UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

G52GRP

Democratic Conferencing Tool

Interim Report Appendix

gp09-sdb
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Group: gp09-sdb

Supervisor: Dr. Steven Benford

Group Members: Robert Golding, William Redrup, Tammie Seo, Christopher Lensvelt, Henry James, Zhongda Zhu

1 Table of Contents

2 Market Research - Appendix

2.1 Bantu

http://www.bantu.com/

Bantu is a cross-platform Business IM, and is similar to Google wave, but less user-friendly.

2.2 WeMeeting

http://www.netdive.com/indexwme.htm

WeMeeting is another Business IM which incorporates video-conferencing into the rooms.

2.3 ZPN Mesh

http://www.zullotech.com/

ZPN Mesh is a project collaboration package, with a built-in IM system.

3 Technical Research - Appendix

3.1 Django

Here is an example of a simple model in Django source code:

```
class Poll(models.Model):
       question = models.CharField(max length=200)
       pub date = models.DateTimeField('Date published')

class Choice(models.Model):
       poll = models.ForeignKey(Poll)
       choice = models.CharField(max length=200)
       votes = models.IntegerField()
```

Here's an example of a simple view in Django:

```
def index(request):
       latest poll list = Poll.objects.all().order by('-pub date')[:5]
       data = {'latest poll list': latest poll list}
       return render_to_response('index.html', data)
```

Here is an example of a template in Django:

```
{% if latest poll list %}
    <ul>
    {% for poll in latest poll list %}
        <li>{{ poll.question }}</li>
    {% endfor %}
    </ul>
{% else %}
    <p>No polls are available.</p>
{% endif %}
```

3.2 Ruby-on-Rails

To create the blog application:

```
$ rails blog
```

Here is an example code to configure MySQL Database in Ruby-on-Rails:

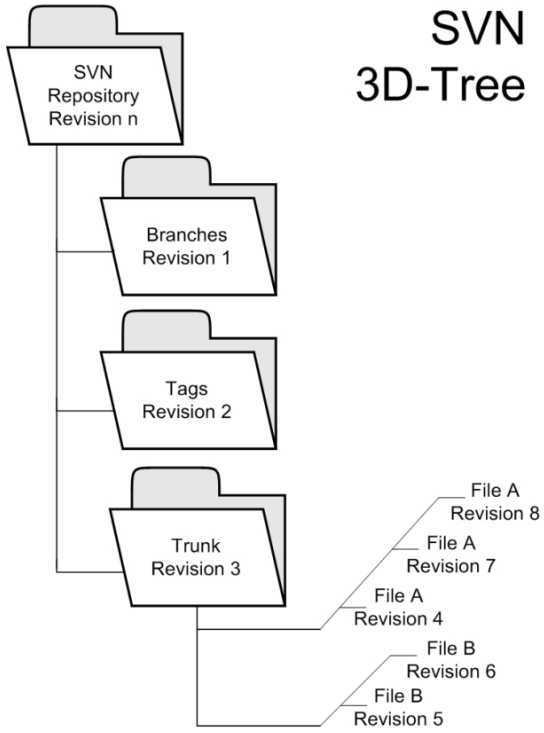
```
development: adapter: mysql encoding:
utf8 database: blog development pool: 5 username: root password: socket:
/tmp/mysql.sock
```

An example of Migration in Ruby-on-Rails:

```
class CreatePosts <
ActiveRecord::Migration def self.up create table :posts do |t| t.string
:name
t.string :title t.text :content t.timestamps end end def self.down
drop table
:posts end end
```

3.3 SVN

Here is an example displaying the basic structure of the SVN 3D-Tree system.



3.4 Mercurial

The hashes in a Mercurial repository look like this:

```
1:1ef7872431f9c64908c732f0bcd4db5700b4cb70
```

This means that unlike Subversion, two revision identifiers cannot be easily compared to see which is newer.

