

==Personal Details==

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I am an undergraduate at University of Toronto studying software engineering. I love to design and be creative, having designed websites since middle school. This year's Season of Usability has given me a good chance to flex my creative muscles and I would love to participate. I have experience using PHP, Wordpress, HTML/CSS & JS, which are helpful for the project I am applying for. I have no open source development experience but I have applied to GSoC earlier this year and have had experience with many open source software such as Wordpress, Firefox, Eclipse, Wikimedia, Audacity, etc, and would like to build a good foundation for my experience.

==Project Details==

The project that I have decided to work on this year is Gallery. Why Gallery? I have used it in the past and it is a great application to work with, easy to use, intuitive and provides an easy and powerful method to share photos and graphics with like-minded peers.

Furthermore, the project that Gallery is proposing this year is to gather more input and data from users. Since this entails methods that I have had previous experience in as an undergraduate, I would love to expand upon this project and perhaps help to implement future features if time permits.

I have outlined a rudimentary plan of what I plan to do here: http://www.blue-kaos.com/?page_id=356. In short, the first phase is conducting field studies to gather input; this includes surveys, questionnaires and interviews that will be distributed online and as part of the installation of Gallery3, which will provide a great amount of data and information about the users and their habits.

Expected time: ~2 weeks to design and set up, ~1 month to gather feedback depending on how much we need.

The second phase involves analyzing the data, and evaluating it according to several criteria.

First we create personas that represent particular users that we have sampled, then we develop scenarios for those personas that place them in accordance with plausible (or even extreme) situations and record what possible design flaws could occur. Then we create an improvement or possibly new design and have both users and designers evaluate it using task analysis and a set of heuristics.

Expected time: ~1 month to create personas and analyze data (concurrent with gathering data) ~2 weeks to improve upon design, ~2 weeks to evaluate new/improved design.

The final phase involves implementing and testing the design in code. Since some features are harder to implement than others, this final phase may not be fully complete but it will have been fleshed out. Expected time: remainder of the summer.

That is what I hope to accomplish, I would love to get involved in this opportunity, and I thank you for your time.