

University of Technology, Sydney
Faculty of IT

32533 Networking Communities

Assignment 3
Implementing and observing a networking community

Final Report

Report to
Massimo Piccardi
&
Homa Koosha

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As a Client

Evaluation of individual proposals (SWOT analysis)

Tennis Online Community Proposal by Min Cai

<http://charlie.it.uts.edu.au/~micai/32533/Assignment2.html>

This tennis community is proposed with some features that are not widely used in existing similar communities, such as the function of Appreciation of Tennis Video online. There are not that much similar online tennis communities for reference because this type of community is not popular online so far. Just because of the lack of congeners, it emerges in the right time to capture the target audiences. The target audiences (tennis fans) may prefer face-to-face physical communities instead of online communities.

Itsallaboutsoccer.net by Yi Zhao

<http://charlie.it.uts.edu.au/~yizhao/ass2.pdf>

It is designed to be an excellent space for all soccer fans. This focuses on nothing else but soccer. There are so many good sports site on the internet. To be survivor, we need to make much effort. Although there are many sports sites available, it is designed ONLY for soccer. With clear goal, it can be a unique space for soccer lovers. The major sports content providers, the other media and soccer teams' websites offer the first-hand news and report relative events in time. If any of them come to organise a NC just like Itsallaboutsoccer.net, we are in danger.

Chinese Overseas Student Home by Xin Zhang

http://www.geocities.com/rebecca_zh2004/assignment2.htm

It focus on the particular group, clearly display the community's purpose, access the difference from existing similar communities, sounds good project strategy. There is a litter bit hard to find sponsors as it focus on Chinese students or person who are interested in Chinese, need links to real useful information that they need. But it could catch immigrant agencies, Australia immigrant department, or Chinese embassy, etc.

Diamond Study Community (DSC) by Jong Su Kim

<http://www.geocities.com/idjsjs1/nc/assignment2.htm>

The special interests of this proposal can lead its success. There are not many professional web sites like this proposal. Definitely we found a good enter point. With well design, complete execution, it is not hard to achieve the success. Lack of advertisements will limit the number of users, it will lead the failure. We have to invest a lot to let people know this NC, then attract the potential users.

Nanotechnology Experts Board by Bin Li

<http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~binli/NEB.pdf>

This NC proposal aims high, potentially could be a wonderful communication platform among nano-experts, governments, nano-organizations and investors. By now, there is no such a NC act as the same character. It's hard to implement all the functions designed. For the best outcome, the cost will be high. The nanotechnology is growing fast worldwide. Not only the R&D, but also the governments and investors interested in it. In case other bigger organization realise the chance and release the similar NC before us, our plan will be defeat.

Only one proposal should be chosen for designer group implementation. After the group meeting, BIN's Nano-Experts-Board proposal was elected. This proposal is the most in depth and structure completed which could be used to test the understanding of NC. Although it requires the professional implementation, even needs sufficient funds to fulfil the requirements, it is still can be negotiated as an assignment of NC subject.

Evaluation of the implementation by our designer group

In general, we are happy with the efforts of our designer group.

We discussed the possibilities about the implementation of our proposal and finally accepted the designer group's suggestion. The final implementation is deployed at msn group. The URL is: <http://groups.msn.com/NanotechnologyExpertsBoard>

Our initial goal is to establish an online community which for experts involved in the nanotechnology that is equipped with collaborative tools. It can be an excellent platform for government policy makers, industry strategic management, R&D institutions, and leading researchers. A number of functions and co-op systems should be offered to fulfil the user needs.

To do so, which needs:

- the professional web hosting service provider to ensure the transfer bandwidth and the accessing capability,
- the Apache server which supports PHP and mySQL database or Microsoft IIS server which supports ASP and SQLserver database,
- a top level domain name,
- web server programmers,
- a much more detailed implementation plan,
- etc.
- and most important: sufficient funds.

We also aware that to implement such a professional NC with really limited resources and in a short time is not so easy. And Homa said we should focus on the concepts and theories of the NC, not the technology part. Therefore, we made a compromise but we still happy with the designer group's efforts.

As a Designer

As a designer group for the client- group the Johns, we implement a network community called “*Scanlation Community*” according to the client’s community proposal. This part of the final report summarizes the implementation of the community designed by Nemo.

