

## Project Proposal

**Due: Before Class Thursday, October 8, 2009**

### Overview

Your assignment is to propose an idea that will form the basis of a course project for this quarter. You will observe the need for good human-centered design in interactive computer systems and analyze problems that you encounter. This is an **individual** assignment.

### Project Themes

The theme for this quarter is **mobile computing** applied to any of the following domains:

- **Health:** applications that lead us to be healthy or fit
- **Environment:** applications that help us be aware of and reduce our environmental impact
- **Government & Politics:** applications that improve the political process, government transparency, and citizen participation
- **Development:** applications that can improve the lives of underserved populations

These are important and interesting topics for this course, but you might also consider their relevance to some upcoming design competitions:

- *Sustainability design competition:*  
<http://www.usabilityprofessionals.org/conference/2010/students/>
- *Health & sustainability design competition:*  
<http://www.chi2010.org/authors/cfp-sdc.html>

Some competitions have passed, but they still suggest possible future competitions:

- *Government design competition (from last year):*  
<http://www.sunlightlabs.com/contests/appsforamerica2/>

And you might think about a development sequence being offered this year:

- *Technologies for Resource-Constrained Environments:*  
<http://andersonkolko.blogspot.com/>

We encourage you expand upon your application or service to include new or different interaction techniques and technology platforms.

Focus on improving or creating a *specific* application or service that addresses the issues of an actual community. Remember, you must be able to design and evaluate this project within the timeframe of this course.

*More on back...*

## **Deliverable and Grading**

You will submit an essay of *no more than 2 pages* of text, approximately 1000 words. Pictures are free, so your actual document can be more than 2 pages, but only 2 pages of text.

Your submission must be in PDF format.

When finished, upload it to the catalyst drop box here:

<https://catalysttools.washington.edu/collectit/dropbox/summary/jaf1978/7152>

Your essay should follow this outline of four sections:

### **1. Problem or Idea (3 pts)**

The problem description should be a single short paragraph listing the specific high-level goals of the project. It states what the problem is and why it is a problem or describes a new idea and why it will enhance an existing application or work practice. It should also drop a hint at the proposed solution of the problem.

### **2. Analysis of Problem (3 pts)**

The analysis section should give more background for the problem or new idea. It does not just focus on the negative aspects of the current situation, but also identifies some positive aspects that may be beneficial to retain. A few salient examples from existing systems or work practices should be used to support those claims.

### **3. Suggested Improvements (3 pts)**

Here the proposal should propose specific changes to solve the problems or implement the new ideas described earlier and briefly explain why it is believed they will work.

### **4. Scenario Walkthrough (3 pts)**

Here the proposal should walk through a specific scenario where the application or service is used. It should highlight the problem that you are trying to solve, how the problem would currently be addressed, and how your application addresses the problem. Be sure to highlight the key features of your application or service.

You will additionally be graded on creativity and writing across the entire essay:

### **Creativity (3 pts)**

The proposal should try to address a practical problem with a novel use of technology or present a new or enhanced work practice enabled by technology.

### **Writing (3 pts)**

The writing must clearly present the important facts. It should be terse and concise, as conveying your idea is more important than the nitty-gritty details. The organization should follow the outline, with the conclusions in each section leading into the next in a logical manner.