Integrating MOSCOW

To have a clear idea of what the user requires of us we transformed their named requirements for the project into MoSCoW. MoSCoW is a prioritization technique for managing requirements and is used to help both the client and the project members to understand the significance of features in a specific project. The acronym, MoSCoW, stands for:

* M: Must Have.
  + As the name suggests, the features listed under this category are “musts” for your project. They represent non-negotiable needs for your project or product. If you ship the product without these the product will not work.
* S : Should Have.
  + Should haves are just a step below must haves. They are important to the project, but not vital. If left out the project or product still works. However if they are included they add significant value.
* C: Could Have.
  + Another way to describe Could haves is “Nice to haves”. Could haves are not necessary for the core function of the project, and will have a smaller impact that should haves if they are left out.
* W: Would Have.
  + Would haves are a way to help prevent scope creep. If features are in this category, the team knows they are not going to be a priority for the project. Some features in this category will later be prioritized, while others are not likely to happen at all.
  + This category is sometimes also called “Will not have at this time” or “Wish”.

For our prioritization, we read through the documents supplied by the client to establish a rudimentary prioritization, which we added some maybe obvious but important points to which the client did not name. We then discussed these points with the client to ensure they agreed with our analysis.

We will use the now agreed upon prioritization to plan our project over the next 7 weeks.