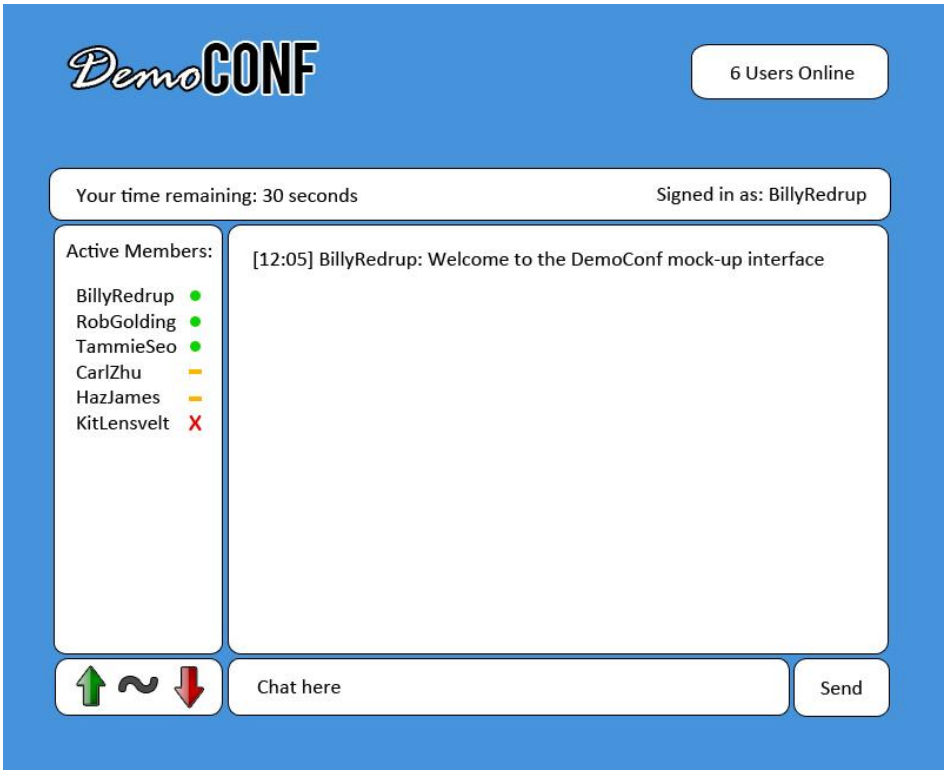
4 Functional Specification – Appendix

4.1 User Interface

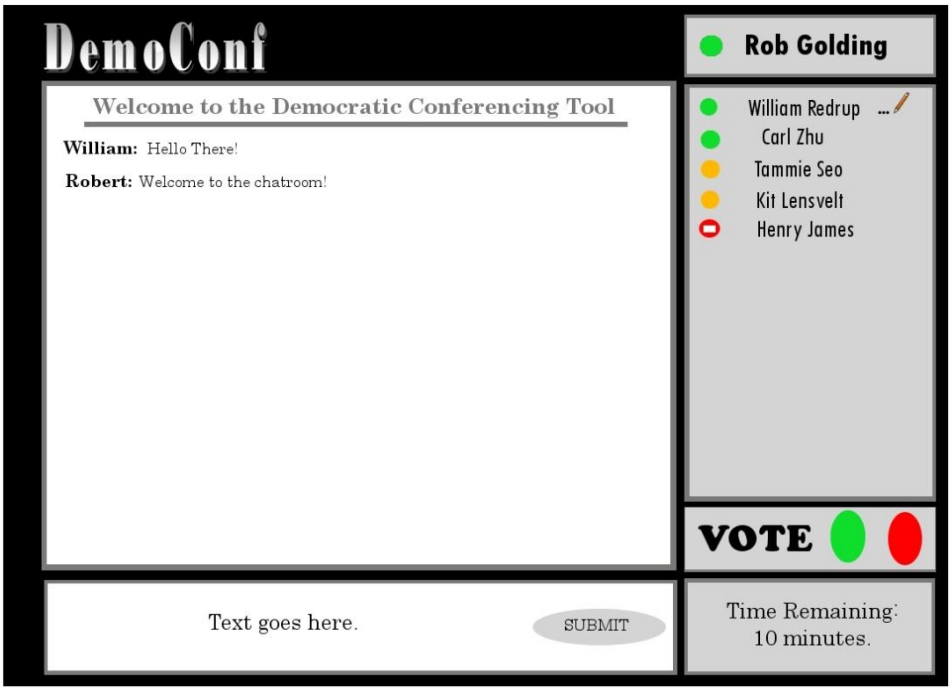
Initial Design #1

Initial Design #2

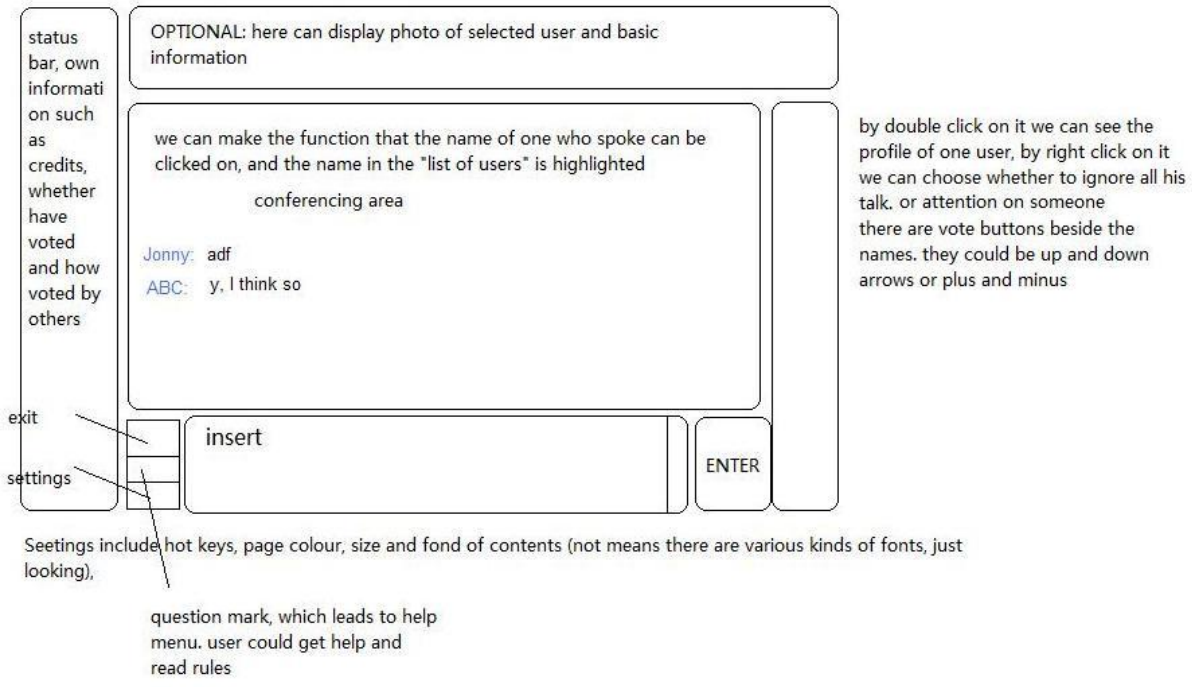
Initial Design #3



Initial Design #4



Initial Design #5

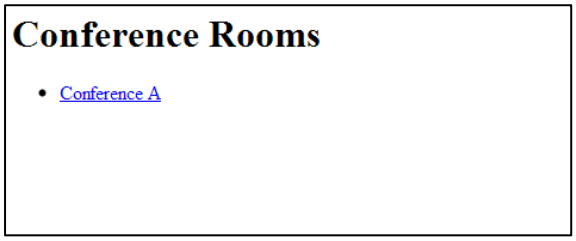


5 Prototyping

Here are some screenshots of the system prototype, to show the initial workflow.

