

Criterion A: Initial consultation

Interviewer: Barkın Şimşek

Person being interviewed: Biology teacher and organizer of the Quiz Night

Time: 10:30 pm

Date: January 5th, 2016

Location of interview: Mr. Teke's classroom

Barkın Şimşek: Hello Mr. Teke, thank you for getting involved in my ITGS project. First of all, what is the name of your competition?

Samet Teke: Quiz Night

Barkın Şimşek: Are there any prefix or suffix for it?

Samet Teke: No, it is just "Quiz Night."

Barkın Şimşek: Can you tell me more about your competition? What is the purpose? How long does it take? How many people are working to organize one these competitions?

Samet Teke: There are 20 questions in total. We are working in a team of five people. Two people prepare the questions, and the other three people help us with IT works.

There are 20 questions in a competition. First ten questions are about the current issues. The other ten questions are related to ten categories like science and arts. These last ten questions can be from any date in the history. Thus, there are 20 questions. Also, competitors can pick bonus questions from last ten questions. If they answer their bonus question correct, they will get +15 points. If they don't, they will get -15 points. At the end of the competition, we calculate total points of the competitors.

Barkın Şimşek: They get 5 points for normal questions, right?

Samet Teke: Yes, they get 5 points for normal questions.

Barkın Şimşek: How many bonus questions can pick a group of competitors?

Samet Teke: They can just pick one bonus question. They get either +15 points or -15 points, as I explained.

Barkın Şimşek: How many people attend to your competition?

Samet Teke: They attend in groups. Those groups can be maximum three people. We have 26 groups. So, approximately 80 people are attending to the competition.

Barkın Şimşek: What is the age range of the competitors?

Samet Teke: Both teachers and prep students can participate in groups. So, the age range is very wide.

Barkın Şimşek: How do you set up the current system? How do you prepare the questions? How do you organize it?

Samet Teke: We are using a slide show. Every week we prepare 20 questions. There is a counter on the slideshow. It counts the time. On the first click slideshow shows the question and counts the time, then it changes the slide. We use two computers to do this. We record the points on the second computer. This is our system.

Barkın Şimşek: Do you use an Excel table to store points?

Samet Teke: Yes, we use an Excel table.

Barkın Şimşek: How do competitors answer the questions?

Samet Teke: We have small pieces of papers. Group and question numbers are printed on them. We give 20 of these small pieces of papers to every group. They try to answer every question in 30 seconds. Later, they raise their papers, and we collect their papers.

Barkın Şimşek: How much paper do you use to print those small pieces of papers?

Samet Teke: Every paper is about A6 in size, in other words, a quarter of A4 paper. We use 130 thick A4 papers just for a competition.

Barkın Şimşek: How do you check the answers?

Samet Teke: We have another team for this. One person checks the answers and gives the points to the groups. Other person changes the questions on the slideshow. Lastly, the third person checks the points, and he/she enters points to the Excel table.

Barkın Şimşek: How do you present results to the competitors? Or do you present them after the competition?

Samet Teke: We are using the second projector to present the live results. There are rows of the points of every group in the Excel table. Competitors can see their points if they follow their rows.

Barkın Şimşek: What are the major problems that you are facing with while using the current system?

Samet Teke: Most of the time we are facing with problems while presenting questions to the contestants. The computer we are using cannot process transitions between slideshow and we have to wait for a while. Thus we prefer to not to use transitions. We also need to erase questions from the slide show one by one to prepare a new slide show. These are the problems. Sometimes, the students from my team mix the lines on the Excel document, and they give wrong points to teams by mistake. Groups should not pick more than one bonus question. A system that indicates this issue may help us.

Barkın Şimşek: How did you solve previous problems?

Samet Teke: System was like this when we took over it. There are problems with the projector. However, most of the problems are related to IT issues. Once, we waited for 20 seconds for every question to appear on the slideshow. The computer was so old, and the PowerPoint application used so many resources that our computer lagged.

Barkın Şimşek: How much time do you spend in total to organize your competition?

Samet Teke: I don't know how long it takes to prepare slideshow, but I always listen to the news to prepare questions. It is not that hard. IT team works on the slideshow. We used to prepare questions in both Turkish and English because foreign teachers were attending to the competition. Nowadays, we just prepare questions in Turkish.

Barkın Şimşek: Currently you are doing it in Turkish, right?

Samet Teke: Yes, it is Turkish.

Barkın Şimşek: I want to create an IT solution for your competition. I am planning it to be easy to use and paperless. I think it will solve your problems.

So, are there any small details that I might be missing?

Samet Teke: If you want to make it paperless, every group will have a mobile phone. Communication can be over a local network created by a local modem. Connection stability should be our priority. We give 30 seconds to them. They can answer it on the 5. second as well as 29. second. We need to make sure that answer arrives at the main computer. There is a system called kahoot. However, it requires a stable internet connection which we don't have in the school. Thus, we can use buy a local modem and make a connection to it. I think if you solve these problems, there will be no other problem.

Barkın Şimşek: Thank you, Mr. Teke.

Samet Teke: You are welcome, thank you too.