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CSE 403 Project Proposal

Vision

- To create an open-source user-driven repository of ideas.
- To inspire creativity, fuel imagination, and provide the ecosystem for ideas to become reality.

The Problem

- There are far fewer software engineers than non-software engineers. Let's call the software engineers Group 1 and the others Group 2.
- Many fantastic ideas for software originate from Group 2 but have no way to get to Group 1.
- Group 1 can't possibly think up all the good ideas of tomorrow, either profitable or meant for greatness (or both!).
- Group 2 should have the ability to inspire Group 1 to pursue worthwhile, interesting projects.
- Currently, there is no venue that would allow these two groups to pool their talents in an organized and meaningful way.

What will your project accomplish?

- Provide a tool through which anyone can submit software ideas that can be implemented by members of the community.
- Enable the software engineers to adopt ideas and, most importantly, foster those ideas in their growth into active development projects.
- Connect the people who are able to cleverly formulate real problems to the people who have the ability to solve those problems.
- Create a community and atmosphere that is passionate about finding, thinking/talking about, and solving problems.

Minimum Viable Product

- Ability to register users (software engineers and non-software engineers)
 - Create login credentials,
 - New user email verification.
- Ability to submit ideas to the pool.
- Enable registered users to provide feedback (comment) on ideas that have been submitted.
- Vote on submitted ideas, provide recommendations and propose solutions.
- Enable users to indicate to the community that they are working on implementing a specific solution for an idea.

Additional features

- Ability to provide information about pre-existing solutions (some ideas might already have an answer).

- Ability to follow the progress of an idea, and the ability for implementers to provide project details and status.
- Ability for multiple implementers to work on different interpretations of the idea.
- Ranking system for users.
- OpenID login.

Appropriate scope

- This project has a small enough minimum viable product that it can almost certainly be completed by a group of 7 people by the end of the quarter.
- There are enough ideas for useful features that there will be no shortage of improvements that can be made once the minimum viable product has been completed.

What's your toolchain and runtime (early assessment)?

(<http://www.jeffknupp.com/blog/2012/02/09/starting-a-django-project-the-right-way/>)

1. Django project
2. All resources under source control (with git)
3. Environment independent install of project (using virtualenv)
4. Automated deployment and testing (using Fabric)
5. Automatic database migrations (using South)
6. PostgreSQL database.



Risks

- Unfamiliar tool chain and process.
- Potential risk that not all team members will be there 100%.
- Possibility that there will be no interest in this project (which would indicate, ironically, that this would be a good project. If this already existed, maybe we would have found a better idea).

Application Flow Diagram