Our clients clearly explained the area of the community, the aims, objectives and needs of the community, analysing the distinction of the community amongst the existing similar communities as well. As a client, they really understood what kind of tools they want to include in the community and some importance issues, such as social, legal and security issues are also described. As the client provided clear, elaborate and informative content, we got a clear portrayal during the implementing the community. And by discussing with the client, we kept all our effort to make the community that the client really want and satisfy their demand.

In the first phase, we sent our initial implementing proposal to the client and discussed with our clients. At this point we have just stuck to the information provided in the proposal and the feasibility of designing this community. And we made a clarification and started to build the community according to the client’s requirement.

The approach to implementing the project

Creating the community’s portal (<http://groups.msn.com/Scanlation>)

The home page contains a main frame and the modules frames. The main frame is in the middle of the page. And the module frames which users can click particular button to join the particular function of the community. The details information will explain as follows:

The main frame will consist of the following sections

- ✓ Introduction of the community
Briefly introduce what’s the community and let the members know where they are.
- ✓ New messages
Any new announcements and information will put here.
- ✓ The welcome message
The welcome message is kind and friendly. It is the first contact with the user.

Modules frame will have the following section

- ✓ **What’s new**
The new information and news will be put here.
- ✓ **Join now**
Members login is put on the home page. To be an active part of this community users should join and become a member. Each member will be given a unique password. The remind facility is given when members forget the password. Members can sign in

anytime. Users who want to sign up and become new members can do this anytime. After the new member sign up, the portal will send a confirmation email to them.

✓ **Messages**

Allow members to share information, leave the message, and discuss the topic. It is the threaded bulletin board that good for the new members to get involvement.

✓ **Pictures**

Members can post photos and images in here. Members can upload and download images, picture and favorite comic photos. They can browse thumbnails and enlarge any particular image as desired.

✓ **Chat**

Several rooms exist for members to join at anytime and take a role in the discussion that is going at that particular moment. These synchronous tools offer members a great opportunity to share their experiences with others who might have the same interests. Any member can login or logout from any chat room whenever he/she wants in order to join another room. Moderators will have the ability to control and block bad attitudes which might affect the discussion.

✓ **Calendar**

Members have to log in to use the facility. They can add or cancel events and make the schedule.

✓ **Documents**

This is also an important function of the Scanlation community. Fans can exchange files here. Document allows members to upload or download files. These files might include images, documents, pomes, or any software. However, it will be the responsibility of the member to check files for any viruses or information that might cause damage to their systems. After someone upload the new-scanned comic, the others can download it and then do some professional image enhancing work or translate it to other language. The members need to log in to use file exchange.

✓ **Links**

This facility can link users to the relevant links.

✓ **Manager / Administrator Tools**

This page is for the administrator to manage the site and the members within the community. A number of tools are available for the administrator to carry out a variety of functions:

- Add pages
- Manage pages
- Manage the member list
- Adjust the group settings
- View member profile
- Manage pending messages
- Check email settings
- Invite others to join
- Send message to the group
- Send email to other managers / administrators
- Send announcement to all members
- Manage the storage space

✓ **Member Tools**

This page lists the tools that allow a member to carry out functions within the community or on the site.

Member Tools include:

- View the member list
- View member profile
- Check email settings
- View the group settings
- Recommend the group to others
- Send message to the group
- Send email to the managers
- Manage the storage space

We welcome all people interested to take part in our community. People can register them selves and take part in the community.

The deviation from the existing ones

The client group mentioned some example of scanlation groups

- Toriyamaworld.com
- Omanga
- Manga-Sketchbook
- Certhy
- Animesoft
- Hemuloki Scanlations
- Atlantisdream

Among above websites, Toriyamaworld.com is similar to our group proposal.

The Toriyamaworld.com has menu which is composed of eight sections:

- Main : Main pages
- Manga : Comics translated into English
- Forum : Bulletin (message) boards which is asynchronous Communication tool
- Chat : Synchronous communication tool
- Fans : Place for comic artist
- Staff : Staff information
- Links : URL for comic website

Based on the website, our group is going to implement the website additionally.

Poll system : This is a system for investigating people's opinion. It may be useful to analyse the contents in the website. Based on the analysed data, the management policy in the Website will be established. Such effort will attract Netizen.

Mailing system : This system can sustain continuous member's interest for the website. Whenever new comics released or new event, all members will get a mail from the website. In the mail there is a check box for forwarding the mail to his or her friends. It is a good method, which potential members draw their attention to the website. Furthermore, the system will be effective for increasing member in the website as well.

