COMP190 Software Engineering Project Proposal

Sponsor information:

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Proposal Abstract:

Design a Tufts University branded and hosted RSS Podcasting widget that contains its own built-in MP3 player that can be used to deliver language audio files to our students via the Blackboard Learning Managing System. *(An alternative proposal is for the design of a Tufts University branded and hosted RSS Podcasting widget that contains its own built-in MP3 player and MP4 player that can be used to deliver the language audio and video to our students.)*

Background:

This fall, we began shifting the audio files used by the AS&E language programs (French, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian and Chinese) from Real Media Streaming format to MP3 format hosted on the UIT Spark Podcast server. We believe this format to be easier to access and of increased quality.

We have tested a number of freely available RSS Podcast widgets that will accept the Spark RSS feed and embedded these widgets into Blackboard course site pages. This allows the students to easily access audio files and allows the instructors to serialize the language audio files.

Unfortunately, these freely available widgets are most unreliable, contain advertising and are not branded to Tufts University.

My proposal is to have a Software Design Project student design a Tufts University branded and hosted RSS Podcasting widget that contains its own built-in MP3 player that can be used to deliver the language audio files to our students via the Blackboard Learning Managing System.

I believe that if such a widget were available it would also be used by instructors for many other podcasting needs. Currently, a number of instructors record their lectures and podcast them through Spark. A useful embeddable widget would go a long way to easily delivering those lecture audio files.

An even more ambitious proposal would be the design of a Tufts University branded and hosted RSS Audio (MP3) and Video (MP4) Podcast widget with its own built-in players. With such a universal widget we would be able to move the language videos off of the Real Media server as well.