

EVALUATION

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7.1 Introduction

This section discusses the evaluation of the project, whether the initial goals of the project were achieved. And also discusses future development that can be carried out by someone who wishes to improve the output of the project and how these could be implemented.

7.2 Methodology

The goal of this project was to develop a software to serve the society for improve language learning skills. The evolution criteria of the system break into following categories

- Inputs and Outputs – accuracy, completeness and timeliness
- User satisfaction with the system in general
- Reliability of the system in operation
- Adequacy and effectiveness of system controls and security.
- Robustness of database and flexibility of its design

There are many methods of evaluating the above and is a laborious task in itself. The two main evaluation method categories are the formative methods and summarise methods. Under these categories, there are many techniques to carry out the evaluation. The formative evaluation methods are used during the development of the system to expose problems that arise during each stage of development. Exposure of these problems allows developers to find solutions before these problems become crises. The summarise evaluation methods are usually performed at the end of the system development to ascertain how well the system has met the user requirements.

The expert and peer reviews and quality reviews are just two from among many techniques available to the evaluator, which are planned to use in this project.

Experts and Peer Reviews

This type of technique is a formative evaluation method. The user requirements specification is developed using interviews held with supervisor and some users. These same users were once again requested to provide feedback on the layout of the input and output screens. Their input was valuable in refining the deliverables to a great extent although much work remains to be carried out to make this product a polished product.

Found ideas

- Provide further improved navigation features to the web pages as when the user goes to the bottom of the web page there are no navigation facilities at the bottom of the page, which may cause to the user to be disoriented.
- Provide more specific error messages when they do mistakes rather than generic ones.

Quality Reviews

This type of technique is summarise evaluation method. This technique of evaluation requires a questionnaire to be circulated among subscribers. Although this activity was planned initially, due to time constraints could not carry out it due to time constraint. As such administering an evaluation questionnaire would be an area that needs to cover in future.

Final Evaluation

Engaging in this system development activity brought together the various strands of teaching and learning imparted and acquired during the delivery of the taught component of the MSc. lectures and assignments. The application of this body of knowledge to a real world problem provided the author with the exposure of what information technology professional would be faced with in the real world-working

environment of an enterprise. Before the enrolment of the project, developing a mobile application was a dream. However, huge experience gained, after working with this project several months. Therefore, it is not a dream henceforth. This task made me to read more articles, books and web references etc to acquire knowledge regarding .NET framework, C#, ASP.NET, WML language and made me to do various types of projects and how deploy them in a real world environment. Apart from the above-mentioned, it also helped lot to gain experience in project planning, system analysis and designing techniques, presentation and documentation.

This is summarized in the Table 7.1 with the level of achievements.

ID	Module	Status
1	Query the database for getting the lesson information.	100% completed.
2	Sound file down load	100% completed.
3	Design and maintain a SQL 2000 database for keeping the lesson data and sound data	100% completed.

Table 7.1– The scope evaluation

However, the system has few shortcomings to overcome. First, one is the device configuration part of the web pages. Latest models of Nokia, Samsung, Sony Erickson or Motorola phones can access the system without any format changes of the controls of the software and it is well tested and configured. However, it needs to be tested with other brands currently available in the market to use without any major changes to the appearance of the system. Although format changes may occur, there may not be any deficiencies in the functionalities to expect. Other issue is the limited number of user options to query the database to getting information. Therefore, subscribers can have limited number of information to analyze. All these limitations of this project are due to the time limitations.

Project Plan Evaluation

As to initial plan project schedule to be completed on end of April 2006. However due to some various reasons it has been delayed until the end of May 2006. Major reasons for delays of this project are due to the steep learning curves that had to be tackled to acquire skills required to implement the project. So many articles, technical documents, books etc had to be followed. to gather knowledge and solve the issues arisen in the early deployment stages.

7.3 Limits

The system has few shortcomings to overcome. First, one is the device configuration part of the web pages. Latest models of Nokia, Samsung, Sony Erickson or Motorola phones can access the system without any format changes of the controls of the software and it is well tested and configured. However, it needs to be tested with other brands currently available in the market to use without any major changes to the appearance of the system. Although format changes may occur, there may not be expected any deficiencies in the functionalities. Other issue is the limited number of user options to query the database to getting information. Therefore, users can have limited number of information to analyze.

Problems

- The main problem was to download the sound file to the subscriber's device. In testing environments it took long time to download and raised errors due to web server timeouts of the GPRS connection.
- In the programming, the mobile controls were not compatible with devices.