Member profile database : This system will provide the member's information. After joining the website, member can search member's profile. By doing so, member can know other member's information. Such will be helpful to build trust and foster relationships between members,

Our group believe those systems we mentioned above can provide more qualities to members than other sample websites. However, to implement those systems, more money should be involved and time as well.

Final design plan

The community was designed according to the client's proposal and feedback from the client group in each step. We ensure the community should satisfy the client and will make the community to grow up. We are looking forward complete satisfaction from our client's.

Welcome to visit our community: <http://groups.msn.com/Scanlation> !

As a Researcher

This project is highly interactive as it requires both the client and the designer deeply involved in the virtual environment. Our group, which is named Nemo, acts as the designer for group Jones meanwhile as the client for group Next_Generation 2004. The proposal from group Jones is for scanlation online community which is initiated for comic books fans to exchange the copies of their favors. As for the proposal selected from our group, it is designed for nanotechnology experts.

Development Process (as the designer)

1. Be assigned the proposal from our client group.
2. All of our group members go through the proposal and discuss it using SWOT.
3. Give the initial design of the proposal back to our client based on our research on the implementation and the feasibility.
4. The client group returns the feedback of the initial design.
5. Repeat the above two steps if it is necessary.
6. Implement the design.

Communication and Collaboration Tools

As this is an online project built by online mode, the communication and file exchange between us and the client and designer group are all through the Internet including email and MSN.

Email is the so-called asynchronous computer-mediated communication (ACMC) because the exchanging parties do not need to rely on the presence of others to access the information they need while MSN is one of the synchronous computer-mediated communication (SCMC) by which exchanging parties are present at the same time to communicate instantly. SCMC method is kind of like conversation and is useful to get the instant result.

In our case, our group used email for exchanging design files and feedbacks which are not that pressing to be achieved in the communication with the designer group and our client group as well, and MSN is used between our group members for idea exchange and discussion such as how to arrange our group work and what is the main points in our design and implementation. The combination of these two types of communication made the whole process flexible, collaborative and efficient.

Collaboration Mode

Due to this is a group work, how to collaborate well is always concerned. In our group, we met together to discuss the client proposal first to clarify the whole process of the project, and then we subdivided the project into different tasks and

assigned to the members, and specified the due time. After all the members finished their own tasks, we met together and integrated the tasks, and we repeated this work cycle until we satisfied with the project. On average, the meeting usually lasted about one hour and the individual tasks were due in two days. As for the collaboration with the client, the email method was mainly used.

Main Communications Memo

The following is an archive of some important discussion emails that have taken place in the progression of creating the community as both Designer Group and Client Group.

As can be seen, a good flow of communication has taken place. Meanwhile, a lot of other interactions have taken place through other means of technology, such as SMS, MSN online meeting which aren't able to record logs, therefore unable to display them as part of the report.

Designer Group

Subject: *about the assignment 3 of Networking Communities*

From: yizhao@it.uts.edu.au

Date: Thu, May 20, 2004 4:00 pm

To: slktan@it.uts.edu.au

Dear Karen,

Our group fortunately got your proposal as the designing proposal. However, we cannot get the full document from UTS online website. Can you send your personal website address to our group?

Thanks a lot.

Nemo Group

Subject: *Re: about the assignment 3 of Networking Communities*

From: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Thu, May 20, 2004 5:09 pm

To: yizhao@it.uts.edu.au

No problem. Its hosted on the charlie servers.

http://charlie.it.uts.edu.au/~slktan/NC/nc_ass2.htm

The charlie server will prompt for login, so...

Login: ***

Password: *****

Cheers,

K

Subject: Re: about the assignment 3 of Networking Communities

From: yizhao@it.uts.edu.au
Date: Thu, May 20, 2004 8:20 pm
To: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Dear Karen,

Our group wanna ask you another question: when you designed this networking community, did you think about the legal issues, such as the copy right?

Thanks a lot

Nemo Group

Subject: Re: about the assignment 3 of Networking Communities

From: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>
Date: Thu, May 20, 2004 9:20 pm
To: yizhao@it.uts.edu.au

Yeah there was a section where I covered that in the report. Basically, comics that have been officially licensed in the US are not scanlated or distributed at all by the scanlation groups (in the case of English scanlations that is. If they are being translated into Spanish or some other language, they may not care until an official license for that language is given out).