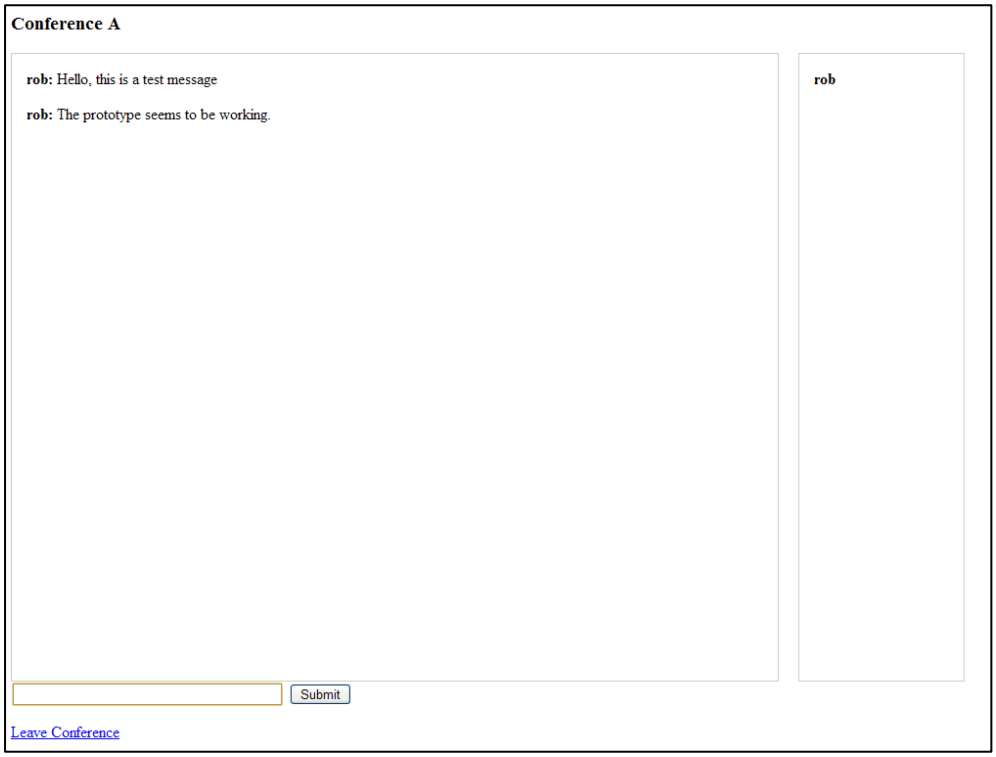
Note: The lines bordering each image are purely there to help identify and separate each picture. The actual prototype does not have this feature.

Basic Room List:



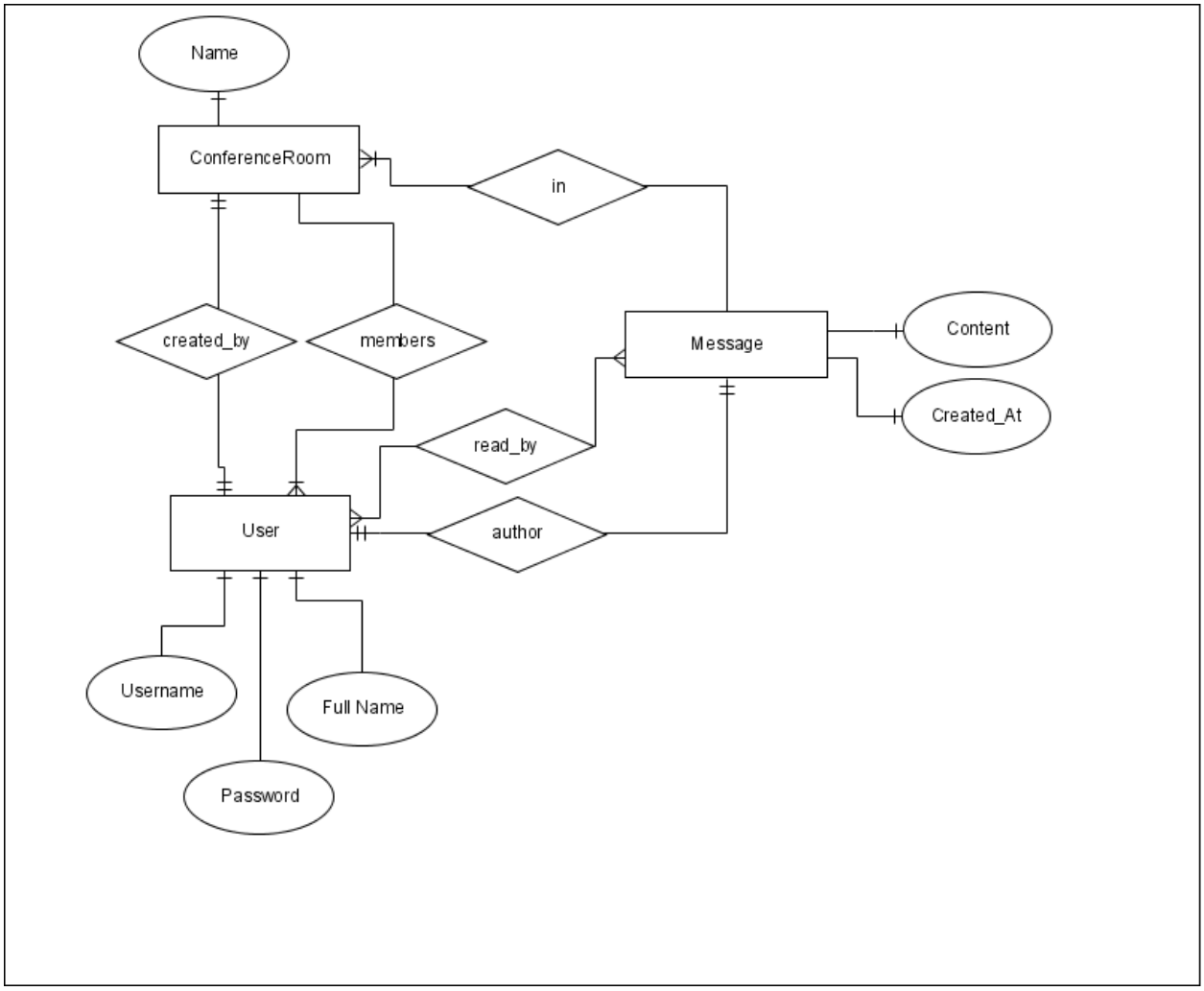
Log-in Fields:

