project vision document will ultimately comprise the expectations of ourselves, each other and any other related parties.

1.2 Scope

The scope of this project encompasses the development and implementation of Bestimator, a web application designed to streamline cost estimation processes for contractors. It aims to

address key challenges in the construction industry by providing accurate material and labour cost estimates, as well as facilitating efficient sourcing of materials from optimal locations.

1.2.1 In Scope

- Development of a web application used by contractors for cost estimation
- Tracking and updating material costs and availability via API
- Functionality to source materials from optimal locations
- Inventory tracking and management system built-in
- Distance and fuel usage tracking for calculating job-specific travel costs
- User-friendly interface that is easy to use and understand

1.2.2 Out of Scope

- Mobile application development
- Accounting/bookkeeping integration
- Project management functionality
- Training program for new users

1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

This section explains all of the terms and abbreviations that are being used in this document, for those who are unfamiliar with them. Not everybody who reads this document will understand all of the terms, so this section is helpful.

Term	Explanation
Bestimator	web application designed to streamline cost estimation processes for contractors.
Estimate	outlines the expected costs for a construction or renovation project.
Quote	same as “Estimate”.
Contractor	is a professional that undertakes construction, renovation or maintenance work on behalf of their clients.
API	Application Programming Interface
User	Refers to the contractor
End User	Same as “User”
Client	Refers to the homeowner. IE, the client of the contractor.

1.4 References

Reference File Name	Version	Description
Project Summary	1.2	This document is intended to provide a summary understanding of the high-level vision of the project goals.
High Level Requirement	1.4	The High Level Requirement outlines the key features and functionalities of the project from a broad perspective. It serves as a foundational reference for stakeholders, detailing the project's objectives, scope, and critical requirements without getting into technical specifics.

This section also contains links to all other places that were referred to in this document. These may include:

- Web sites
- URLs or network locations
- Research done for similar products

Name	Link
ConstructConnect (competitor)	https://www.constructconnect.com/construction-estimating-software-subcontractor
Liongate Construction (info)	https://liongate.build/construction-finance/why-you-lose-money-on-construction-projects/
Busy Busy (statistics)	https://busybusy.com/blog/why-do-construction-companies-fail/
ConstructConnect (analytics)	https://canada.constructconnect.com/canadata/forecaster

2 Positioning

2.1 Business Opportunity

Bestimator represents a promising business opportunity by addressing key pain points in the construction industry with a solution that enhances estimation accuracy, optimizes material sourcing, and improves project management.

Its potential to deliver efficiency, accuracy and data-driven insight makes it a valuable tool for contractors looking to streamline their daily operations in order to save time and gain a competitive advantage.

2.2 Problem Statement

The Problem of	Inaccurate and time-consuming cost estimation
affects	Contractors and construction companies
the impact of which is	Reduced profitability, inefficient resource allocation, project delays, poor customer relationships
a successful solution would be	An application that provides contractors an easy way to track and estimate costs for supplies, labour, travel, and other project variables, resulting in more accurate estimates and better time/project management.

2.3 Product Position Statement

For	Contractors and construction companies
Who	Need to create accurate quotes for projects
The Bestimator app	is a comprehensive project cost estimation application
That	Streamlines the estimation process by tracking costs of supplies, labour, distance, and other project variables
Unlike	Traditional systems that are overly complicated, difficult to use, or not as comprehensive
Our product	Provides an all-in-one, user-friendly platform for creating precise and competitive bids

2.4 SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
Provide data analysis and reports	Dependence on internet connectivity
Automate estimation process	Data security vulnerabilities
Scale-able design	Dependent on third-party's data accuracy
Opportunities	Threats
Growing market	Any established competitors
Partnerships with suppliers or vendors	Economy's effect on construction industry
Subscription-based service	Data breaches
Mobile (Android and/or iOS platform)	

3 Stakeholder and User Descriptions

3.1 Stakeholder Summary

Stakeholder Name	Represents	Role
Contractor	App users, Individuals or companies involved in construction.	Target users, who need to quickly and accurately estimate project costs and manage quotes.
Client	Property owners, Project Managers	Indirect users who will receive quotes or estimates.
Material Supplier	Vendors and Suppliers	Provide up-to-date pricing and stock information, as well as materials.

Developer	Project team	Responsible for designing, building, and maintaining the application.
Bots	Automated Services	Used for scraping stock levels and prices, as well as keeping information up-to-date.
Investor	Financial Backers	Fund the development of the application, may influence features and design.

3.2 User Summary

User Name	Description	Responsibilities	Stakeholder
Project Manager	Tracks project progress and cost, to make sure projects are completed on time and within the budget.	Creates project requirements based on clients' needs, to determine all necessary materials and labourers.	Material Supplier
Purchasing Manager	Handles the buying process and orders materials.	Compares prices, picks the best supplier, and manages orders.	Contractor
Contractor	Uses the app to calculate project estimates and build quotes.	Enter accurate project details, manage materials and projects.	Contractor
Client	Receives a quote and either accepts or rejects.	Open the quote, read the cost breakdown, and either accept or reject the quoted project.	Client

4 Stakeholder Requirements

ID	Requirement	Stakeholder
R-001	Must provide accurate and up-to-date cost estimates.	Contractor
R-002	Must allow for the creation and management of project quotes.	Contractor
R-003	The application should be user friendly, easy to use from a mobile device.	Contractor

R-004	The application should store data to track projects.	Contractor
R-005	Should provide an easy way for clients to view and accept quotes with a cost breakdown	Client
R-006	Should provide secure storage for user data.	Contractor, Client

5 System Features

ID	Feature	Stakeholder Requirement ID
F-001	Cost Estimation	R-001
F-002	Quote management	R-002
F-003	Material stock/cost database	R-001
F-004	User account management	R-005
F-005	Project analytics	R-004

6 Assumptions

- Access to reliable APIs that provide real-time updates on cost and availability of materials
- Users have access to reliable internet connection for real-time features
- Contractors are willing to trust and adopt new technology into their businesses
- It is assumed that the needed staff, tools, and support will be available during the project.
- That users will have capable phones and tablets that can run the software.

7 Constraints

- Dependent on an external API for listing the locations of the relevant stores and their inventory prices
- If we are unable to find an appropriate 3rd party API, we would be constrained to build our own API to accomplish listing locations of stores and inventory prices.
- We are dependent on the vendors having up-to-date pricing on their materials

- Constrained by AODA compliance so the app is accessible to the visually and/or hearing-impaired.
- User authentication and authorization for both customers and vendors