Business Case – IST 654 – Group 5

Executive Summary:

The lack of advanced filtering and roommate-matching tools on the prevalent housing platforms makes it harder for students to find lodging. In order to solve these issues, we want to develop SUStays, a comprehensive platform for student housing with extensive filtering and roommate-matching capabilities. Group discussions will be replaced with **SUStays'** systematic and successful approach, making it easier for students to select agreeable and suitable housing close to their educational institutions. This platform will help revolutionize student living in ways that encourage simplicity, openness, and trust.

Problem Statement:

Finding appropriate housing options close to their colleges or universities can be difficult for many students. They frequently struggle to locate solutions that suit their particular tastes, such as the style of accommodation, dietary requirements, accessibility to educational facilities, and the compatibility of housemates. Student housing searches frequently use time-consuming, unstructured group chats and informal approaches as a band-aid fix.

The search for student accommodation is made more difficult by the absence of sophisticated filtering and roommate-matching features on the current housing platforms. We intend to create SUStays, a full platform for student housing with sophisticated filtering and roommate-matching capabilities, in order to address these problems. SUStays will offer a systematic and effective replacement for group conversations, making it more straightforward for students to choose agreeable and compatible housing close to their educational institutions. With the help of this platform, student housing will be transformed in ways that promote ease, transparency, and confidence.

Alternative Solution:

1. **Social Media Housing Groups**: Create and promote housing-related groups on social media platforms like Facebook or LinkedIn, where students can join, share listings, and connect with potential roommates.

2. **Housing Search Workshops:** Host workshops or seminars at colleges and universities to educate students on effective housing search strategies, including how to use online resources and platforms effectively.

3. **Collaborative Student Housing Apps:** Collaborate with existing housing platforms to create dedicated sections or filters for student housing, making it easier for students to find relevant listings within the broader housing market.

Ideal Solution:

The specialized approach SUStays takes to meeting student housing demands makes it stand out as a better alternative. SUStays provides sophisticated filters and a strong roommate-matching system tailored especially for students, unlike general-purpose platforms or informal techniques. Offering a focused and organized platform and encouraging open evaluations and ratings, improves customer satisfaction and confidence. SUStays is a complete and effective option for students looking for lodging close to their educational institutions because it integrates payment processing and communication capabilities.

Resources Needed:

1. **Technical team**: A team of experienced software developers will be needed to design, develop, and implement the housing system.

2. **IT infrastructure**: The organization will need to invest in hardware and software infrastructure to support the system.

3. **Data Analytics team**: A team of data analysts will be needed to collect and analyze data from various sources.

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Scope of Project

The scope of the SUStays project encompasses the development and deployment of a student housing platform with advanced filters and roommate-matching features. The project aims to provide a comprehensive solution to address the challenges students face when searching for suitable accommodations near their educational institutions. Key elements of the project scope include:

1. **Platform Development:** Design and develop a user-friendly web and mobile application for students to search and find housing listings based on their specific preferences and requirements.

2. **Advanced Filtering:** Implement advanced filtering options allowing students to refine their housing search by factors such as room type (1BHK/2BHK), dietary preferences (vegetarian/non-vegetarian), proximity to educational institutions, rental price range, and more.

3. **Roommate Matching:** Develop a sophisticated roommate-matching algorithm that enables students to connect with compatible roommates based on shared interests, habits, and lifestyle choices.

4. **Messaging and Communication**: Provide integrated messaging and communication tools within the platform for users to contact potential roommates and landlords, schedule property visits, and discuss rental terms.

Timeline for Implementation and Completion:

The project will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. The timeline will include the following phases:

Analysis and design: In this phase, the requirements for the housing system will be analyzed, and the design for the system will be created.
Development: In this phase, the software development team will develop the housing system according to the design created in the analysis and design phase.
Testing and debugging: In this phase, the system will be tested for bugs and other issues, and any problems found will be corrected.
Implementation: In this phase, the housing system will be implemented in the organization.
Training and support: In this phase, the users of the system will be trained on how to use the system, and support will be provided for any issues that arise.

Organization:

The project will be managed by a project manager who will report to the senior management team. The technical team, data team, and IT team will work closely with the project manager to ensure the successful completion of the project. The project manager will be responsible for overseeing the budget, timeline, and quality of the project. The technical team will be responsible for designing, developing, and implementing the system. The data team will be responsible for collecting and analyzing data from various sources. The IT team will be responsible for providing the necessary hardware and software infrastructure to support the system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, SUStays has the potential to completely transform the student housing industry. Our specialized site will make it easier to find housing, increasing student life and encouraging academic performance. It comes with sophisticated filters and roommate-matching tools. We're delighted to improve the student housing scene by committing to user satisfaction, data security, and legal compliance.