Project Proposal - Feedbacker Forum
Send software, get digital feedback in return | CS-C2130 | Software Project 1

INTRODUCTION

We are a fast-growing, Helsinki-based company with an analytics product and around 150 employees in total, and of those some 20+ software developers. When our frontend developers wish to get feedback on their designs or new features from everyone (as you’d like to in a flat organization!), the fastest and easiest way currently for our fellow developer is to run/deploy it on their local machine, and then hunt down the people to actually look at the thing in question. As our ranks have grown, it has become harder and harder for a frontend developer to interact with all colleagues in person to get comments on live designs.

Even 5 minutes of interaction with all of our employees one-on-one style would total approximately 12 hours!

Doesn’t sound nice and agile, right? Ain’t nobody got time for that!

There is a real need for a smarter solution: how to interact with others and receive ideas? What if it would be possible for our frontendite to deploy the feature with a single click or action into some accessible place, and share that place for everyone to see, test out and comment in an easy way? We would love to have a system for deploying and commenting live UI! While some cloud providers already offer something similar, we would like to achieve this inside our own network (possibly also to cloud infra) and with some of our own feature needs.

PROJECT

What we are dreaming of is a modern, open-source automated deployment pipeline solution (yay, devops!) for our developers to help them gather feedback easily. We want to have a flat organization in the future, too, and open feedback system for the product development could enable just that. Some frontend features would be needed to make all this work in a digital way. As such, the project comes with some meaningful frontend development, so it wouldn’t all be infrastructure-as-code. Building a devops pipeline can be simple, but the real challenge is on the frontend application that powers the feedback forum system! And with forum we mean a smart channel - not a Web 1.0 bulletin board.

The crux of the project would then become: how to provide feedback on new software that is running in the browser, preferably digitally, directly from the application? We hope to bring UI/UX design minded individuals to help the team design a solution to this challenging task.
Devops part of the project allows us to launch a software with a single button click (and some waiting...) giving us a frontend UI app in the browser. Tech is nice, but most problems come down to a question of good communication.

TECHELOGIES
You can freely choose the best technology that suits the needs of the project, and we can right away think of possibly suitable technologies like

- React
- Docker
- Python
- Azure
- Git

LIMITATIONS AND GOOD TO KNOW THINGS
We are a Microsoft tech stack house and most our products are running on top of Microsoft .NET suite. Still, we are running Unix-based docker systems in some parts of the developments, and we are inviting students to peruse any technologies that they want to use within this project.

We can provide some assistance with the technologies listed above if needed.

Additionally, it is good to know that at Sievo we write plenty of modern JavaScript, and selecting derivative technologies such as React can help the student project move faster.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENTS
We challenge you to take initiative in designing and realizing a solution to our presented problem.

We do not expect you to know everything before the project. However, earlier experience in the relevant technologies and domains might make it a more comfortable experience.

Key factors that make a great project:

- Everyone wants to learn new things – this is most important for us
- Exciting and useful outcome, even if the project scope needs to change on the go
- You want to work as part of a team, it is a team effort!
- Willingness to question things, finding the actual key questions that need answering (what if... we didn't ask all the right questions in the beginning?)
LEGAL ISSUES

The results are published under open source license MIT. Signing the non-disclosure agreement (NDA) included in the Aalto’s contract template is required. NDA is solely required for convenience reasons to be able to provide company premises as working space for students. The resulting code will still be under an open-source license.

CLIENT

Sievo will have the following representatives in the project:

- Erkka Mutanen  technical stakeholder, product owner
- Anna Tapiovaara  financial stakeholder

Additional support roles, no stakeholder availability

- Elias Chafloque  design support

Sievo office premises is located in the heart of Helsinki, right next to the railway station. Helsinki metro will provide an easy access to our office location for students residing on the Otaniemi campus. We can provide the project team occasional working space and meeting facilities for project meetings.

Other than that, Sievo has an international cast of awesome colleagues who come from different tech backgrounds, be it Microsoft .NET stack or open-source libraries available out there on npm. We have a culture of clean coding that is enforced by each colleague. This makes software development a breeze after the common set of clean code rules are learned by each and every one.

We focus more on results, and doing things the smart way. We believe in automation, because it frees developers (and really, everyone) from the most tedious of tasks and ushers us towards smarter units of work every now and then.

Sievo has many big clients such as Carlsberg, Kellogg’s, Deutsche Telekom, GoDaddy, whose data analysis needs are catered for continuously. The code written by our teams is in use of thousands of end users daily world-wide. We have a positive atmosphere going on about the daily business, and to back it up we have placed well in the Great Place To Work rankings repeatedly.

We will have open positions for future developers and problem solvers, and already now we are discovering the possibilities of machine learning, big data microservices development and other forays into modern technologies.

Find out more about us online at https://sievo.com/