# CSC207H: Software Development Group Assignment 1

#### **Overview**

Your basic task has you interview prospective clients for a software project to determine their needs and then your group must produce a one-page description of the project as you understand it. Additionally, you will produce a list of user stories, a small set of further questions for the client, and an accompanying email message. Your group will have a Subversion repository, and all documents should be committed to it.

# **Registering Your Group**

You will be completing this assignment in groups of 4. In some special circumstances, groups of 3 or 5 may be allowed. To register your group and receive your group SVN repository, one of your group members must send the instructor an email that includes a carbon copy to all the other members. You are welcome to choose a name for your group and include it in your message.

# Learning Goals

By the end of this assignment, you should have:

- 1. practiced soliciting specifications from a non-technical client in a domain where the client has considerable background knowledge not initially shared by the developers (your group),
- 2. used tools to support collaborate software development such as a wiki and a shared version control repository,
- 3. learned and practiced expressing technical content in a professional written context such as email to a client, supervisor or co-worker,
- 4. experienced some of the joys and frustrations of working with others and consequently developed some strategies to facilitate productive group interaction.

#### **The Problem Description**

This should be one page of text (80 characters per line, no more than 60 lines) that describes the system the client requests. The audience for this description is the client. Your goal is to convey as much as you can about your understanding of the user's requirements for the system, as clearly as possible within the space limit. This limit means that you can not include all the details so you must prioritize your thoughts. You should also choose your words

carefully, not wasting them on obvious or redundant information. Think carefully about the main ideas or major components that the system must have and how you can express this effectively. Then, if you still have space, consider which areas are next most important to describe. You should focus on the original functionality requested by the clients during the interview, rather than on additional functionality suggested by some students or non-functional requirements such as hardware platform, cost or ease of use.

Commit your single-page document as a plain text file named description.txt. Do not submit a pdf or MS Word document.

### **User Stories and Further Questions**

Make a list of user stories in a file named stories.txt. It should contain between 10 and 25 one-sentence user stories. In a file named questions.txt, make a list of between 2 and 5 further questions that you would like to ask the client. Both files should be written using language that is appropriate to the client as the audience.

#### **Email message to the Client**

The last document that you must submit is the text of an email message that you are preparing to send to the client. The message should thank the client for the initial meeting and ask the client to review the description you submitted (which would be included as an attachment). It should then ask two of the questions from the list you have prepared in questions.txt.

# **Suggestions on Writing**

You should use correct English, writing complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar. Remember that you are writing in a professional context but do not waste words embellishing the role-playing scenario. Be careful not to use technical language that the client will not understand or include details that are not important from the client's perspective. Use a spell checker and have each member of your group edit the documents. Everyone should proofread the final submission.

# Some Technical Tool Requirements

Because one of the assignment goals is to have each student experience using a version control tool in a collaborative context, the assignment has an extra requirement. Each member of your group must commit changes to at least two of the files in your submission and use meaningful log messages. The svn log command is useful to see if you have met this requirement.

Last change: \$Date: \$