sddec22-01 | Jack-o-Lantern Tracker

Week 1 Report

1/24/2023 - 2/05/2023

Client
Nathan Brockman

Advisor
Judith Islam

Team Members *(roles not yet discussed/finalized)*
Kyle Goben – *Team Lead*
Kiara Sta. Maria –
Omar Muhammetkulyyev –
Phuoc (Johnny) Nguyen –

Weekly Summary

The team met with the client, Nathan, in Reiman Gardens on January 25th (Wed). Afterward, we discussed as a team the next steps we should take. Then, the team also met with the advisor, Professor Islam, on February 1st (Wed) to get feedback and guidance on beginning, such as tech stack and environment to use. We then met again to regroup and organize the next meeting with Nathan.

During class last week, the team brainstormed on the project's who, what, where, when, why, why not, and how aspects. The diagram below is created using Figma, which aims to answer these questions.

Figure 1. *The group's journalistic mapping diagram during the class activity on 1/31. This mind map will expand as the team does more research in the next few weeks.*

Pending Issues

Questions for the next client meeting on February 7th (Tuesday)

- What are the benefits of a new app over an improved spreadsheet?
- Is the purpose of a pumpkin recognition feature to speed up the walkthrough of visitors during the event?
- Should the tracker be a local or cloud application accessed through the web?

Action items

- Need to pick frameworks and tech stack for the project.
- Pick a cloud provider to use.
- Need to decide on data to include and how to construct the DB–relational or non-relational.
- Need to identify and assign roles for group members.

Individual Contributions

	Tasks Accomplished	Hours this week	Hours cumulative
Kyle Goben	Sent emails to Client and Advisor. Compiled team availability and set up team meetings. Generated the Report 1.	6	6
Omar	Meeting with the team, client, and advisor. Worked on the weekly summary (Report 1).	6	6
Kiara Sta. Maria	Meeting with the team, client, and advisor. Compiled notes from the client meeting (Report 1). Re-organized report layout and proofread.	6	6
Phuoc Nguyen (Johnny)	Meeting with the team, client, and advisor. Analyze the client's requirements and technology needs. Compile notes from Advisor meeting (Report 1).	6	6

Plans for Next Week

Next client meeting on Feb. 7th (Tues) – *Everyone*

- Meet with Nathan again to fine-tune what the team should be working on

because this could shift the direction of the project. Some questions regarding project requirements will be discussed
    - What are the benefits of a new application over a few modifications to the Excel sheet?
    - What is the root of the problem being addressed with AI recognition?
    - Does the team overcomplicate the solution to the problem?
        - Does the app solve the core issue of inefficiency, or are there better approaches (i.e., having volunteers use the app to avoid the admin being overwhelmed while tracking status)?
- Pick a fixed meeting time with Nathan for all team members.

Tech choices to get started – *Everyone*
- Decide on technology to use as a team and get the required resources to get it set up
- Set up the environment to begin working
- Once the environment is set up, begin constructing the database
- Identify roles for app development/logistics and assign to each team member

Individual TODOs
- Create a quickly developed test spreadsheet to compare with the baseline in the client meeting – *Kyle*
- Set up a time to meet with Simanta Mitra about his thoughts on the project – *Kyle*
    - Ask questions about his ideas and ways that he would approach the problem

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Summary of Client Meeting

Date: January 25, 2023 (1st client meeting)

During this meeting, Nathan mentioned the project requirements which included a finished product that volunteers will use to track ~1500 pumpkins during the yearly Jack-o-Lantern event. Their current tracking system involves a large spreadsheet that stores stencil information and status, which is inefficient. Essentially, the project will comprise two parts–a tracking system and stencil recognition.

I. Tracking System

Problem. They currently use a spreadsheet to track whether a stencil is printed, cut, traced, or carved. This spreadsheet stores the stencils into over 50 categories (i.e., animals, cartoons, movies), multiple subcategories (i.e., which movie, who's the character), and stencil names. Going through the spreadsheet to keep track of individual status is tedious and inefficient. There are additional issues with printing inefficiency because the stencils are from different sources. The person printing has to go through each stencil and update the print settings.

Goal. The goals of the tracking system part of the app are
1) To have a faster means to track stencil status (include as few clicks as possible), which has a friendly user interface,
2) To have a unified storage/access to stencils info/data (possibly over the years) which

can be editable by admins,
3) To have a faster way to print in one go.

User. Admins will mainly use the tracking system.

II. Stencil Recognition

Problem. After the stencils are traced into the pumpkins or carved, volunteers often forget to add the stencil code at the back of the pumpkins. As a result, the staff will not know what stencil the pumpkin is for unless they go through each file they have and compare. This can be a challenging and inefficient task to do. Another lower-priority issue they want to solve is line congestion during the event. Event visitors walk through the jack-o-lanterns individually while in a line, which can be congested, while they try to identify what the pumpkin carving is.

Goal. The goal of the app's pumpkin recognition part is to allow users to scan a pumpkin, identify which stencil it is, and display stencil information such as name and category. This should be fast.

User. Admins and visitors will use the stencil recognition system.

Summary of Advisor Meeting

Date: February 1, 2023 (1st advisor meeting)

During the brief meeting with Professor Islam, the team's advisor discussed work expectations for the group. She said the group was free to choose whatever technology for the project. The team should have made progress, so there is something to show or ask her about during the next meeting. This will include

- Discussing the client's requirements and the technology to use in the project. This decision will be made next week
    - Plans to meet with Nathan next week to clear up some project requirement questions
- Starting to develop the application and get the environment set up in the next period.

The group will meet with Professor Islam every two weeks. The next meeting will be on February 15th (Wed).