CSC 481

Saint Martin’s University

Final Report Template

# Identify the Client

I do not have a specific client in mind, as I am building the project to be used by many people. I am receiving support, guidance, and advice from an active duty Army Soldier who is helping me shape the project. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Jason Eck of the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade in Fort Huachuca, Arizona is in charge of field training exercises for incoming intelligence Soldiers. SFC Eck has 20 years of experience in the military and is in tune with the wants and needs of today’s Soldiers.

# Identify the Client’s Needs

Jason Eck is again, not the specific client but he has been acting as a liaison to the military as well as a sounding board and a mentor. The website is not being built specifically for Jason Eck, but he will have a major say in what features and useful and mandatory. The needs that Jason and I have came up with include a way to easily upload powerpoint files to a web application, have other users preview the powerpoint files, download the files, and comment on the files.

# Literature Review

**Militaryppt.com**

Militaryppt.com is a website that is similar in idea to the web application I plan on building. Militaryppt.com offers 14 free powerpoint presentations in 14 different subjects. Militaryppt.com basically acts as a free trial website to try to entice users to register for pptclasses.com which costs $9.99 per year for a subscription. Pptclasses.com claims to have many more classes available once you register. Militaryppt.com is the website that offers the most similar idea to my proposed application. There are many problems with Militaryppt.com;

Design: The layout and general aesthetics of the website are very poor are seem to be just a generic template filled with their own content. My web app would have less fluff, be more aesthetically pleasing, and be easier to use and navigate.

Content: Militaryppt.com offers only 14 powerpoints. Once you click on a powerpoint, you download the powerpoint to your computer. There is no description of the powerpoint, no author, or any additional details. The only option is to just download the file, open it, then go through the powerpoint yourself. The primary purpose of my web app will be to provide users with the best content available in the easiest to use format. My web application will offer many more topics as well as multiple versions of each topic. My web app will include user comments and ratings which will help raise the best training to the top. The comments and ratings will help the user feel more comfortable in downloading the training because they will know the quality of the content and will be able to read other user’s thoughts on the training. My web app will hopefully feature a preview option where users can preview the powerpoint and training before downloading so they don’t waste time looking through the wrong content.

Price: My web app will be free. Part of my plan is to get sponsors to help donate items to be used in giveaways to the users. I will never charge users to use my site and will pay for any associated fees from out of my own pocket and then eventually from ad content from sponsors.

Presence: Militaryppt.com is relatively unknown. I was in the Army for nine years, taught countless classes, interacted with hundreds of other Noncommissioned Officers, and nobody has ever heard of the website. If I ever visited the site during my time in the Army, it’s amateur aesthetic would not instill enough trust in me to actually use it’s content. I plan to get the word about my web application out to potential users so that eventually it will become a well known resource in the community.

**Ultimate-Guitar.com**

Ultimate-Guitar.com (UG) is a website that hosts text files of guitar tabs. UG is a professional looking website with over 1,100,000 tabs and claim to have more than 10,000,000 registered users. The users can create their own profiles, submit their own tabs, rate tabs, and provide comments for others. UG is a wildly popular website. I don’t plan to build a site that can handle nearly as much traffic as UG, but I do want to replicate their ease of use. My web app will hopefully be very similar to UG except I will be hosting powerpoint files instead of text files. Text files are much easier to work with in almost every facet so I will have to overcome that hurdle but ultimately, UG will offer itself as a great inspiration for my project.

# Methodology

Methodology for this project will include constant talk with Jason Eck to continue gathering requirements as the project continues. Because it is only a one-man project, I have the flexibility to remain agile and make changes as I see fit. The best methodology to employ for this project seems to be a lean development methodology. The lean development will be best because it prioritizes satisfying the customer first but also that everything is changeable and an 80 percent solution today is better than a 100 percent solution tomorrow. Lean development is also the perfect methodology for this project because it stresses minimalism and that the needs determine the technology. Because I will be learning as I go and do not have set technologies that I feel I need to employ, lean development will be best for this project.

# System Design

The system will be a web application hosted on a web server for remote users to use. The system will have an HTML homepage and a log in system. The log in system will be tied to the database and will feature proper security precautions such as javascript whitelisting and PHP scripts that limit the possibility of a SQL injection. The bulk of the application will revolve around the back-end database. Users will complete a form after logging in that allows them to upload a .ppt file. The file is then stored on the database and can be accessed by other users. Each file will feature a commenting system so users can discuss the powerpoint and suggest changes and fixes while also including a 10 star rating system.

# Resources Required

The resources required for a project of this magnitude are going to be:

* web server with at least several gigabytes of storage to hold the ppt files.
* A purchased domain for the web application

# Milestones for CSC 482

CSC 482 will be a busy time if I continue to work on this project in order to finish in December. Major milestones include:

* Complete web design (Early September)
* Complete database design (Early October)
* Complete functionality and interaction between app and database (Early October)
* Complete security tasks (Mid November)
* Launch web app on server (Mid-Late November)
* Testing (Early December)
* Full launch (Early December)