Initial Project Plan

Project Title: 2nd Year Group Project Management Tool.
Module Code: CM0343
Credits: 40

Supervisor: Helen Phillips   **Moderator: Dave Marshall**

Project Description

In the market currently, there are many tools available which aid Project management in assisting businesses and other organizations such as students in managing their own project but are they really easy to use? Are they flexible in terms of the various development methodologies and process models there are available to choose from? This project will enable me to research thoroughly into the market and the tools available and critically evaluate how good they are, mainly in terms of the second year group project management tool which is set by the Computer Science & Informatics department in Cardiff University. The evaluation process will involve usability evaluation as well as interviews with students currently doing the system design and group project module to find out truly what they desire and how the tools currently on the market reflect this.

The second part of this project will mainly consist of developing recommendations for a new project management tool which can reflect the group project process and be used effectively within the module. The recommendation process will include written requirements of what the system will do, system modeling techniques and prototyping of what the screen shots of the new system will be.

Project Aims & Objectives

The main aims of the project are too:

- Critically access the current project management tools easily available to students.
- Access whether they fit the criteria of agile development in terms of the group project.
- Suggest improvements required in order to fit the needs of the students within the group project module.
- Create recommendations for a new project management tool which could successfully fulfill the student's needs.
- Prepare models and prototypes for the system as final deliverables for the project.

The skills I aim to utilise are in order to meet the aims:

- Systems Modeling – Use cases etc.

- Soft Systems Methodology – in order to help me plan the project.
- Heuristic evaluation to look at usability.

Deliverables

Interim Report

The interim report will mainly contain the research and evaluation of the current tools and the market and the definitive conclusion of whether any of these tools actually fit the 2nd year group project module satisfactorily. One of the main factors will be talking to the second year students and lecturers actually involved in the group project to get the perception of what they really require in terms of project management and then try to match this to features of the products currently available on the market.

Final Report

The final report will look further into the usability of the programs in the market identified within the interim report. This will involve using skills such as heuristic evaluation and questionnaires with students in order to find out how easy and effective are they to use. Once I have established all the issues in terms of usability and missing features within the current programs I will begin the design phase of the project. This will mainly involve the development of a new project management tool which meets all the requirements of the students and offers more than all the other competitors in the market that we initially analysed. To do this, I will build a set of recommendations and requirements for a new tool and begin to design this, using systems modeling techniques and design of screenshots to show maximum usability.