Website and Wholesale Business Module Development Project

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we describe the process undertaken by our team for the purpose of delivering a module for the wholesale business of our client as well as revamping of the clients website. Our team was formed in second half of 2015 and consists of Aseem Bapat (Project Manager, Test Analyst) and Khaja Mazher Hussain (Project Coordinator/ Documentation/Project planner). This project has enabled the team members to apply project management skills that had been learned over the course of their studies.

Keywords: Agile methodology, Web development, Research, Future Research

1. INTRODUCTION

The team's client owns a pharmacy (franchisee) store and also has a website which is approximately 15 years old. The client wanted to revamp his existing website and wanted a solution for his wholesale business. The requirement from the client were pretty simple from the beginning, he wanted a functional module with friendly user interface and no online payment gateway. From the beginning of the project, the team had to curb their enthusiasm and focus on developing an achievable focus for the project.

2. RESEARCH

For the purpose of providing a solution to the client our team undertook an unusual approach to determine the ratings of the pharmacy websites all over New Zealand. Although the focus of the project was software development, our studies at SIT were geared towards mainstream project management and research methodologies. For the purpose of the research we referred to Krug (2014), which gave us some cues as to how to judge a website.

3. RESULTS

As the research we are doing has no specific benchmarks to follow we took the liberty to determine on what aspects a website should be judged. We considered 13 pharmacy websites across New Zealand, and judged them on 14 parameters which consisted of design, performance, mobile version, navigation, browser compatibility, content, aesthetics, user friendliness, integration, shopping cart, payment gateway, search functionality, social integration and online consultation. From the research we found out that, all the 13 websites had satisfactory design, one website in particular had a performance issue and was not compatible with mobile devices. All the 13 websites had proper navigation in place, they were also observed to be multiple browser compatible (We considered Internet Explorer v11, Google Chrome v44.0.2403.157 m and Mozilla Firefox v 40.0.2), they also had satisfactory content available. Out of the 13 websites, four websites had poor aesthetics. We found out one particular website to be less user friendly from the rest and another one with improper integration. We also observed that two websites had no shopping cart functionality which we think is the basic functionality required for a pharmacy website. We found out that four websites were not using payment gateway system. Out of the 13 websites, two websites were not having the product search functionality. Two websites were not having social
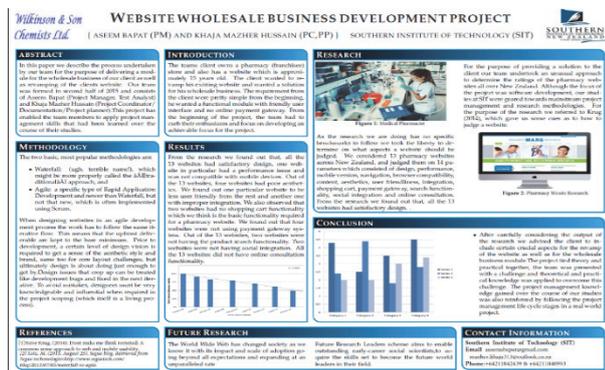
integration. All the 13 websites did not have online consultation functionality.

4. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

For the development of the wholesale business module we intend to use PHP version 5.4.39 with Apache 2.2.22 and MySQL 5.5.41.

5. METHODOLOGY

We used the methodology described by Bushell and Lotz (2015). They described methodology as "The two basic, most popular methodologies are: Waterfall: (ugh, terrible name!), which might be more properly called the "traditional" approach, and Agile: a specific type of Rapid Application Development and newer than Waterfall, but not that new, which is often implemented using Scrum. Both of these are usable, mature methodologies. Having been involved in software development projects for a long time, here are my thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each" (Bushell, 2015; Lotz, 2015)

6. FUTURE RESEARCH

Future Research Leaders scheme aims to enable outstanding early-career social scientists, in partnership with their host organization, to acquire the skills set to become the future world leaders in their field.

Researchers are using their in-depth understanding of the Web's technologies and social construction to lead the way in tackling the challenge to develop new forms of economic, social, political, technological and cultural resources.

7. CONCLUSION

After carefully considering the output of the research we advised the client to include certain crucial aspects for the revamp of the website as well as for the wholesale business module. We also observed that there is no specific structure that pharmacy websites in New Zealand follow. IT is a subject that involves learning skills and then using these skills for practical applications. The project tied theory and practical together, the team was presented with a challenge and theoretical and practical knowledge was applied to overcome this challenge. The project management knowledge gained over the course of our studies was also reinforced by following the project management lifecycle stages in a real world project.

8. REFERENCES

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