

Problem Description

Nowadays, more and more people would like to donate their stuff saved in case to those who really need it. Donations, whether they be large or small, can sometimes make a difference. Meanwhile, an increasing number of charitable organizations accept used, gently used, and even brand new items that donors think someone else will value. Unfortunately, some of the charity organizations which are supposed to do good things are fake and fraud cases are still carried out by those “charities”, which is a serious threat to each party associated with them. Therefore, from this perspective, a well-developed online platform which directly connects donors and recipients and verifies charity organization’s authenticity, qualification as well as eligibility plays a critical role in letting people avoid fraud, donate wisely and receive safely and easily. Gifts and donations are an important source of funding for charities and offer tax relief. For public charities, they are the lifeblood of the industry. They often operate thrift stores to sell donated clothing, electronics and other items and use the income as proceeds to the charity. Thrift stores have to rent physical space for storage and for the retail environment. They also have to organize donations, to ensure that they are usable. For example, eleven percent of the clothing donations made to Goodwill in 2014 were considered unsaleable and sent to landfills. This cost the organization millions of dollars in transport and other expenses. People often dispose useful items like electronics. Each computer dumped into a landfill represents an opportunity to provide technology and tools to someone who needs it. Online Thrift Exchange is a web application that provides a platform for donors and charity organizations/recipients to easily donate items, approve donations to recipients and accept these items. Donations could be corporate or noncorporate. Recipients could be associated with a charity organization or be independent recipients.

System capabilities:

- Allows recipient to raise a request
- Allows donor to identify recipient
- Allows donor to create folder for multiple items
- Allows donor to donate basket as a whole
- Allows charity organization to provide authentication documentation
- Allows donor and recipient to check charity organization’s authenticity
- Allows charity organization to promote events
- Allows charity organization to run online thrift store
- Allows charity organization to give certificates to donors
- Allows buyer to reserve items and arrange a time for pickups
- Connected with social media such as Facebook, Twitter...

Business benefits:

- Increase timely communication between donors and recipients, thereby improving the effectiveness and efficiency of donations
- Ensure safety of donations by making charity organization' qualification transparent and verifiable online
- Raise and increase awareness about the importance of donation among people by organizing seasonal and annual donation events, posting requests and offers, and giving updates via social media to engage more people