

End of Term Report

Fall 2009

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Secretary
Dalhousie University Computer Science Society
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The Position

The position of secretary is to keep accurate minutes of each official meeting of the council. Afterwards, they are distributed to the rest of council to be read over and edited if necessary. For this, I decided that Google docs would be the best solution, for everyone could edit them the easiest. Then, these minutes are posted to the cssociety.ca website so that all members can see what occurs in our meetings.

Littleboard

I have taken up the Littleboard project as a long term society project. The project will help the future counsels and faculty to promote CS related events and news. As well, it would make events easier. Attached is the Littlebored project.

Events

I have helped plan and run events for the society, such as movie night, and the Holiday Party. As well, I have bartended the Halloween GeekBeer.

Projections

For next semester, I plan to continue using Google docs for the minutes. I highly suggest a continued use of Google docs, or another system like it for the minutes. It makes life a lot easier.

As for Littleboard, I will be working hard over the winter and the upcoming semester to make this project a reality.

I suggest for everyone to be involved in CSS events. You only get out what you put into the society. It is a lot more enjoyable if you are involved in the society, for you get to reap the benefits of completing planned events. If everyone helps out, the society can grow to become an amazing social net for everyone in the faculty.

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Tasha Bartlett

The Littleboard Project

Events and News made Easy

Tasha Bartlett and Chris Cool

11/25/2009

The Computer Science Society would like to implement a system of TV's that would display a news and events feed, Littleboard, as well as be able to be used for building events. The first part is the set up of a large TV in the Atrium. Part two is the set up a series of smaller monitors on every floor in the CS Building displaying the Littleboard feed

Table of Contents

Purpose 5

Implementation 5

 Part One: 50"+ TV in the Atrium 5

 Part Two: Littleboard Monitors 5

 Atrium Monitors..... 6

 Floors One to Four 6

 The Littleboard System 6

Preferred time-line..... 6

 Winter 2010 6

 Summer 2010..... 6

 Fall 2010 7

Equipment Required 7

Help Wanted 7

 The Littleboard System 7

 Atrium Modifications 7

 Funding 7

Purpose

The purpose of this project would be that there would be a constant presence of society and faculty news and events throughout the building. It would also give notice of upcoming events to both CS and non CS students, for not everyone is on CS mailing lists. Lastly, it would enable easier set up and take down of events in the atrium which would lessen the amount society would borrow equipment from faculty.

Implementation

There is a two part implementation to this proposal. Firstly, there is the big screen TV in the atrium. Secondly, we will set up of various monitors throughout the building.

Part One: 50"+ TV in the Atrium (a.k.a. Big TV)

We are looking to use the grated off area in the atrium where the Aliant sign is for a 50" or larger LCD TV. The TV would be behind shatter proof glass, and the glass should have small holes over where the speakers to the TV are. All the cables for the visual equipment to the TV will be covered up. There will be a lock to the shatterproof glass that only faculty will have a key to, for if only the TV is in the shatterproof glass case, there is no reason for society to access it on a continuous basis. The TV itself would need various inputs.

Figure One: The Screen Area

Below the glass section would be a series of cabinets for storage and the hook up of the Audio and Visual equipment. In these cabinets would hold the Xbox for society as well as a small sound switch. In the cabinet, it would also hold a small computer to process the news feed, Littleboard and output to the atrium computers. Tethered in the cabinet would be the remote for the TV so the volume and various inputs can be accessed. On the outside of one of the cabinets would be the plugs for the different inputs on the TV, such as a VGA input, HDMI input, and the composite and component input. Society would have the keys to the cabinet.

In this we would also need to have a cable feed. This enables us to show news, sporting events, and television specials. These could be planned events or current events as they occur.

In order to have this area be functional, as well the bolted in counters would be removed. Society would purchase some collapsible tables to make up for the lost counter space for events.

Figure Two: The Cabinets

Figure Three: Lounge Space in Use

Part Two: Littleboard Monitors

There is a two part phase process to this proposal. Part one will be placing a couple of monitors in the atrium. Part Two is placing at least one monitor of each floor of the CS building.

Atrium Monitors

Firstly, we plan to place at least two monitors in the atrium showing the feed from the Big TV. We are looking at roughly 32" widescreen monitors to be placed on the pillars in the atrium. These two monitors differ from the rest, for they are to have the option of as well switching to a movie feed from the 50"+ TV in the atrium, so there will be multiple monitors showing the same show or movie in the atrium.

Figure Four: TVs on Cement

Floors One to Four

We would like more monitors to be placed throughout the building. The goal of this project is to have one monitor on every floor of the CS building. For floors one, three, and four we would like to have the monitor next to the elevators. For floor two, we would like to have the monitor next to the Society Desk.

Figure Five: Society Desk TV

Figure Six: Elevator TVs

The Littleboard System

The Littleboard feed will be controlled by two different computers, one in the society cage, and one in the atrium cabinets. Our plan is to have it sync with a website, and we are curious as to how to do it. We need help with this.

Whatever is displayed on the big TV from the computer will be displayed on the atrium computers. This is why the computer for the big TV will need to have a tuner card, to output the signal.

Preferred time-line

The following is the proposed time-line of when things will be completed. This can be modified to accommodate the faculty's constraints.

Winter 2010

To be done in winter 2010

- Implement The Littleboard System
- Place in the big screen TV area
- Place in the two atrium monitors

Summer 2010

To be done in summer 2010.

- Society Desk's monitor
- Floors 1-4 monitors if feasible.

Fall 2010

To be done in fall 2010

- Finish off the rest of the floors with monitors which are not done in the summer.

Equipment Required

Below is a list of the equipment we anticipate requiring for the completion of the Littleboard project

- 50"+ TV with multiple sources
- 5, 32" TVs with computers (or all in one systems)
- Mounting equipment for the smaller TVs
- AV integration/cables
- Shatterproof glass door and cabinets with vents
- Collapsible tables

Help Wanted

There are various things that society needs help with planning, and implementing.

The Littleboard System

We are looking for advice of what would be the best and most effective way to physically set up the Littleboard Feed. If you have suggested modifications to the system, please feel free to contact us.

Atrium Modifications

We will need the faculty to approve the use of the space in the atrium for the proposed 50" TV space. As well, we will need the removal of the counter-tops for a more relaxed lounge area. Also, we require the creation of cable feed throughout the building. We would need to remove the grating and add the glass door and cabinets integrated AV system.

Funding

We are asking faculty to help with the funding of the Littleboard project, for this project will be able to benefit both society and faculty. This is a rather ambitious project that will improve the look and use of the CS Building space. There is no upkeep cost of this system.