Project Description

The SparkBoard is a collaborative digital platform built to help students, professionals, and creative teams transform raw ideas into executable projects. It provides a centralized, structured environment that supports idea sharing, feedback, voting, and progress tracking. The app addresses the widespread challenge of underdeveloped concepts by guiding users from brainstorming to action through an intuitive interface.

The platform includes features such as:

- Idea submission and categorization
- Voting and feedback system
- Team formation and collaboration tools
- Progress tracking with milestones and deadlines
- Notifications and reminders
  Target users include students, startup teams, educators, and creators who need a motivating and structured space for collaborative idea development.

System Requirements

To maintain accessibility for diverse users, the app was optimized with the following minimum and recommended specifications:

Requirement Type	Specification
Compatibility	Android 8.0 and higher (iOS version in development)
Required Storage	150 MB and higher
Memory (RAM)	2 GB minimum
Internet	Required for cloud sync and collaboration
Bluetooth	Not required

Overview

To evaluate the prototype, the team conducted both remote and in-person sessions using Google Forms, interview observations, and direct user testing. The evaluation covered:

1. **Usability Specifications** – Time-based performance for core tasks
2. **Heuristic Evaluation** – Review of the UI based on usability principles
3. **Participant Survey & Feedback** – Post-use feedback via Likert scale and open-ended responses

Tasks for Evaluation

Participants were asked to complete the following:

- Sign up and create a profile
- Submit a new idea
- Vote on another user's idea
- Join or create a team
- Track progress of a project
- Provide feedback on a submitted idea

Data Presentation

Usability Specifications

Task	Mean Time	Interpretation	Classification
Sign-Up	1m 45s	Highly Acceptable	Successful
Submitting an Idea	2m 10s	Acceptable	Successful
Voting on Idea	0m 50s	Highly Acceptable	Successful
Joining/Creating a Team	3m 20s	Acceptable	Successful
Tracking Progress	4m 40s	Moderately Acceptable	Neutral
Submitting Feedback	1m 25s	Highly Acceptable	Successful

Heuristic Evaluation

General findings from heuristic review include:

- **Visibility of System Status** – Good progress indicators and live feedback

- **Match Between System and Real World** – Clear naming conventions and familiar interface metaphors
- **User Control and Freedom** – Undo and cancel options available
- **Consistency and Standards** – Some icons could use standardization
- **Error Prevention** – Needs clearer validation for text inputs
- **Recognition Rather Than Recall** – Smart suggestions aid memory
- **Flexibility and Efficiency of Use** – Shortcuts for power users available
- **Aesthetic and Minimalist Design** – Clean layout with logical grouping
- **Help Users Recover from Errors** – Error messages require more helpful language
- **Help and Documentation** – Tooltips available, full help section planned

Participant Survey & Feedback

Average Scores (5-point scale):

- Overall Experience: 4.6 – Highly Acceptable
- UI Design: 4.4 – Acceptable
- Task Completion Ease: 4.2 – Acceptable
- Submitting Ideas: 4.5
- Voting and Feedback: 4.6
- Project Tracking: 3.9
- Navigation: 4.3

Notable Feedback:

- Positive: Easy submission and intuitive dashboard
- Needs Improvement: Better guidance for team formation and milestone tracking
- Suggestion: Add tutorials or pop-up onboarding hints

Design Implications

Though the prototype functioned well, several minor issues emerged:

- Improve milestone interface for clearer progress tracking
- Add more hints/tooltips for first-time users
- Rework error messages for non-technical users
- Refine button/icon consistency throughout the UI

Critique and Summary

Advantages:

- Encourages collaborative innovation
- Easy voting and feedback mechanics
- Lightweight and responsive interface

Disadvantages:

- Limited real-time communication features
- Some onboarding gaps for new users

Future Improvements:

- Integrate chat or comment threads per idea
- Add onboarding walkthrough or demo mode
- Separate evaluation phases for long-term testing

Final Thoughts:
The SparkBoard prototype demonstrated strong usability and relevance to its intended users. While there is room for improvement, especially in project tracking and guidance features, its core value of supporting structured creativity was clearly validated through testing. The app has strong potential to become a go-to space for turning ideas into action.