

Our mission: "Make everyone a great communicator!"

Project Proposal: Digital Facilitation software

Introduction

Visentools is a **Business Finland-**funded Aalto University Research to Business (R2B) project. The project team prepares the commercialization of a research-driven product and service idea. Visentools was created to improve the quality of meetings and communication in business. Our team is developing a groundbreaking toolset to increase collaboration and improve communication.

The service includes a digital facilitation application and visual tools. At this stage, It is designed for B2B and B2C organizations, start-ups, and growth companies. The service helps individuals collaborating in business to clarify problems, find solutions, innovating and ideating, and co-developing ideas together. Visentools helps users gain mutual understanding, communicate better, and ensure participative and democratic working while increasing inclusivity. The toolset supports meeting focus selection, enables a participatory approach, effortless documentation of workshop outcomes, and smartly guides progress. Al (large language models) will be used to enhance perception and design focus and priorities. The meeting is self-guided. Participants use the facilitating software to guide the meeting activities and the visual building tasks. A designed set of visual artifacts (3D printed), the visual tools, are used by participants during the meeting.



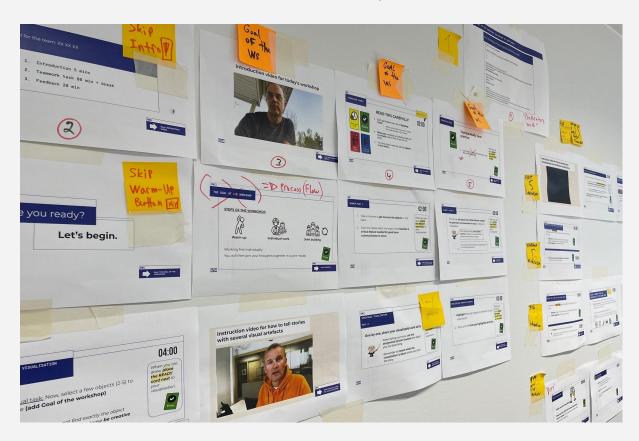
The Visentools Digital Facilitator application is based on best-of-breed facilitation methods. It is designed to complement current workflow tech stacks in wide global usage.

The Visentools mission is to make everyone a great communicator by enabling mutual understanding and tackling language hurdles with visual tools and self-facilitation software.

Project goals

This project will build the self-facilitation software for teams to use in meetings and workshops. Typical use cases (including, but not limited to) are strategy planning, design and development projects, innovation and change management projects. The software provides any working group with instant professional facilitation service anywhere and anytime.

The application proceeds from one window view to another. The intuitive use of these windows is, therefore, critical. Usability and modularity will be key quality attributes during the development, as are security and interface aesthetics. We have conducted several user studies already, and they will also be continued in the autumn 2023 and winter 2024 to make sure we meet the needs of the end users with precision. The project will implement only the most relevant functionalities at this proof-of-concept stage.



The above wireframe illustrates further the existing prototype. The application starts by defining the goal of the meeting, and the following pages include relatively straightforward implementations as to how to open additional instruction videos if more guidance is needed. Some timer buttons will also be implemented, which signal when the time is up for a specific step of the meeting.

Technologies

The tech stack has yet to be finalized. The development and later maintenance will utilize a popular tech stack. As a starting point to enable all platforms, Flutter is the best option. Still, also Javascript/React or Xamarin are possible. The tech stack choice will be agreed together with the team at the start of the project. Other technologies that will be used are:

- SQL, PostgreSQL, Cosmos DB, etc.
- Github and Jira for version control and task management in general.

Requirements

- No predetermined special skills needed, but we look for determined, motivated open-minded developers with basic understanding of mentioned technologies.
- The Visentools software project is determined to be easy to moderate.
- We do not expect the students to master any tech stack already, as the basics will be learned during the project.

Legal Issues

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The client gets all IPRs to the results. **Confidentiality:** Signing the NDA included in Aalto's contract template is required.

Client

Visentools is an Aalto University ecosystem start-up employing six employees with strong backgrounds in their areas of expertise. The advisory team of the start-up project is exceptionally strong. It includes serial entrepreneurs with successful exits, and globally successful professionals in sales, marketing, ICT solutions, and game development. The team includes three people with solid software development experience. The Visentools software architect has participated in this Software Project course several times in various roles and will support the development team in the design of cloud architecture.

Our spacious office is on the top floor of the start-up hub "A GRID". It is one of the largest concentrations of start-ups in Northern Europe. It is also part of the Aalto University ecosystem, Design Factory, and Start-up Sauna, among others. Students will be offered nice spaces to use in A-grid.

The Visentoos project is a unique multidisciplinary R2B project combining three departments (Departments of Industrial Engineering, Computer Science Department, and Management & Media, Arts, Design and Architecture) and presenting truly exceptional commercial potential. The budget for the development



for the first year is very close to seven figures, and we have a US patent pending on the software.

Product Owner (PO)

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Additional information

This Software Project course is an excellent opportunity to simultaneously see the Aalto start-up scene and a serious software development project. In June 2024, when the R2B project ends, we would like to hire several developers from the student Team to continue working with us in the start-up. There will also be equity options, for those who continue.

A Scrum Master, Sneha Saj, has been pre-selected for the project.

For more information about Visentools see www.visentools.com
Our Linkedin page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/visentools/
Our Instagram page: https://instagram.com/visentools.com

