
**Class Logistics,
Milestones,
Readings, etc.**



Team Formation



Projects Selected by Class

- A. Giving Farmers a Fighting Chance (Monterrey Tec)**
- B. Mobile social network for students in low-income communities (Telmex)**
- C. Thrive in Five Baby Blog (Boston Mayor's Office)**
- D. Mobile diagnostics (CIDRZ, GE Healthcare)**
- E. Multilevel marketing for microfinance (COBIS)**
- F. Disaster Management + Mobile Sensors and GPS Mapping (CRS + InnovGreen)**
- G. M-commerce interface (United Villages)**



Team Consolidation

- **New Students in Class**
 - Check skills and background
 - Team Designation
- **Early Casualties**
 - Each person check if your team is complete
 - Speak up if not complete or people wiggling
- **Logistics**
 - First meeting with Advisors?
 - Planned a contact strategy with Project Partner?
 - Planned Milestone completion schedule?



Team Formation

- These are small teams, each member puts multiple “hats” on. All workload must be equally distributed.
- However, each team member will be designated to log team accountability of:
 - Operation matters (MIT)
 - Sustainability matters (MIT)
 - Software Development matters (MIT)
 - System / “Product” Design and User Experience matters (MIT)
 - Media and Communications matters (Emerson)



What NextLab is About (and What it is Not...)



NextLab is About

- **Addressing a real concern stemming from the grassroots of the developing world**
- **Learning the many barriers of doing so; and tolerance for uncertainty and setbacks**
- **Holding judgment and just learning what it's like out there for billions of people**
- **Sensitizing yourself as to the possibilities of helping the developing world (a little) using ICTs**



NextLab is Not About

- You
- Tech Prowess
- Fitting this class into a given career design
- A grade



Media Component



Keeping in Mind

- **Communications officers as an integral part of the team**
 - Include them in all meetings and communications; their role is as important as yours is
 - They will create a video of your technology. That is part of the grade (Public Presentation deliverable)
- **Wear your NextLab gear on camera**
 - It helps the cause!
 - We will give you more as the semester progresses
- **NextLab t-shirt**
 - Who does not have one (email me your name/size)
 - Who's got a really wrong size? (ibid)



Readings



Readings

- **10 Minute Powerpoint presentation**
 - 1. 6-8 minutes synopsis of paper**
 - Distill the most salient and important points
 - 2. Personal Commentary**
 - Your own critique
 - Share personal experiences
 - Express your own opinions
 - Compare with related work you might know of
 - Etc.
 - 3. List of questions for class to think about and discuss**



Be prepared to help facilitate class discussion

Guided Design Process



Logistics

- **There is a Milestone (out of 6) to report on every other Wednesday, starting September 24th .**
 - **Each Wednesday, Instructors will randomly pick 3 or 4 teams (out of 7) to present their Milestone progress to the class**
 - **To observe the individual performance of each member, only one person will present a given Milestone. Presentations are 10 mins long**
 - **Immediately following the presentation, Instructors will randomly call on audience members to give constructive feedback (including critiques). Feedback period is 10 mins.**
 - **The teams that do not present on that Wednesday will present the following Wednesday**



Ultimate Objective

- **NextLab end of semester event**
 - **Scheduled at Bartos for December 10th, 11am-4pm**
 - **Poster Session**
 - **Demos of Working Prototypes**
 - **Videos of your technologies in their context (Emerson + MIT students)**
 - **Team presentations to a public audience**
 - **Lunch, Refreshments will be served**

 - **A wide array of personalities will be invited from the Institute and beyond**
 - **We will invite members of the press (NYT, etc.)**



Milestones



Milestones

1. Elevator Pitch and Related Work (Sept. 24)
2. Needs Assessments Initial Results (Oct. 8)
3. System Design, and Initial Implementation Results (Oct. 22)
4. Sustainability / Financial Factors (Nov. 5)
5. Feature Complete (Nov. 19), General Progress Report
6. Working Demo (Dec. 1)
7. Final Presentation Event (Dec. 10)



Elevator Pitch

- _____
is a _____
- for

- that, unlike
_____,
- _____
- **This is good to have so that:**
 - **you know what you're doing**
 - **you can easily explain it to others**



* from Hal Abelson's class



NextLab I, F'08, L1 slide 3

Elevator Pitch

- <name>
is a <service / app / device / platform / ?>
- for
<purpose, problem that it solves>
- that, unlike
<alternatives, current way it's done>,
- <what it does differently>

- This is good to have so that:
 - you know what you're doing
 - you can easily explain it to others



* from Hal Abelson's class



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Solutions and Related Work

- **The Present Solution**
 - How are things done now?
 - What is wrong with that?
- **Alternative Solutions / Related Work**
 - Has anyone else come up with a better solution?
 - Has anyone done something not directly related that may be useful?
- **Your solution (what can you do)**
 - Just use existing solutions and put them together
 - Modify / extend existing solutions
 - How?



Milestone #1 (Sept. 24)

- **Present your elevator pitch (1 minute)**
- **Present Solutions and Related Work**
- **What you need to do to prepare**
 - **talk to your project partner to get context, purpose, and current solution (start now!)**
 - **this is also a form of Needs Assessment**
 - **do background research on existing/related solutions**
 - **write-up your proposed improvement**



Milestone #2 (Oct. 8)

- **Present Needs Assessment and Feedback results from partner**
 - What does your partner think about your proposed solution?
 - Does it fit their needs?
 - How does this affect your plans?
- **What you need to do to prepare:**
 - present your Milestone #1 report to your project partner (on Sept. 24, regardless of whether you are called)
 - Get their feedback
 - Think about how it affects your proposal / plans



Milestone #3 (Oct. 20)

- **System Design and Initial Implementation Results**
 - How are you going to achieve your goal?
 - What are the components of the system?
 - block diagram
 - How is it used?
 - users and interface to users
 - How does it work?
 - what happens in different use cases
 - what data moves where?
 - what computation needs to happen?
 - Any potential difficulties?
 - e.g., certain assumed functionality not being available
 - Progress report on initial implementation
- **Start working on this asap (Sept. 24 or even before)s**



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Fall 2008

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