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| University of Nottingham |
| **Democratic Conferencing Tool** |
| **G52GRP Final Group Report** |
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| gp09-sdb |
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**Group:** gp09-sdb

**Supervisor:** Dr. Steven Benford

**Group Members:** Robert Golding (rjg08u), William Redrup (wrr08u)**,** Tammie Seo (tls08u)**,** Christopher Lensvelt (cxl08u)**,** Henry James (hej08u)**,** Zhongda Zhu (zxz09u)

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# Executive Summary

**[To be completed after the report content is finalised]**

# Introduction

The purpose of this report is to describe and explain in detail how our group completed our project; the Democratic Conferencing Tool, and all of the stages involved. It will include relevant content from the earlier interim report, while any information that is deemed to be unnecessary will be removed. All documentation completed throughout the project that is necessary to the Democratic Conferencing Tool will be present in this report.

The structure of this report will follow that of the interim report, with the initial section focusing on the problem we hoped to solve as a group, and then move towards the research and planning stage; with sub-headings for the appropriate research sections. The research section will feature condensed material from the interim report, with additions made to account for both changes and any new ideas we have gathered from other sources. After the research is finalised, the focus will shift to individual specifications, with particular interest paid to the technical specification as that has become the most important part of the project in recent weeks.

**[Introduction to be completed]**

Research

## Summary of Completed Research

The majority of our research is contained within the interim report, as most of the early focus was upon researching ideas for our system from similar products. This focus has shifted to a more technical aspect as of late; therefore this section will be brief in comparison.

We started with market research into similar web-chat software, in the hope that we could gather ideas that would be suitable for what we wanted to achieve with our system. We looked at a wide range of products, but Google Wave and Effusia Business IM were the most relevant to our plan. We gathered information about how to portray a simple user-friendly interface from these products, Effusia especially, as well as incorporating the idea of leaving short messages to inform other users of your change in status if you were to leave the computer for a certain period of time.

After gathering a small, albeit useful, amount of information from these products, the research shifted onto the technical side of the system, and we began to look into ideas for frameworks that we could utilise as a base for our program. A discussion began about web-frameworks and desktop-based platforms, and a comparison was made in the interim report along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. We then branched further into discussing particular software within each platform and researched a number of products that are both web-based and desktop-based. Having quickly made the decision that we would be using a web-based platform for our software, we moved onto deciding on how we should communicate and share work between group members.

**[Summary of Completed Research to be completed]**

Functional Specification

User-Interface Specification

Technical Specification

User Specification (System Walkthrough)

Test Data

Project Summary & Reflection

Time Plan

**[Making major changes to interim report version – Should be completed and added soon]**