Basic Room Example:



6 Implementation Decisions – Appendix

6.1 Entity-Relationship Diagram

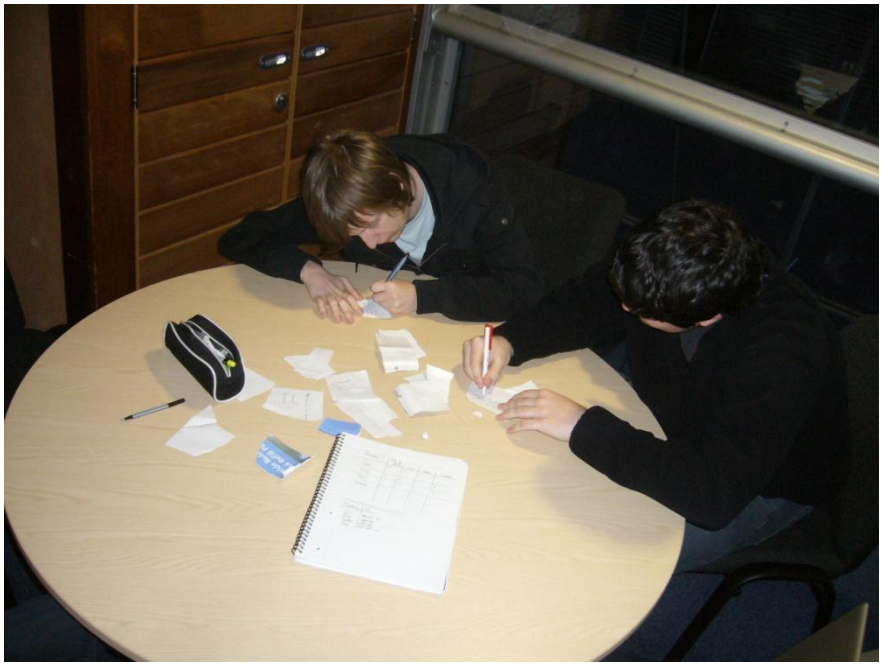


6.2 Models.py

```
class Room(models.Model):
        name = models.CharField(max length=255)
        current members = models.ManyToManyField(User, editable=False)

        def get and mark(self, user):
                messages = self.messages.exclude(read by=user)
                for message in messages:
                        message.mark for(user)
                return messages

        def get unread(self, user):
                return self.messages.exclude(read by=user)

        def get absolute url(self):
                return reverse("conference room", args=[self.id])

        def   unicode  (self):
                return self.name

class Message(models.Model):
        room = models.ForeignKey(Room, related name="messages")
        author = models.ForeignKey(User, related name="messages")
        content = models.TextField()
        read by = models.ManyToManyField(User, blank=True,
related name="read messages")
        created = models.DateTimeField(auto now add=True)

        def mark for(self, user):
                self.read by.add(user)

        def   unicode  (self):
                return "[%s] %s" % (self.room.name, self.content)
```

