

Carnegie Mellon University Spring Carnival Committee 2016

Executive Summary

Community Partner

Patrick Koenig

Student Development Team

Ronnie Ghose

Israel Madueme

Kunal Sinha

Background

Spring Carnival is hosted by the Spring Carnival Committee and is comprised of three main events: Booth, Buggy and Mobot. The Spring Carnival Committee (SCC) puts together this event and manages hundreds of students involved in student organizations who take part in Booth and Buggy races. The carnival committee comprises of many students and the executive board consists of eight members. We partnered with the carnival committee to make improvements to their current task management application, Binder. The committee had some enhancements that they wanted our team to implement so that the Binder application can better support their new requirements.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Our project was unique in that it has two types of problems for our team to target. Firstly, our client already had a working application (Binder) that helps streamline their core business process (i.e. Spring Carnival booth administration). In order to meet their new business needs, they needed a more robust feature set to solve problems. The second type was an organizational one - the opportunity to explore regions of the organization that did not yet have a technology plan in place in order to further reduce the load on the Spring Carnival executive committee. Our client made a great effort to detail many issues they had with the application and new features that would be desirable.

Project Vision

Our first vision was to improve and extend the existing Binder application so that it supported our client's developing needs and workflows. Our second vision was to use our expertise as Information Systems professionals to learn about our client's business process and inform them of ways technology could facilitate processes in their organization. Our first goal was our main focus as that was our client's immediate need, and our second goal was something we intended to complete as the semester progressed.

Project Outcomes

Throughout the course of the project our team and our client were very diligent about tracking what we worked on using GitHub issues. We are happy to say that at the conclusion of the project our team resolved over 30 issues! The main features we created include a more streamlined tool checkout process, new reporting features to pull information out of Binder, a easier method for communicating between coordinators in the app itself, and many bug fixes. We are confident that our changes were a part of the improved productivity our client saw during Spring Carnival 2017.

Project Deliverables

Our client has an existing repository on GitHub (<https://github.com/sc0v/binder-app/>) and all of our code contributions have been pushed there via pull requests. In addition, our client pioneered the deployment process and so they already have the tools and information needed to deploy the application to their Campus Cloud VM.

Recommendations

We recommend that in the future our client solicit outside help in resolving some of the existing high priority issues remaining on the GitHub issues page including: adding text alerts for the tool waitlist, creating a better watch shift assignment workflow, and adding more comprehensive testing to the application. Also our client, Patrick, championed the deployment process, and so we recommend that he create a guide on what he did so that future Spring Carnival Committee's will be able to successfully deploy Binder in years to come. Going along with this, we recommend that in the future the SCC solicit outside help to develop an easier way to seed Binder's initial database entries every spring.

Student Development Team

Ronnie Ghose served as the design lead for the team. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems and Computer Science. He is looking towards a career in design and banking where he may explore a wide range of issues.

Israel Madueme served as the technical lead for the team. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems. He is looking towards a career in software development.

Kunal Sinha served as the project manager for the team. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with minors in Business Administration and Statistics. He will be interning at JP Morgan this summer and is looking towards a career in software development and investment banking.