Aigerim Bishigayeva

Isabelle Kim

Advanced Computer Science (Red)

2nd Semester Project Proposal

**Online Language Lab**

**Pitch:** When learning a new language, listening and speaking skills are just as important as reading and writing are. Many schools use technology to practice these skills by listening to pre-recorded text and answering questions that will be later reviewed by teacher. One of apps that allow to do this is used in St. Mark’s School language lab: **Dill**. However, **Dill** is not perfect for the purposes of language learner. Because it requires a license and can only be installed in a specific software, Dill confines the learning process to the language lab space. We propose making a **website that utilises file sharing, audio recording and grouping to allow teachers and students to**:

* Gather in virtual classrooms
* Be assigned to groups of three or more (randomly or manually)
* Listen to recordings made by the teacher
* Speak to each other and record their conversation for the teacher
* Involve in simulated conversation with pre-recorded audio

We believe that availability of this service on individual laptops will significantly improve students’ learning experience and allow the school to rework language lab into a more useful space.

**Deliverables**: As a result of this project, we are envisioning a working website that all St. Marker’s have access to to practice their speaking and listening skills. The teacher and the students should have different interfaces on their computers. The teachers will be granted permission to group students, speak with (a) student(s) through audio, push an audio file to student(s), monitor student activity, and receive recorded audio files. The students will be able to listen to pushed audio files, start and stop recording, and submit their recording. If all these things are met, then the project can be considered finished. A question that we have right now is the possibility of using St. Mark’s IDs and passwords for students to log onto this

**Action Plan**: A question that we have right now is the possibility of using St. Mark’s IDs and passwords for students to log onto their accounts. If this can happen, the distinction from a teacher to a student will be easier. We will need to learn a language for building a website, most likely PHP, and this will happen through online course on Codecademy. We will look at the source code from already made software such as Adobe Connect, a web conferencing software, to look at codes related to sending and receiving audio files, teacher sending messages to the student, and recording audio files. Most of the code related to audio files and simulated conversation will be acquired and revised from the source codes of existing software. What we need to build from scratch, however, is the website. We would also like to focus on creating a simple, modern interface for the users that help students elevate their learning experience. Currently, the things we need to buy are domain and web hosting. Domain names usually cost $10-15 a year and web hosting $10 per month. Although the cost of a domain name is mostly set at the aforementioned price, the cost for web host varies from one another depending on how much traffic or data the website gets. Since this website requires the sharing and saving of files, the website could receive a lot of data. Therefore, it would be a most viable solution if we talk to the Communications Office and connect this website to the domain and the web host that St. Mark’s already pays for. If this is not possible, the Modern Language Department will be most likely be charged for the costs. The learning of the PHP language takes precedence over all other things. Then, the actual creation of the website takes place followed by the purchase of a domain and a web host. Our plan as of now is to spend 1 week (about 3 classes) learning the language, 2.5 months building the website, a week to get a domain and a web host, a week testing the website (maybe even introducing a beta-version for Spanish V classes to use), two weeks fixing any problems and finalizing the website.