Ante Mortem Requirements Specification

Version 2.0

24/10/2017

Table of Contents

[1. Executive Summary 3](#_Toc497222579)

[1.1 Project Overview 3](#_Toc497222580)

[1.2 Purpose and Scope of this Specification 3](#_Toc497222581)

[2. Product/Service Description 3](#_Toc497222582)

[2.1 Product Context 3](#_Toc497222583)

[2.2 User Characteristics 4](#_Toc497222584)

[Artists & authors: 4](#_Toc497222585)

[Casual readers: 4](#_Toc497222586)

[Hard-core readers: 4](#_Toc497222587)

[2.3 Assumptions 4](#_Toc497222588)

[2.4 Constraints 4](#_Toc497222589)

[2.5 Dependencies 4](#_Toc497222590)

[3. Requirements 5](#_Toc497222591)

[3.1 Functional Requirements 5](#_Toc497222592)

[3.2 User Interface Requirements 5](#_Toc497222593)

[3.3 Usability 5](#_Toc497222594)

[3.4 Performance 5](#_Toc497222595)

[3.5 System Interface/Integration 5](#_Toc497222596)

[3.6 Security 5](#_Toc497222597)

[3.7 Data Management 6](#_Toc497222598)

[3.8 Standards Compliance 6](#_Toc497222599)

[3.9 Portability 6](#_Toc497222600)

# Executive Summary

## Project Overview

This website will be the host for a web comic named Ante Mortem, so essentially the website is assuming the role of a physical book.

The audience of this comic will be anyone willing and able to read and participate in the story as it unfolds. Assuming the user can access and view the website there are really no limiting boundaries as to who can enjoy it.

## Purpose and Scope of this Specification

This report is to lay out what I, the developer, plan to implement before 12/12/2017. At this point, the second iteration of this project must be complete.

What the second iteration is to include will be noted and explained in detail.

Hopefully this report will make it clearer to both the developer and the client, so that there can be no confusion or misunderstandings about what will or will not be attempted in this second iteration.

# Product/Service Description

## Product Context

The website will be independent and self-contained in that I will not be implementing any functionality to outside services such as Patreon, at least in this iteration.

## User Characteristics

## Artists & authors:

* **Young woman:**

She is 20 years old.

Talented artist, but room for improvement and has no prior experience of monetizing her art.

She doesn’t have a good understanding of how to make the comic profitable, but wants to make the comic profitable.

Can’t fully commit to working on comic pages’ full time due to other commitments such as college, as well as desiring some down time.

Has both a laptop and smartphone, as well as a graphics tablet.

* **Middle aged man:**

He is 40 years old, with a good amount of experience drawing.

The comic is not his only source of income and he regards his art as a hobby, something to make a bit extra cash but profit is not his main motivation.

Technologically he is not an expert but good base knowledge, and uses a tablet primarily.

## Casual readers:

* **Mother:**

Aged 30, she leads a busy life caring for two children of 4 and 5.

Doesn’t have much personal time, although her eldest has recently started school giving her a chance to pursue other interests.

Using the family computer or smartphone she browses the web, keeping in touch with friends as well as checking for new instalments to the comic once a week.

## Hard-core readers:

* **Teenage boy:**

He 15, shy and un-sociable, spends a large amount of time on the internet using his PC.

He spends a lot of that time browsing, consuming various media including that of web comics.

Doesn’t have a lot of money.

Loves the virtual world that he can fell a part of when reading the comic and thus likes to spend more time than most on the site, feeling part of the community of creators and users.

## Assumptions

I will assume that any potential user will be able to access the internet, as well as navigate the GUI of their operating system to open a browser capable of displaying the website’s content.

## Constraints

In terms of time, the second iteration must be completed by 12/12/2017.

There will be more pages added as time passes, so this must be made as easy as possible.

Now that user information is being handled we must consider the various security implications in keeping the data safe.

## Dependencies

In terms of developing the website I am not aware of any dependencies, however as mentioned before the comic will have to be updated periodically to add new content – content that must be created by the artist and author on time.  
A functioning webserver to host all the files required for the website, as well as a working database to store data that is required for additional website functionality.

# Requirements

## Functional Requirements

| Req# | Requirement | Comments | Priority | Date Reviewed | SME Reviewed / Approved |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Desktop support | The website should no longer be solely targeted at mobile devices, and should use web queries to display correctly for each type of device. | 1 |  |  |
| 2 | Admin Account | Tied into requirement 3 and 4, their implementation means that administration powers are now necessary to limit unsuitable user behavior. | 3 |  |  |
| 3 | User Account | In an effort to ensure a healthy community of readers users must be logged into an account in order to gain additional privileges such as commenting on comic pages. | 2 |  |  |
| 4 | Comments system on comic pages | Allows the readers and fans to interact with each other as well as the authors behind the comic. | 2 |  |  |

## User Interface Requirements

The general themes of the website should be dark, moody and steampunk, to fit that of the comic.  
There are some assets including a logo which must be used.  
This iteration will not spend much time catering farther to niche client requirements such as the colour blind or technically inept, however efforts will be made to improve the navigation easier to see and use, based on the feedback from the first version.

## Usability

N/A

## Performance

The scale of the project remains much the same in terms of expected users, however it should be designed with a much larger user base in mind to accommodate growth.

## System Interface/Integration

Users interacting with the interface will in this iteration require the front and backend to work together, sending and receiving data from a database for example.

## Security

Adding user accounts means that user will need to provide some amount of personal data.  
In this case users will only need to enter a username and password in order to register, meaning the data provided should not be sensitive in the sense that it is personal information about the user.  
However, it is still very important to keep this data private.

## Data Management

With the addition of a database we must now consider data management, and how to implement the extra functionality safely.  
To do this, we will hash and salt users’ passwords, use the POST method when interacting the data in the database, and various other ways which help ensure data is safely and responsibly managed according to the Data Protection Act.

## Standards Compliance

The introduction of a database to store, amongst other things, user data means that the Data Protection Act is now relevant to the system, meaning the website must be compliant to it’s rules.

The images used in the website are protected by copyright and are the property of the artist, however the comic itself is not registered.

The website must comply with the W3C standards to ensure equal functionality across as many devices and browsers as possible.

## Portability

N/A

# User Scenarios/Use Cases

**Display comic pages.**

As someone on the internet, looking for some form of entertainment some obvious options come to mind, such as games, You Tube etc. but a lesser known media has arisen, born from paperback comics the web comic is what an e-book is to a hardback, there is exactly the same content as you would expect from a physical comic, but instead hosted on a website – assessable online and almost always for free.

As a potential reader, I would expect to be taken either to the first or most recent page of the comic, and for the comic page to be the center of attention, with options to navigate between pages or elsewhere about the website, much like one would turn to the cover pages of a book in order to find information about the comic and it’s creator’s.

**Description of the comic.**

As a new reader this is vitally important – I might be able to tell a little about the theme of the comic from color scheme and name, but to find out more about the comic I would look for a description, probably not longer than a paragraph or two explaining what the comic is about.  
This could be the deciding factor, along with the art style and actual content of the pages between whether I read farther, leave to find something more appealing or become a regular visitor to the site.

**Character biography.**

As a reader, once I am invested in the comic, and am interested enough in the world that it draws me into wanting to know more about the characters this is where I should go.  
What will I find? Perhaps information about the world, places in it and such like, but the focus will be on telling me more about each character – a summary of the information shown or inferred by the comic so far, so no spoilers should be shown.