

Initial Project Plan

Project Title:

Initial Plan: Online Scrapbook
Module: Individual Project; CM0343; 40 credits
Author: Jake S Middleton
Supervisor: Irena Spasic
Moderator: Xianfan Sun

Project Description:

The project is a traveller's journal application, in other words, an online scrapbook. The idea came from personal experiences with there being no suitable website in order to allow users to create an easy to use, online scrapbook. The application takes advantage of Google Maps API, which will allow its users to organise their photos, diary notes, etc in two-dimensional space by physical locations and time points. Physical locations will be visualised using the Google Maps API, whilst the time points will somewhat resemble Facebook's timeline in order to store these physical locations at different time points. The 'pins' will be used to show what places have been visited and places of future interest. Each of these locations or 'pins' will be click-able, with links leading to external websites. These external websites will allow the data to be shared using various social networking applications such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Similarly, there will be links leading to text documents which will be used to form diary descriptions of particular visits. Lastly, the application, as mentioned above, will be supported by Facebook and Twitter to facilitate information sharing and including friends.

The application will be designed and created using HTML5 and CSS3. The reason for choosing HTML5 is because it is the most up to date hypertext markup language, it does not require any extra browser plug-ins, has better usability, more elegant forms and is also cross-platform; meaning it should work flawlessly whether its laptops, smart phones or tablet. I will be using CSS to describe the look and formatting of a website to the web browser, building a content-rich site.

Project Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives are vital in determining the future success of the final year project.

Aims: The aims of a project are intentions; what I hope to achieve at the end of the project.

These are written as statements of intent.

1. Develop a specification of a traveler's journal website with three main functions:
 - a. Select a destination worldwide,
 - b. Produce a method to organise photos,
 - c. Share information.
2. Construct a clear and concise website using various methodologies or languages.
3. Devise a unique plan that will aid my time management; using all the available resources.
4. Investigate various similar websites to improve understanding of my project.
5. Create an Interim report;
 - a. Introduction; create a description of the project and conduct a detailed analysis of the problem with a description of an approach of how to address the problem,
 - b. Background; conduct detailed study of current systems and technology available,

- c. Main Body; create requirements and specification for the project,
 - d. Conclusion; produce a summary of the results.
- 6. Produce a Final report for the project.
 - a. This section will contain the overall project findings and the complete set of deliverables developed.

Objectives:

The objectives are used to describe how these aims can be met and are specific statements which define outcomes. These will have to be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.

- Design
 - The user must be able to define where they are at all times and have the ability to easily exit the site.
 - The content of the website will need to appeal to the user in order to express the websites quality, usability and main functionality.
 - All data uploads will be organised through physical locations and time points.
 - To ensure information on the website is provided in an accessible and usable manner
 - Any colour used throughout the website must be easy on the eye.
- Implementation
 - The website will be developed using HTML5 as it is the most current, suitable web programming language.
 - CSS is important for creating styles and formatting the website
 - PHP will be used to interact with the database
 - MySQL will be implemented to make the website dynamic
 - JavaScript might be used to improve content and add animation to website
 - Google Maps API will be included into the website to create physical location points and display locations visited.
 - Social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter will be incorporated into the site to facilitate data sharing.
- Testing
 - The website will be cross-platform friendly; meaning it can operate on various operating systems; this will additionally cover mobile devices and tablets.
 - All functions of the website must be tested fully ensuring full functionality.
 - Ensure all problems that occur throughout implementation are documented and resolved.
- Evaluation
 - Conduct a thorough and highly professional evaluation of my system created.

Work Plan

In order to manage a large project, time management methods implemented will need to be efficient. For this task I will be using a calendar, gantt chart and an iPhone application. I have created a time plan using 'smartsheet'; this is a free website which allows project planners to create a simple list of tasks to be completed; these tasks will have a variety of variables applied such as dates, importance and any other notes. This allows you then to view your time plan via calendar, gantt chart or list. The calendar will be imported into my personal google calendar and the gantt chart will be used as an overview of tasks to be completed. Furthermore, I have included an iPhone application as it allows me to view which tasks need to be completed in a more user friendly manor. The application has alarms set up for frequent warnings and links with my Google Calendar for overall project and time management.

Below is a screenshot of the iphone application to be used throughout the project:

