

English 314

Principal Concerns and Considerations for the Final Project

In the not too distant future, I'll schedule a time with each of the groups in the class to discuss your ideas and plans for the Collaborative Final Project. In the interest of making our meetings run a bit more expediently, I've sent along a listing of the principal issues and considerations that must be given some attention as we determine the nature of your final projects. Also, since it's quite likely that we won't be able to fully discuss each of your ideas during the hour that is allotted for me to meet with your group, this listing will allow you to meet as a group independent of me and still address the major concerns I have regarding your project ideas. If possible, look this list over before our meeting time and try to give some thought to how you would respond to each of the following questions.

- What is the project?
 - An instruction booklet for the Software Package CyChat (being developed in CS309)
- Who is the targeted audience? How large is this audience?
 - Everyone who uses the software package, ranging from complete computer illiterate to unix sysadmins. The audience size (local) is 1 person. Globally, it's the number of people who buy/use our product
- Who would fund this document?
 - The company who released the software package (namely, the developers in CS309)
- Who would benefit from its creation? Its use?
 - The user who is using CyChat. It's use is documentation detailing how to use CyChat and it's features.
- Where/How would this document be distributed?
 - Distributed alongside with the software package (probably put it on sourceforge)
- How would this document be used? Where would it be used?
 - This document is used as both a tutorial on how to use the software package (connect to server, chat, interact), or can be used as a quick reference on the features and commands of CyChat
- How long would this document have to remain functional/useable? How long would its information remain valid?
 - 5 pages maximum
- What form would this document take? (Remember that form is in large part determined by function.)
 - A computer PDF file (readme.pdf)
- What types of visual aids do you foresee using? How many?
 - Diagrams, screenshots. We foresee using many diagrams and screenshots
- How many copies will it be necessary to make in order to meet the needs of the targeted audience?
 - The same number of copies as the number of software package distributed
- What is the projected cost of the document per page? Per completed copy?
 - Material costs – 0. Training and writing – A week of explaining and understanding the functionality of the program (analysis). A week of modelling the document (architecture). Rest is writing and maintenance.

- Is this a project that will allow everyone in the group to participate in a meaningful fashion? Does this project privilege some group members more than others? (. . .with regard to knowledge base, time constraints, access to materials, location, etc.)
 - Yes, no – (Henri is the intermediate bridge between the development team, and the document team)
- Does the group have the necessary expertise to be able to complete this project?
 - With minimal training, yes
- Do you have access to authorities that can double-check the accuracy/consistency of the information?
 - Yes
- Do you have access to a group of representative audience members upon whom you can test the document?
 - Yes
- Is this a project that can be completed in the remaining weeks of the semester?
 - Yes.