Being really technical, the whole thing is illegal (as the right to translate into another language and the right to publish belongs to the copyright holders) :) But the copyright holders in Japan don't always bother coming after scanlation groups.

Do you need more details and examples?

Karen

Subject: preliminary implementation

From: "BIN LI" <bli@it.uts.edu.au>
Date: Sat, May 22, 2004 16:54
To: slktan@it.uts.edu.au

Dear client,

We're really happy to have you as our client, we're looking forward to have a fruitful cooperation with you.

As Homa said, we may focus on the NC content and concept but not the programming. Actually that is too costly to hire web space which supports PHP and MySQL. Therefore, we propose to use the readily available service on community building, such as Yahoo Group. Please let us know if this is acceptable for you.

We'll analyse your proposal throughoutly and will be in close contact with you at all the time. Also, we'll have a preliminary implementation ready ASAP.

Looking forward to hear from you soon.

Best regards,
NEMO group
BIN

Subject: Re: preliminary implementation

From: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Sun, May 23, 2004 1:40

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Greetings, designer group :)

I'm pretty much happy with any tool you use, as long as it can fulfil the needs and the requirements of the scanlation community.

Thanks!

Karen

Subject: Re: preliminary implementation

From: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Sun, May 23, 2004 21:21

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Hi!

We need the details to wherever or whatever you're building, so that we can provide feedback information :) Can we expect something by tomorrow, or as soon as possible?

Cheers,
Karen and group

Subject: Re: preliminary implementation

From: "BIN LI" <bli@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Mon, May 24, 2004 3:16

To: "Rennuian" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Priority: Normal

Options: [View Full Header](#) | [View Printable Version](#)

Hi, Dear Client:

The attached file is the preliminary implementation prototype report. The URL is included as well.

Please review it and we desire your feedback: D

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

yours truly,
design group

Subject: Re: preliminary implementation

From: "'Rennuian'" <slktan@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Mon, May 31, 2004 7:39

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Hi!

sigh You really should have chased after me for the prelim. feedback. Anyway, I'm not too satisfied with what has been done. It appears that it is only a very basic setup - I would appreciate seeing further customization of some sort, and some content to give me a better idea how it all works.

You also have not implemented some form of a gaming function. In my initial proposal I suggested a Cash Mod which was basically a mini-game where participation brought points that could be redeemed for game items for the purpose of inducing people to participate, stay and maintain strong ties to the community and other people.

I am willing to admit that this feature cannot be implemented in the time required without skills and/or resources, but I expected to see some other way to fulfill this function, which you have not done.

Another disappointment is the limited storage allowance. While the group itself appears to have no limit on storage, each member is allowed 3 mb only which ideally is insufficient for high quality scanlation releases.

Again I realize this is because you may not have the real resources to make this possible, but could you try to find some alternate method?

I find the idea of the calendar and photo storage function interesting. The former could be used to plan updates and meetings, and the latter to showcase current releases. However, the calendar did not load at all for me, so I don't know if this is a technical problem or because there was simply nothing set in it. And as for the photos, its failing point is that it does not appear to allow additional information to be included with the picture - additional information that would be useful in this case would be the name of the comic, the artist's name, the version or number of the release, plus the name of the group that is releasing it.

The real-time chat is appreciated to some degree - I dislike having to install unnecessary software in my computer and I feel that in a large society I would surely not be the only one. Perhaps an alternative (or a secondary supportive option) that does not require installation may be a better idea?

You have also not shown me how the message area can be divided or used to fulfill the requirements of the proposal. Neither have you shown me how feedback can be acquired, or the legal warnings that the community should ideally carry.

Thanks, I hope this feedback helps.

Cheers,
Karen

Client Group

Subject: NC: Nemo Proposal Implementation
From: "Yuliana Ong" <Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au>
Date: Thu, May 20, 2004 22:03
To: bli@it.uts.edu.au
Cc: ssudkata@it.uts.edu.au
Kittipat.Chaleysub@uts.edu.au
Lucy.Faltas@BTFinancialgroup.com

Dear client,

First of all, we're really happy to have you as our client, and we're looking forward to have a fruitful cooperation with you.

As advised by Homa, we're now your new designer team. Based on the purpose of this assignment, which is to create an effective online community, then our focus will be mainly on the community building of your proposal. Regarding the implementation of your proposal, we propose to use the readily available service on community building, such as Yahoo Group. Please let us know if this is acceptable with you.

