

‘CommSec’ business project and architecture simulation

Introduction

Computer-based business simulations offer great potential as teaching and learning tools. They can ‘reach the parts that other teaching methods cannot reach’. The Internet offers an opportunity to provide and maintain such simulations over a wide reach.

One such application is to teach some ideas behind planning the development of a series of IT modules that support complex and uncertain business requirements. Given an overall layered architecture, a number of modules can be envisaged that might support, individually or collectively, certain software-based business products. Depending on which modules are built when, certain business opportunities may or may not be met, and market share may be gained or lost. The interdependencies across layers and between modules add to the complication.

A prototype of such a simulation is currently being developed in Excel, but with a view to porting to a more powerful and robust environment, though still Microsoft-based.

Objective

Redevelop the Excel-based ‘CommSec’ Business /IT project planning simulation in on a more appropriate platform.

Tasks

- Assimilate the nature of the current simulation and design
- Choose a more appropriate technical platform; this may include Internet deployment, possibly also using Ajax technology
- Redesign develop, test and evaluate the simulation on the new platform

Notes

The content of this simulation is still under development and is expected to be so during the course of the project.

Pre-requisites

The student should be confident in programming and also demonstrate a good sense of responsiveness to evolving business requirements, usability and maintainability, probably in a Microsoft environment.