



Ideation Tool – IDEA JAM

Minor Project

Disclaimer

This Software Requirements Specification document is a guideline. The document details all the high level requirements. The document also describes the broad scope of the project. While developing the solution if the developer has a valid point to add more details being within the scope specified then it can be accommodated after consultation with IBM designated Mentor.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to define scope and requirements of an ideation tool – IDEA JAM for a leading business house who wanted to promote rapid innovation and problem solving culture. Currently the managers find difficult to get together physically for ideation due to geographically dispersed location and time zone differences.

As a first step, the proposed system – IDEA JAM will provide an online idea-posting tool to quickly come up with actionable items or generate solutions for operational issues, or new initiatives.

This document is the primary input to the development team to architect a solution for this project.

System Users

All the employees of the business house will primarily use the Ideation Tool, IDEA JAM.

Assumptions

1. Since IDEA JAM is expected to use Intranet's authentication, for the purpose of this project, entering user name will take you to the user's Timesheet home screen.
2. For the purpose of team/users creation, the developer of this project is required to upload employee master from the backend. The master will have columns such as Employee Code, First Name, Last Name, E-mail id

REQUIREMENTS

IDEA JAM will provide a web-based ideation tool for teams to quickly post their ideas on a topic defined in the session, without having to conduct a physical session with the participants. This tool will integrate with the existing employee intranet.

Basic System Operation

The ideation process is initiated by creating a session for Idea Jam, defining a topic and inviting the team members to contribute their ideas. Key elements of the system and their key operations are outlined below:

Landing Page

IDEA JAM's landing page is a tabbed page, where the first tab shows all the active Sessions for ideation where the logged in employee has been invited to post ideas. The second tab displays the list of active IDEA JAM sessions that were initiated by the logged in employee. The third tab lists all the closed sessions initiated by the logged in employee.

Ideation is possible only for active IDEA JAM sessions. While posting the ideas, the

system displays ideas posted by other participants. The existing ideas can be voted up by clicking on Thumbs up button displayed along with the other participant's idea. This count keeps getting added to the idea and it is displayed along with the idea listing for viewers to know which ideas have received team's agreement the most.

Session for Ideation

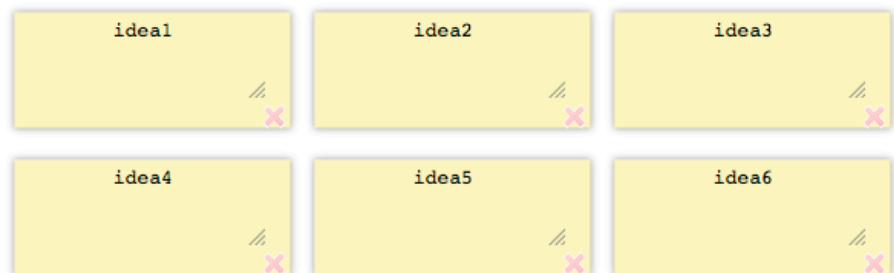
An employee can create a session for an Idea Jam. For this purpose, s/he (a) enters a topic, (b) defines the objective briefly, (c) selects a list of employees to be invited for posting ideas, Upon saving it, an invite e-mail is sent to the selected employees to participate in ideation.

The owner of idea jam session will be able to close the session any time. The ideas generated are displayed along with their Thumbs up votes.

A user-friendly interface needs to be developed to ensure smooth usage of the system. You may like to follow this sample layout of an idea entry view.



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About IDEATION

Popularly known as brainstorming. This technique is adopted for collaborative activities where the team's input is considered important for arriving at decisions. Each member gets the chance to speak up or post their ideas on the topic without any inhibitions or fear of criticism. Conventionally this technique is followed within a room using accessories like white board with post it notes. The facilitator of the brainstorming session sticks the post it notes of ideas on the board. Once the ideation is completed, the ideas are either prioritized or an Affinity (Categorized) for

the next level action. This technique is become popular for decision-making activities over the intranet/internet.

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

IDEA JAM will be developed as a web application using Java/JSP and DB2 database. Eclipse will be used as the IDE for the same. You may consider using a JavaScript framework like Prototype/Scriptaculous /jQuery.