Moreover, we'll analyse your proposal throughoutly and will be in close contact with you at all the time. Also, we'll have a preliminary implementation ready by Monday.

Looking forward to hear from you soon.

Best regards,
Next_Gen 2004

Subject: Re: NC: Nemo Proposal Implementation
From: "BIN LI" <bli@it.uts.edu.au>
Date: Fri, May 21, 2004 11:34
To: "Yuliana Ong" <Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au>

Hi, Yuliana:

Nice to hear from you. We will do what we can to support your implementation at all time.

As Homa said, we may focus on the NC content and concept but not the programming. Actually that is too costly to hire web space which supports PHP and MySQL. Therefore, we are happy to accept any kind of approach or form to implement our proposal. So, the Yahoo group is a good choice. ^^

good luck!

Subject: RE: Nemo Proposal Implementation

From: Lucy.Faltas@BTFinancialgroup.com

Date: Fri, May 21, 2004 18:23

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Cc: ssudkata@it.uts.edu.au

Kittipat.Chaleysub@uts.edu.au

Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au

anurag.rai@uts.edu.au

Dear Designer

Please read through our proposal and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Although we have specified particular applications to use in building this community, we understand that there is a time constraint and limited resources to implement the technology specified. So we have decided to compromise with you in implementing this proposed community using yahoo group facilities.

We look forward to your pre-implementation on Monday.

King regards

Next_Generation 2004

Subject: Nemo Pre_Implementation

From: Lucy.Faltas@BTFinancialgroup.com

Date: Sun, May 23, 2004 17:15

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Cc: ssudkata@it.uts.edu.au

Kittipat.Chaleysub@uts.edu.au

Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au

anurag.rai@uts.edu.au

Dear Client

Please confirm that you have received the pre_implementation from us on Saturday 22nd May.

thanks

Next_Generation 2004

Subject: NC: Pre-Implementation of Nanotechnology Experts Board

From: "Yuliana Ong" <Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au>

Date: Mon, May 24, 2004 15:53

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Cc: hkoosha@eng.uts.edu.au

Lucy.Faltas@BTFinancialgroup.com

anurag.rai@uts.edu.au

Kittipat.Chaleysub@uts.edu.au
ssudkata@it.uts.edu.au

Dear client,

We've sent you the pre-implementation document last Saturday 22 May 2004 via UTSONline. However, we haven't heard any reply from your side. For your convenience, the same document is attached in this email. Please let us know if you've received it.

We're looking forward for your feedback by this Thursday and thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,
Next_Gen 2004 Team

Subject: Re: NC: Pre-Implementation of Nanotechnology Experts Board From:

"BIN LI" <bli@it.uts.edu.au>

Date: Tue, May 25, 2004 14:45

To: "Yuliana Ong" <Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au>

Cc: Lucy.Faltas@btfinancialgroup.com

Hi, Dear Designer:

Sorry we haven't reply in time. The implementation looks nice :D
We are happy to accept it and expecting the final product for us.

cheers,
NEMO

Subject: NC: Invitation to join Nanotechnology Experts Board

From: "Yuliana Ong" <Yuliana.Ong@uts.edu.au>

Date: Thu, May 27, 2004 23:51

To: bli@it.uts.edu.au

Cc: Lucy.Faltas@btfinancialgroup.com

Kittipat.Chaleysub@uts.edu.au

ssudkata@it.uts.edu.au

Dear client,

We'll be sending you a private invitation shortly to join 'Nanotechnology Experts Board' in order to give you a better access to evaluate the community.

Also, we'd like to inquiry about the feedback from your side, if there's any improvement you'd like to see in the community. Please feel free to contact us.

Looking forward for your participation in the community.
Thank you for your kind attention.

Regards,
Next_Gen 2004

Subject: Final Implementation of the proposed nantechnology community

From: Lucy.Faltas@btfinancialgroup.com

Date: Sun, May 30, 2004 21:41

To: Lucy.Faltas@btfinancialgroup.com

Dear Client

This is the final implementation of the proposed nantechnology community.

No significant changes have been made since the pre-implmentation, however we have tested the features and allowed some current activity to occur for an illustration of its functionality.

The community portal(<http://groups.msn.com/NanotechnologyExpertsBoard/>) is now available for your enjoyment.

Kind Regards

Next_Generation 2004