

Functional specification

...also known as ‘definition of scope’

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Context

I am a member of Hounslow West Evangelical Church. Together, we are reaching out to our local community with the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As a church, we have had a web presence for over 7 years. However, the current website design is rather ‘outdated’ and I have been approached by an elder of the church to entirely ‘revamp’ it.

The church is located in a very multicultural area. The congregation reflects this and is made up of people from many different nationalities and backgrounds.

The main purpose of the church is to share the good news of the Saviour to all. It is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) and has links with a number of other likeminded local churches.

The church meets regularly throughout the week, with its main meetings on a Sunday. These meetings are when the church comes together to worship God, to pray together and hear His voice speaking to them through His word. More specifically, this consists of singing hymns and choruses, bible readings, prayer time and a sermon being preached for about half an hour.

Hounslow West Evangelical Church’s web address is <http://hwec.org.uk/>.

Purpose

The church's main purpose and the website's main purpose will be exactly the same. This is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all. For the website to achieve this audio, articles and details of upcoming events will all be integrated into the site.

The purpose of the current site is to inform visitors about our location, provide some basic information about us along with a hosting few old yet interesting articles written by people who were or still are members of the church. The 'revamp' will hopefully inject some new life into the project and provide another platform to reach out to the local community with fresher content (ie weekly audio sermons).

Thus, the website will allow users to download individual audio sermons or subscribe to receive them on a regular basis. This means that the website will benefit people inside the church as well as people outside the church, giving them the opportunity to mull over the sermons or listen to any that they missed.

Revamping the website should make it more user friendly and user conscious making the website more useful overall. By using well considered techniques the website should provide those with a good internet connection and those using a common web browser with an impressive multimedia experience.

Audience

Designing the website with the right audience in mind is essential to the successful outcome of this project as well as benefiting the users themselves. As stated in the proposal presented on 7 March 2007:

“It is likely that the website will be used mainly by church members as a resource. Currently, the oldest member is 96 years old. She does not own a computer but if she ever decided to purchase one along with an internet connection, the website design should be intuitive enough for her to navigate it easily and use all its features.”

As well as church members, people from the local area are primary targets. A GeoURL meta-tag will be included in each page, giving the longitude and latitude coordinates of the church. It must be extremely intuitive to use and accessible to all users. The site will contain information for children, young people and older folk – a neutral format usable by all people groups will be implemented and tested.

Objectives

It is vital that I identify a clear list of specific objectives as this document is legally binding. All the objectives below are quantifiable and measurable.

1. The website will contain 20 fault-free and easy to use pages. Which are: a home page (site index); an ‘About Us’ section including: a ‘Who, what?’ page, a ‘When, where?’ page, a ‘How?’ page, a ‘Membership’ page and a ‘History’ page. An ‘Articles & Audio’ section including: an ‘Article archive’, a ‘Sermons’ page and a ‘Book reviews’ page. A ‘Calendar of Events’ section including: a ‘HWECC calendar’ and a ‘Young people calendar’; a ‘Children’ section including: a ‘Sunday School’ page, a ‘Friday Clubs’ page and ‘Summer Holiday Club’ page. A ‘Contact Us’ section and a ‘FIEC’ section including a ‘Statement of Faith’ page.
2. The website will be accessible in all 5th generation web browsers; it will also be accessible and appear logical in the ‘Lynx’ text only browser.
3. Users will be provided with a choice of 3 display options on the ‘Accessibility’ page, which are: No style sheet, default style and high-contrast style (this will be done using client-side scripting).
4. A logical and documented way of storing a year’s supply of sermon audio, contact articles and fellowship focus magazines with ‘getting started with...’ instructions on how to upload them and update any associated files.
5. An Adobe Flash XML-based Slideshow for the home page to impress new visitors and not cause annoyance to regular users and thus undeniably creating an engaging multimedia experience.

Success criteria

- The website must achieve all five objectives listed in this document.
- No extra cost will be incurred by HWECC.
- Users will be able to download sermons easily and efficiently.
- The product is accompanied by all the deliverables.
- The project is completed ready and ready for handover before:

30 April 2007

Deliverables

- The website's XHTML files
- The website's CSS files
- The website's XML files
- The website's image files
- The website's SWF files
- Up-to-date sermon audio of the Letter to the Romans 2007 Series
- Comprehensive 'getting started with...' instructions enabling a novice user to install and update the website

All deliverables will be delivered on one CD-ROM and a version of the website will be uploaded to <http://hwec.org.uk/> by Mr G Yuen.

Constraints

As stated in proposal on 07 March 2007:

“The current web server has 2,500MB of space and monthly bandwidth allowance of 100GB. This should be fine as long as I am able to find a good quality audio compression codec (for each sermon) that doesn't take up to much space. A limit of 10MB per sermon seems reasonable. Ogg Vorbis and MP3 will be considered and may be provided as separate download options. A further more influential constraint is the lack of any server-side scripting (no PHP) and the lack of a database account (no MySQL). However, using a logical directory structure (and normal naming conventions) storing the sermons and content is feasible without implementing a more dynamic content management system.”

