

Time Allocation Documentation

Project time allocation analysis

A review of how the time spent on specific parts of the project compare to the original planning made at the beginning of the project.

Revision History

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Introduction

At the beginning of the i-scream project the Combined effort in hours with descriptions was produced through group collaboration. The document listed the tasks that the group would need to under take to complete the project.

This document is a review of how the actual implementation changed from the original plan, and possible reasons as to why the original predictions were incorrect.

Management and Administration tasks

Original time allocation: 200 hours. Approximated time spent is 160 hours.

Webpages

The original time allocation for webpages was 10 hours. Approximated time spent is 40 hours.

Although after about 10 hours work the web page was full functional and provided a number of scripts and tools to enable group members and interested parties to browse the site, small tweaks and banner logos accounted for an extra 30 hours development time.

Detailed allocations available in :

i-scream website. CVS commit logs.

CVS

Original time allocation for CVS maintenance was 10 hours. Approximated time spent is 20 hours.

Addition of backup strategies and recovery processes accounted for an extra 10 hours over the original setup and documentation process.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes, CVS commit logs, Using CVS documents.

Meetings/minutes/meetings with iau

Original time allocation for meetings/minutes and project meetings with Ian Utting was 180 hours. Approximated time spent is 100 hours.

Meetings would vary in length depending on the availability of discussion topics. Once a format for meeting minutes was established the time required to write up them was reduced.

Informal meetings, during coding sessions may account for the missing 80 hours.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes

Requirements, analysis, specification

Original time allocation 85 hours. Approximated time spent is 115 hours.

Find out what the requirements are

Original time allocation for this task was 5 hours. Approximated time spent is 5 hours.

The time allocation document was produced after initial meetings with the intended customers for the project. All subsequent meetings with the customers were demonstration meetings.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes.

Look at other systems

Original time allocation for this task 30 hours. Approximated time spent is 45 hours.

Only a couple of similar products were found to be open source. The design methodology for these projects differed greatly from the i-scream project, thus little time was spent examining these. However system information collection was a time consuming operation due to its complex nature and accounts for about 80% of the time allocated.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes, i-scream development mailing list.

Analysing our own ideas

Original time allocation for this task 40 hours. Approximated time spent is 50 hours.

Many parts of the system being developed would informally be put under scrutiny by all members of the group during project meetings. Meetings with lau would also often be spent analysing the concepts behind parts of the system.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes

Produce specification

Original time allocation 10 hours. Approximated time spent is 15 hours.

Most specification development was done during project meetings, however some was done during informal, or sub meetings.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes, specification documents.

Design

Original time allocation for this task 200 hours. Approximated time spent is 218 hours.

UML

Original time allocation 25 hours. Approximated time spent 15 hours.

Use of dedicated UML drawing applications enabled quicker than anticipated production of the complicated server structure.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes, Server maintenance documentation, Conient maintenance documentation.

Interface Design

Original time allocation 20 hours. Approximated time spent 10 hours.

Formal specifications were developed during project meetings and some minor tweaking was performed during coding.

Detailed allocations available in :
Meeting minutes.

Protocol Design

Original time allocation 30 hours. Approximated time spent 20 hours.

It was decided that the protocols between the various parts of the system should be simple and text based. Already developed technologies such as XML were used to speed the development process.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes, CVS commit logs, i-scream development mailing list.

Server Design

Original time allocation 30 hours. Approximated time spent 30 hours.

Due to the original design process being through server development did not run over schedule.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes.

GUI/Client design

Original time allocation 20 hours. Approximated time spent 18 hours.

GUI and the overall client design process was distributed over a number of weeks, but the original time allocation was reasonably accurate due to the knowledge of the abilities and features of swing.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes.

Host design

Original time allocation 10 hours. Approximated time spent 40 hours.

The design of the host took place over a number of platforms and programming languages meaning that the original approximation of 10 hours was escalated for each platform.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes.

Web Interface Design

Original time allocation 35 hours. Approximated time spent 35 hours.

Design also encompassed the design of the database reporter but still fell within its allocated time.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes.

DB Infrastructure

Original time allocation 20 hours. Approximated time spent 20 hours.

During many meetings the design of the database was an important discussion topic. It was also decided to re-design the database structure when the 3rd year project mysql space was filled to maximum.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes.

Implementation

Original time allocation 300 hours. Approximated time spent 1500 hours.

Development of the i-scream system took much longer than we anticipated due to the complexity of what we wanted to achieve. Debugging sessions and problems with no obvious solutions caused much of the over run.

Detailed allocations available in :

CVS commit logs, All code.

QA, QC, Testing

Original time allocation 195 hours. Approximated time spent 718 hours.

Document specifications

Original time allocation 5 hours. Approximated time spent 8 hours.

Production of template documents accounted for the overrun. Document specifications were produced in approximately 5 hours as per the original allocation.

Detailed allocations available in :

Document specification documents, Meeting minutes.

Coding specifications and adherence

Original time allocation 10 hours. Approximated time spent 10 hours.

Due to the groups desire to produce good quality code from the beginning of the project ensuring that the code adhered to the specification was usually trivial.

Detailed allocations available in :

Meeting minutes, All code.

Testing of each of the modules

Original time allocation 180 hours. Approximated time spent 700 hours.

Most of the overrun for this task can be attributed to the ongoing testing of the server and hosts under stress. The server was run for many hours at a time to ensure that it would hold up for extended period of high load.

Testing was also performed by third parties (although this time has not been taken into account) which was then analysed by the group members.

Detailed allocations available in :

Database reports, CVS commit logs, Meeting minutes, Some code.

Documentation

Original time allocation for this task 150 hours. Approximated time spent 195 hours.

User Documents

Original time allocation 40 hours. Approximated time spent 60 hours.

Due to the complexity of many of the systems components, and a desire to produce accurate and useful documentation meant that the original time allocation was over run.

Detailed allocations available in :

Documents concerned.

Maintenance documents

Original time allocation 60 hours. Approximated time spent 75 hours.

Due to the sometimes overwhelming complexity of parts of the system, and the specialisation of the group members to certain parts of the system large documents would quite often need to be written wholly by one person.

Detailed allocations available in :

Documents concerned.

Internal documents

Original time allocation 50 hours. Approximated time spent 60 hours.

Although little physical documentation was produced outside the categories listed above the dev@i-scream.org.uk mailing list was used extensively from when it was set up until the end of the project. Writing, replying and reading the emails submitted accounts for most of the 60 hours devoted to this task.

Detailed allocations available in :

i-scream development mailing list.

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