Senior Project Knowledge Base

Problem

When it comes time for a senior project, many students are left scratching their heads for ideas. Some professors have topics listed on their website while others do not. When searching for a topic idea, students are left thinking what are the requirements and limitations of a senior project. After brainstorming several topic candidates, the student must then find an advisor willing to sponsor the idea. The student can either email the professor or visit the professor’s office hours. This can involve several emails back and forth or time spent waiting for office hours.

The proposed solution will consolidate all senior project ideas in one location. Students can then browser for an idea quickly and efficiently. This solution will also feature a clear set of requirements and limitations of a senior project. Another key feature will be the knowledge base will determine which professor will be interested in this project based on the project proposal. With this system, senior project brainstorming can be streamlined and provide a better user experience for students.

Project Outline

- Q1 – Spring 2010
  - Milestone 1 (Week 3)
    - User Data Collection, Feature Matrix.
  - Milestone 2 (Week 5)
    - Paper Prototype
  - Milestone 3 (Week 7)
    - Interface design and architecture, Usability evaluation.

- Q2 – Fall 2010
  - Milestone 4 (Week 4)
    - Stage 1 feature subset release.
  - Milestone 5 (Week 8)
    - Stage 2 feature subset release and finalized documentation.

Deliverables

- Documentation and source code for project
- Final project report

Satisfaction of Department Project Criteria

This project involves a knowledge base of determining which projects fit with which professors. The completion of this project will result in a website (www.seniorproject.csc.calpoly.edu).