

Revised Proposal for iSchool Website Hackathon
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Executive Summary

An all-hands hackathon is proposed for the Reading Week of Winter Term 2015 (February 13, 17-20) to migrate the two existing iSchool web sites to a single site run on new infrastructure. All members of the iSchool community including students, staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to participate. The first six weeks of the Winter Term will be spent preparing for the hackathon through public work meetings and implementation of the infrastructure.

Current Situation

The iSchool has two web sites, a public-facing one (ischool.utoronto.ca) and a community-facing one (current.ischool.utoronto.ca). There is general agreement this is an undesirable state of affairs.

Many stakeholders feel that their interests do not have sufficient visibility on the web site.

It is difficult to find information.

There are 15 000 pages on the two sites.

We have many people who are skilled in or wish to become skilled in information architecture, web design, web development, project management, communications, documentation and quality assurance.

Proposed Solution

In the first six weeks of Winter Term 2015, the foundations will be laid for a large-scale migration and re-implementation effort during reading week.

A hackathon will be held during Reading Week where web pages will be migrated or added to the new web site. There will be opportunities for a variety of skill levels. Cross-functional teams will be organized around content areas.

Some migration can be done automated using scripts. Others will require more manual work to integrate content from more than one page, apply styling, or edit for consistency.

During the middle of the week, the new site will go live. The remainder of the week will be spent on quality assurance.

Benefits of the Proposed Solution

We turn our problematic web site into an educational opportunity for our students.

Stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved throughout the process.

The work is done quickly.

Many more people are trained to maintain and edit the web site.

Schedule

On Fridays 1-3pm in the Semaphore Conference Room, the iSchool community will be invited to work sessions where particular aspects of the web site will be analyzed and designed.

	Public Meeting Topic	Tutorial
Week 1 –January 12	General Information- gather data	n/a
Week 2 –January 19	Look and Feel	Virtual machines using Virtual Box and Vagrant
Week 3 –January 26	Profile Pages	Drupal
Week 4 – February 2	Information Architecture and Accessibility	iSchool Style Guide
Week 5 – February 9	Labs and Concentrations	Git and revision control
Week 6 – February 16	Hackathon	Hackathon

Preparation

	Software Development	Project Management
Week 1 –January 12	Inventory of web pages Profiling of most visited pages	Hire project manager
Week 2 –January 19	Configure virtual machines and vagrant Create project in version control Test server	Inventory web pages Establish project management tools Solicitation of interest – how many are likely to attend meetings/ Hackathon Generate templates for information gathering from stakeholders Build communication plan Generate draft project budget Book space for weekly meetings/tutorials
Week 3 –January 26	New project using Drupal Integration with Shibboleth Content types	Review and integrate stakeholder comments and suggestions Provide feedback to Friday meeting participants Circulate information and agenda for upcoming Friday meetings Refine project budget Finalize space bookings for Hackathon
Week 4 – February 2	Theme	Provide feedback to Friday meeting participants Circulate information and agenda for

		upcoming Friday meetings Finalize plans to prep the Hackathon space (tech/catering placement) Contact catering and make preliminary booking
Week 5 – February 9	Example forms	Finalize number of attendees for Hackathon and provide to caterers Synthesize meeting notes and stakeholder feedback Create timeline for the Hackathon week
Week 6 – February 16	Hackathon	Hackathon
Week 7 – February 23	Retrospective	Retrospective