However, during an informal discussion with the main stakeholder since then it has been discovered that if the church decided to downgrade its web package from 2,500MB to 1,000MB then it would receive PHP support and a MySQL database account for free. A future communication with Mr G Yuen will decide if this is worth while. This would mean that two versions of the website would have to be made, a PHP version for efficient web use and a completely static XHTML version for the CD-ROM.

Areas of risk

The major area of risk is if HWEC decide to downgrade their web server or not. Mr G Yuen will decide soon. Other areas of risk are whether the timings are accurate. This should be solved by the leeway I have written into each task.

Stakeholders

- Mr G Yuen – he is the main stakeholder, he will upload the final outcome and provide technical insight throughout the entire project.
- Mr J Holden – he is the deacon in charge of the sermon audio.
- Mr G Gomes – senior management, he will be providing pastoral care, general guidance and feedback.
- Mr A Atar – senior management, feedback and guidance relating to project management.

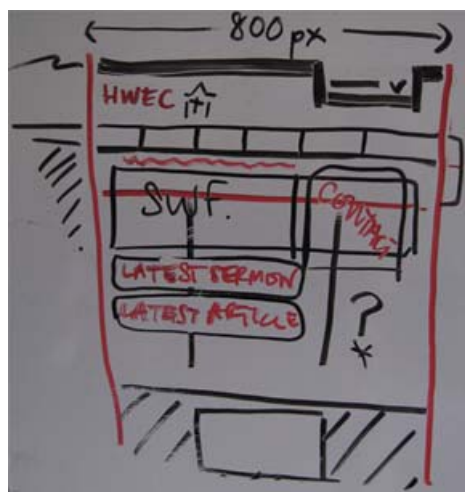
Resources

- Development workstation located at home – 2GB RAM, 64-bit AMD Processor @ 2.4GHz, Adobe Studio 8, Microsoft Office 2003 Standard Ed, Apache web server with PHP 5.0 module installed on localhost.
- College computers – 512MB RAM, Pentium 4 processor, Adobe Studio MX, Microsoft Office “Complete package” (including Microsoft Project).
- Canon IXUS 750 Digital Camera – 7.1 Mega pixel CCD sensor, Canon Lens, 1GB Sandisk Extreme III Flash Memory.

Target completion date

The aim of this project is that the product will be available online for use on 30 April 2007.

Initial design idea



To the left is the initial design concept. It was one of a number of initial designs that were sketched on a white board. It was then when decided to make the web site have a fixed width.

I choose this instead of liquid width style because it gives me greater control over the website's look in multiple browsers helping me to ensure complete consistency.

Hounslow West Evangelical Church
Affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Home About Us Articles & Audio Calendar of Events Children Contact Us FIEC

[Who we are, what we believe](#) [When and where we meet](#) [How to find us](#) [Church membership](#) [History](#)

About Us – Who, what?

Who we are

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."
2 Corinthians 4:5

Hounslow West Evangelical Church is a group of people who gather primarily to worship and serve Jesus Christ in this area. The congregation is made up of people of all ages, and of many different backgrounds and nationalities. We hope this web site will enable you to learn more about us as a church, and learn more about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What we believe

Hounslow West Evangelical Church is affiliated to the [FIEC](#), which is a grouping of independent Evangelical churches – as its name implies. All churches affiliated to the FIEC agree its [basis of faith](#), which serves as a useful summary of what we believe. It is a summary of the main teachings of the Bible on God, man, man's relationship with God, Jesus Christ and his work, ordinances and Christ's second coming at the judgment day. If the basis of faith seems to be jargon filled, [Christianity in a Nutshell](#) might be a little clearer. [More info...](#)

Site map:

Home	Articles & Audio	Children
About Us	Article archive	Sunday School
Who, what?	Book reviews	Friday Clubs
When, where?	Sermons	Summer Holiday Club
How?	Calendar of Events	Contact Us
Membership	Young people	FIEC
History		

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CC 1999–2007 HWECC

FIEC
Bible churches together

As you can see, the design has evolved already! The basic template is shown above. Currently, this is just a portable network graphic (.png) file that I created using Fireworks. However, it will be turned into XHTML and CSS for the first prototype soon. Feedback is encouraged, I will be asking for your opinion in the days to come.

Weekly updates discussed

Alongside unit 8 and 10, I am currently studying unit 12: Customising Applications. For this unit we are learning how to program in Visual Basic for Applications. The plan is to add some extra functionality to normal office applications to make them do things that they wouldn't normally be able to do.

It is my plan to create a Visual Basic Interface inside a Microsoft Word Document that will generate XML, navigate the XML created and transform it into other XML Doctypes, such as XHTML, as required by the user. These transformations will be done using XSLT.

Hopefully, I will be able to apply that unit's project also to this scenario by using XML to store the information about sermons in an archive. Then, the Microsoft Word Visual Basic Interface will enable any church member with Microsoft Word to append new sermons to the XML 'database', transform the newly updated XML into XHTML and RSS feeds at the click of a button.

Visual Basic Sermon Interface

Title:

URL:

Summary:

This method of updating part of the website is still in very early stages and therefore is not a deliverable or part of the key success criteria.