BAMS 09
Road to the I Awards

What started out as a regular subject in Computer Science ended up being the beginning of a journey for six unsuspecting computer engineering students.

With the thorough system specifications in hand we set about trying to meet the almost unimaginable task of developing a system that met the array of conflicting requirements.

Some of the main hurdles were to develop a system that was capable of running on any type of system, able to interface with third party devices to upload and download commands, and work in online as well as offline mode.

In the engineering there is always the looming threat of the 'trade-off', where one feature or functionality must be compromised to gain another. This is something we tried really hard to avoid.

Semester one saw the development of the business plan as well as the project plan, followed by the design document.

Semester two is where development of the application took place, in parallel to this development we ran various kinds of testing as well as user documentation creation and even had the opportunity to approach a number of our additional tasks.

The end result is a system that has 'all the bells and whistles'. As previously mentioned we tried really hard to avoid the traditional trade-off and therefore gave it our all. The system delivers on all fronts in that it is user friendly,

dynamic in nature allowing it to become fully customisable depending on the intended use, and robust just to identify a few of its strengths.

The nature of the application is a Biomedical Asset Management System, it offers support to the biomedical engineers of hospitals throughout Australia and New Zealand in the way of asset management.

However this is something they already have, the ideology is to have a single system to unify all hospitals in a structured manner where information sharing is paramount. This enables biomedical engineers all around the country to contribute to shared online resources to build the knowledge base. The small snippet of information that is often passed between team members can now be captured and shared with the entire community at the click of a button.

It was this that made our entry to the iAwards so appealing, despite using industry tools and standards to develop the system we were competing against technologically advanced entrants. Therefore, our appeal was made clear: 'our system provides a contribution to the entire medical profession through its ability to bridge the gap between hospitals across Australia and New Zealand'.

The submission for the state level awards was submitted just in the nick of time (4.59 pm with a 5.00 pm deadline), and thankfully it made it through, as we were successful in winning the State Award.

This guaranteed our entrance into the National Level of competition for the chance to represent Australia and the Asia-Pacific Level. We gathered a small team and presented our project to a board of highly distinguished members of the IT community. From principal consultants at KPMG through to the

Queensland Minister for Technology, the feedback was great and it appeared they all took a liking to the project and were able to see its merits.

The next big event was the iAwards dinner at the Crown Palladium. Such a grand event, labeled the 'Oscars for Geeks' by the MC. This was an opportunity to honor the innovative work being completed within the country. With speeches given by the Victorian Minister for Information and Communication Technology, John Lenders MP, as well as key members from within the AIIA itself, CEO Ian Birks and Chairman John Grant the night was most enjoyable.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in the national category however, not only did we lose to a worthy opponent but we were in good company with all other state winners being truly innovative entrants.

Thus ends the wild adventure that was CSE3PRA/PRB, what started out as 'just another University subject' turned out to be an experience in life that I, as well as my team mates will never forget.

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