An IT Internship & Website Project at Heretaunga Intermediate School

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ABSTRACT
This poster illustrates both an embedded internship and a project undertaken by Linda Brown, a third year Bachelor of Computing Systems (BCS) student at the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) in 2013. Linda worked in the IT department of Heretaunga Intermediate School (HIS) in Hastings, and also carried out a project of website design and creation for them during this internship semester. This poster outlines both of these roles and the tasks associated with them which were carried out as part of the Final Project paper of the EIT BCS degree. This paper helps prepare students for entry into IT industry roles and gives them a taste of the working environment of the IT organisation.

Categories and Subject Descriptors
K.3.1 [**Computers and Education**]: Computer Uses in Education

General Terms
Human Factors

Keywords
Web Development

1. INTRODUCTION
Computers at Heretaunga Intermediate School (HIS) [1] are used daily by staff and students to run the school; systems are required to deliver the programs needed to achieve the school's goals. IT assists with the setup, running and maintenance of these computers. The work includes the machine hardware, software applications and the network to run them. IT also assists the users of these computers. Their goal is to limit downtime, initiate and run enabling technology and increase efficiency.

Linda was able to be involved in all of these activities while interning at HIS. In addition she was able to work on a major project for HIS, the design and creation of a new website. This flexibility of being able to do both an internship and project for the final paper of the BCS is very beneficial to the student's work experience.

An evolutionary prototyping methodology was used for the website development at HIS where the heart of the website was created first then extended as time allowed.

The Bachelor of Computing Systems degree at Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) includes a compulsory 45 credit internship or project to be carried out in the final semester of study. This poster visually highlights the student's experience; it shows some of the internal workings (operations, tasks and projects) carried out for the organisation while still a student at EIT.

Linda was approved by the school's principal to carry out the website project as well as being an intern on the basis of another business website she had created that was online and operational. This shows some of the filtering process that sponsor companies may follow to help them select suitable students.

2. STUDENT WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING & PROJECT LEARNING
This internship and project poster describes and shows project processes and results, along with some technical details of the internship work, while still enrolled with the Eastern Institute of Technology and preparing for entry into the IT work environment. The student worked on a major project of designing and creating a new website, and other mini projects of setting up iPads for teacher and student use, along with installing backup software on teacher's laptops. This was in addition to intern work which included network support, providing IT support to teachers and students and general Help Desk tasks.

3. RESULTS

The school has a new website with which they are very pleased. The school's IT department has improved their provision of IT support and have shortened their list of mini projects that needed to be done.

The student has another website to add to her portfolio and also up-to-date IT work references and experience to add to her EIT qualification.

The results of the internship and project show that the EIT papers previously studied had prepared the student to accomplish the organisation's requirements.

4. CONCLUSION

This final project paper was a successful experience for the student. The option of doing both an internship and a project proved to be valuable in comparison to doing a class-based theoretical project paper. Immediate proof of project work-readiness, based on her extension on her previous studies i.e. a successful commercial website, was a deciding factor in this student securing this internship and project.

5. REFERENCES

1. Heretaunga Intermediate
   Web site: www.heretaunga.co.nz