Lab II - Voluntunities Specification Outline

CS 411W Lab II Version 3

Prototype Product Specification
For
Voluntunities

Old Dominion University

Thomas Kennedy

Prepared by: Breon Day Gold Team

Date: 11/06/17
Table of Contents

1 Introduction 3
   1.1 Purpose 4
   1.2 Scope 5
   1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations 6
   1.4 References 7
   1.5 Overview 8

2 General Description 8
   2.1 Prototype Architecture Description 9
   2.2 Prototype Functional Description 10
   2.3 External Interfaces 11

List of Figures

Figure 1 Current process flow. 3
Figure 2 Proposed process flow. 5
Figure 3 Proposed prototype architecture. 9

List of Tables

Table 1. Prototype versus Product functional differences 10
1 Introduction

Charitable acts are on the decline. Reports by the Bureau of Labor statistics show that United States volunteer rates are dropping and have been steadily declining, dropping by 0.4% in 2015 alone.¹ The problem however, does not lie in a lack of available causes to donate to or opportunities to with which to volunteer, the problem lies in the means that volunteers become aware of said options. Fundraisers and opportunities looking for able and willing volunteers are in need of a platform in order to reach this growing digital market, while temporary local opportunities and fundraising causes also need to extend their reach past the average school fundraising sign or volunteer sign up sheet. Without a platform, organizations and individuals lack a means to post a need for donations and volunteers digitally. With no centralized posts individuals must check organizations individually in the hopes that they may have an opportunity in their area. Individuals that do find events in their area may find them canceled or progress slow do to a lack of other members, while donations given may end up lining the cause creators pockets instead of going where the donor intended. Figure 1 illustrates the current flow.

---

Figure 1 Current process flow. Voluntunities is a mobile web application designed with these problems in mind. Voluntunities will connect volunteers and donors with opportunities and causes, allow the creation of unique opportunities for volunteering and causes for donation all while integrating social media into each step to encourage repeat use.

1.1 Purpose

Voluntunities is as a mobile web charity platform designed for both individuals looking to volunteer their money or time and as a way to connect organizations with suitable volunteers. Increasing the amount of charitable causes organization to volunteer match up’s, and raising awareness of nearby opportunities is Voluntunities main focus. Voluntunities can be accessed either mobily or via the Internet and allows organizations or individuals to register accounts to begin creating or contributing to worthy causes. Voluntunities intended user community are any socially connected individual, though the core demographic is 18-29, and any organization in need of a steady stream of volunteers. Once an account is created Voluntunities will allow both user groups to manage their profiles, upload images and keep a journal of everything they, and the charitable organizations they have contributed to, have accomplished, all while being able to display it on various social media platforms such as twitter, facebook, or instagram with the push of a button. Along with this charitable cause creators will be able to track total volunteers and donations. While Voluntunties will provide a platform to create charitable causes and a means to match volunteers with causes, it will not however manage the user's profile for them automatically or completely protect against illegitimate causes.
1.2 Scope

At its core Voluntunities is designed to be a social volunteering and donation mobile web application platform. The goals of Voluntunities include: increasing the number of active volunteers, increasing the success of charitable organizations by linking them to volunteers, increasing the awareness of volunteering opportunities in and out of the area and making volunteering more social in a digital age. Figure 2 illustrates the new process flow regarding with Voluntunities.

Figure 2 Proposed process flow.
1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

**Cause**- a fundraising opportunity

**Virtual Bulletin Board**- A Gui used for the purpose of viewing and adding opportunities.

**Virtual volunteering**- volunteer tasks completed, in whole or in part, via the Internet and a home or work computer. It's also known as online volunteering, cyber service, online mentoring, tele-tutoring and various other names.
1.4 References


1.5 Overview

This product specification provides the hardware and software configuration, external interfaces, capabilities and features of the Voluntunities prototype. The information provided in the remaining sections of this document includes the software, user interface, display and server and database interactions for the prototype.

2 General Description

Voluntities is a mobile web application that allows users to post, view, organize and edit, when applicable, opportunities and causes from the applications Virtual Bulletin Board, as well as organize and edit the user's profile.
2.1 Prototype Architecture Description

The Voluntunities mobile web application consists of a homepage that allows the user to log in as a volunteer, log in as an organization or register an account, a smaller version of the Virtual Bulletin Board will be present on the homepage allowing the user to view and sort opportunities without having to log in or register an account as shown in Figure 3.

![Prototype Architecture](image)

**Figure 3** Proposed prototype architecture.

Upon searching for an opportunity or cause the user will be taken to the main Virtual Bulletin Board page of the mobile web application and will also be presented with a Gui that shows nearby opportunities that match the user's criteria through the use of the Google Maps API. Both profile types will include a smaller version of the Virtual Bulletin Board and an editable photo gallery description section and opportunities and causes section.
### 2.2 Prototype Functional Description

The prototype’s major functionality will demonstrate its ability to edit and store information to a database and the server shall update the information on the mobile web application accordingly. Users of the prototype shall be able to create, login, and edit accounts registered into the Voluntunities prototype database. Users will also be able to organize and sort opportunities and causes on the Virtual Bulletin Board GUI based on preferential tags, distance, and date. The distance sorting will update an integrated Google Maps display to show nearby opportunities that match the sorting criteria. The functionality of the prototype will, for testing purposes, differ from main product in certain cases. See Table 1 for the major differences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functionality</th>
<th>Prototype</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search</td>
<td>Returns preset test opportunities in the Virtual Bulletin Board</td>
<td>Shows nearby and active opportunities and causes on the Virtual Bulletin Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Gui</td>
<td>Will only show sorted test opportunities that match the user’s search</td>
<td>Will show real time local opportunities based on the search criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-Time location</td>
<td>Has a preset location as ODU</td>
<td>Real time gps based location</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Prototype versus Product functional differences
2.3 External Interfaces

A prerequisite of the prototype is any internet connected device with a display screen capable of showing the mobile web application in its entirety and a means to navigate to and interact with the Virtual Bulletin Board, The user’s profile and the Google Maps API on the homepage of the prototype.