6.3 Low-Tech Prototyping

6.3.1 Photographs




Person
Carl
Billy
Liz
Tammie
Vote for Billy

6.3.2 Rule-Sets

6.3.2.1 Set 1

- Users have a hard limit of x words per interval.
- The word count is reset every interval.
- Donations are not allowed.
- Users can vote to silence someone for the next x intervals.
- Conferences have a “chair” to lead the session.

6.3.2.2 Set 2

Same as **Set 1**, but:

- Donations are allowed from one user to another.

6.3.2.3 Set 3

Same as **Set 1**, but:

- Users can also vote to increase someone’s word limit. No-one loses any words from their limit.

6.3.2.4 Set 4

- Conference is similar to “pass-the-baton”, where only one (or two) person is/are allowed to talk at a time.
- The baton would be passed on after a number of words are expended.
- Users can request more words if they are running low.

6.3.2.5 Set 5

Same as **Set 4**, but:

- Users can vote the current speaker “up” or “down”, to either increase or reduce their word allowance – if they agree with what they are saying.

6.3.2.6 Set 6

- The meeting chair is not allowed to speak. Instead the chair’s responsibility is to moderate the session – deciding whether to overrule decisions.
- This could be decided by a vote, or selected when the meeting is created.

6.3.2.7 Set 7

- The chair can speak, with an unlimited budget – and their text is highlighted to make it stand out.
- Users can flag the chair for getting involved in discussions where it is not allowed.
- A new chair could possibly be chosen if too many flags are raised.

7 Meeting Minutes & Attendance

7.1 Meeting Minutes

7.1.1 Formal Meeting - October 12th

Attending

- Rob
- Tammie
- Haz
- Carl

Not Attending

- Kit
- Billy

Minutes

- Talked over milestones
    - Reports
        - Groups
        - Individual
    - Code
    - Presentation
    - Open Day

- How the credit system will work?:
    - Time-based
    - No. of Lines
    - No of Chars.
    - etc.

- How the donation of credit will work?:
    - Group or individual?
    - Request?
    - Limit on donations?

- Talked about development if the system:
    - Testing
        - Against specification
        - Not only code but product as well
    - Web or Stand alone?
    - Platforms already out there? (Facebook, etc.)
    - Low tech prototype? (paper based version)

- How the files will be stored?
    - Equipment form needed?

- Rob not here near Easter, needs to be taken into account.

7.1.2 Formal Meeting - October 21st

- Attending
    - All in attendance

Actions

- Narrow down to 1-3 sets of rules for the system (whole group, next formal meeting)
- Play-testing with those rules (whole group, next formal meeting)
    - Group can attempt this without Steve to begin with
    - Choose one person to be "the system"
    - Pass around bits of paper with messages on, pinned on a board by the system?
        - Requests, if applicable, go to the system
    - One person as observer/documenter - to capture lessons from the activity
- Equipment request form (Rob, by next formal meeting)
- Non-committal technical discussion
    - Could specify in report that this would *ultimately* be implemented in a certain way, but at present we will make a standalone prototype.
- Starting the interim report (Billy?)
- Research into existing products/systems already available (Kit, next formal meeting)

Notes

Steve is away some of next week, so next formal meeting may be very early the week after (Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th)

Control

- Silencing
- More time to talk
- Is "budget" the same as "silencing" - different socially
- Who has the control (chair, pairs, voting)

Intervals & Metrics (length of time, words, etc.)

This needs to be outlined in the design document - and all decisions need to be justified. "Driving Philosophy" - would be cool.

Turn-taking and chairing are very common, so other ideas would be more novel (i.e. voting).

Need to record "actions" in meeting minutes - so we can go through matters arising in next meeting.

Methodology for the project? - Waterfall, iterative?

In next 1-2 weeks we need a plan for the project.

