CMU Spring Carnival Committee

Executive Summary

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Background

The annual Carnegie Mellon University Spring Carnival is a three-day event, aimed to create a relaxing environment for the campus community after months of intense work. The event is organized by the Spring Carnival Committee (SCC). It has three major components: Booth, Buggy and Mobot. The SCC puts together these events by supervising hundreds of students from different organizations. Their mission is to create a relaxing environment for the campus community and celebrate a tradition of fun, laughter, and being a Tartan.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Our project is unique in that it was an existing application (Binder) that our team was building on top of. Our primary opportunity was to improve the effectiveness and functionality of Binder through several different features. The features we took on included a member uploading feature for booth chairs, syncing tasks with through the Google Calendar API, formatting a report for CMU alerts, and allowing unreturned tools to be converted into charges.

Project Vision

The Project Vision for our team was to solve the issues with the Binder application and increase the efficiency of the Spring Carnival Committee's operations while addressing the concerns of students and user from previous years. We aim to serve the SCC and the booth building organizations who would be directly affected by the heightened efficiency and new features from our work. Our improvements to Binder will enable the organization to reduce complexity of regular tasks and create a better, more intuitive application experience for the users. Additionally it will streamline processes that would be much more tedious to do manually such as the building of reports.

Project Outcomes

Our team completed three major features and one minor feature to improve Binder during the course of our project. We implemented a feature for booth chairs to add builders to their organization by uploading a CSV of their members' AndrewIDs or by typing in an individual AndrewID. This made it so that assigning liability for a fine was much clearer because the organization has already assumed

responsibility for the individual. Next, we corrected a formatting issue with a report that listed all of the builders for booth that needed to be sent for CMU alerts, saving hours of tedious spreadsheet editing. After Carnival, we integrated the Google Calendar API into Binder in order for tasks to be much more flexible and easy to manage for the SCC Board. Finally, we introduced a feature that saved the SCC treasurer over 20 hours of work by allowing her to easily convert unreturned tools into charges through a single button.

Project Deliverables

The GitHub repo for the Spring Carnival Binder app includes all of our team's changes and improvements to the application. Our changes and comments were documented through git and all of our project work is reflected in the master branch of the repository.

Recommendations

Our team recommends placing a greater focus on documentation and training for the Binder application in order to maintain a healthy level of sustainability. We recommend training technical leads on the SCC board on the inner workings of Binder so that they can troubleshoot it when necessary. In addition, an onboarding system for SCC members to learn how to use the application might be a useful feature that a future IS consulting team can develop for the SCC.

Student Project Team

Karan Bokil served as technical lead. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems. he will be interning at Capital One this summer and is trying to become a CIO of a successful startup one day.

Andrew Kim served as design lead. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction. He will be working as a product design intern at Apple this summer and is looking forward to a future career as a designer in emerging technology.

Ritika Srivastava served as project manager. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems and will be interning at Capital One as a software engineer. She is looking forward to her future career as a creator and developer.