7.1.3 Formal Meeting - November 4th

Attending

- Carl
- Tammie
- Billy
- Rob
- Kit
- Apologies from Haz

Minutes

- Take photos or paper for evidence from processes such as play-testing
- Should maybe have a table/analysis of existing systems, and how ours combines the most desirable of those into one system
- Could concentrate our development effort on parts of the system that haven't been done before
- Should conferences be held in a series of 10 minute windows - so a completely different dynamic
    - Intensive debate every window
- Are we voting on the issue, or on the person in particular
- Need to discuss the contribution/opportunity to discuss from all team members

- Research the existence of open platforms that exist already
- Platform discussion

Actions

- Starting the interim report (Billy, next formal meeting)
- Functional Specification (group, next formal meeting)
    - Good ideas that we may not implement
    - Maybe rejected ideas also
- Time plan (group, next formal meeting)

7.1.4 Formal Meeting - November 11th

Attending

- Haz
- Rob
- Tammie

Not Attending

- Kit
- Billy
- Carl

Notes

- We risk losing innovation due to the current time plan
- Exam period must be accounted for - revise time plan to account for coursework and exams
- Reduce number of iterations to 3 to allow for documentation and other deadlines.

Interim Report

- Revise first paragraph - what is the system? Detailed explanation about what the democratic conferencing tool is.
- Use heading profusely to add rigid structure to the document. This conveys organisation.

7.1.5 Formal Meeting - November 30th

In Attendance: Rob Golding, Billy Redrup, Tammie Seo

Not in Attendance: Carl Zhu, Kit Lensvelt, Haz James

Apologies sent by Carl - Cannot make meeting as ill.

Notes

- Spoke about state of group - Meetings are an issue (Not enough and not enough attendance)
- Crisis meeting Wednesday 2nd December!
- Showed Steve our progress with Specification / Interim Report

Actions

- Amend functional specification to be far more detailed, actually explaining each section rather than just listing a bunch of bullet points. Currently it is too barebones.
- Change the interim report to contain UI designs in a prototyping sub-section, called 'Design Prototyping' for example.
- Prototyping changes in report, list the advantages/disadvantages of a platform (Django), rather than just stating it can do the task(s) necessary.
- Add low-tech research/work to the interim report, i.e. the play-testing.
- Add low-tech work to the time-plan, to display how we progressed to the point we are at.
- A Technical Specification must be created, showing the design for the system and exactly how it will be implemented, going into detail about components used, etc.
- Discuss structure of interim report at meeting - Plan at beginning with results later?
- Get coordinated!

7.1.6 Formal Meeting - December 4th

In Attendance: Rob Golding, Billy Redrup, Tammie Seo, Carl Zhu, Kit Lensvelt, Haz James

Notes

- Feedback received from Steve on the state of the report on deadline day
- Generally positive, good layout and ordering noted.
- Importance of a functional spec discussed
- In addition, Steve explained that specifications for individual aspects of the project must be more detailed in Semester 2. This will help increase functional efficiency of the group as a whole.
- Communication between group members is an issue that was raised and needs to be addressed. It would be beneficial to the group if discussions we're made more open to members who don't speak English as a first language.

Actions

- Write a brief "conclusion" at the end of each section to sum up the work done.
- Create a short (1 page) "Executive summary" to add as a prologue to the report.
- Provide documentation of meeting attendance for the future.
- Revise initial time plan to consider academic seasons (e.g., exams, holidays)
- Pencil in a date for a Rob Django lecture special!

7.2 Meeting Attendance

7.2.1 Formal Meetings

Formal Meetings	12/10/2009	21/10/2009	4/11/2009	11/11/2009	30/11/2009	4/12/2009
Billy	-	x	x	-	x	x
Carl	x	x	x	-	-	x
Haz	x	x	-	x	-	x
Kit	-	x	x	-	-	x
Rob	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tammie	x	x	x	x	x	x

7.2.2 Informal Meetings

Informal Meetings	8/10/2009	15/10/2009	22/10/2009	28/10/2009	4/11/2009	11/11/2009	18/11/2009	25/11/2009	2/12/2009	4/12/2009
Rob	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Billy	x	-	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x
Haz	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	-	x
Carl	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Tammie	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
Kit	-	x	-	-	x	-	x	-	x	x