CSC 530 Project Proposal

Project Title: **CSIS Student Information Database**

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Introduction: Every semester Dr Lyle requires every student in each of his courses to fill out an information sheet. This includes contact information, previous courses taken, current course schedule, and additional data about goals, jobs, hobbies, etc. I propose to implement a database of this information that will be accessible over the web to both students and faculty within the Computer Science and Information Systems department. Students will be able to update their information and faculty will be able to search and view the student information.

Importance: Currently, students must complete the information sheet by hand for every course that they take. Dr. Lyle thus has a set of information sheets for each course, but these paper records are not easily searchable, nor are the records available to other faculty within the department. At the successful conclusion of the project, students can update their information online and faculty can search it. This will streamline the process for students and give faculty much greater functionality and availability.

Project Activity: I will implement the database using MySQL on the departmental Linux server. The web front-end will be implemented using HTML and PHP or Ruby on Rails. A student will be able to create an account, modify account settings, create or update their records. Faculty users will be able to search the student records and view them. The system will not be able to retrieve grades from the University system. These will need to be updated by the students themselves at this time. The database will maintain the login/password settings for each user, account settings, student information, and the level of access granted to each user. Faculty will be able to search and view all student records, but student users will only have access to their own information.

Target Market: This application is targeted towards students and faculty in the department of Computer Science and Information Systems. This system will allow students to update their information easily one time per semester, rather than once in each course that they are taking. An on-line system will allow faculty to access the information from almost anywhere, as well as search it. Rather that having to deal with a paper-based system.

Useful Resources: See Dr. Lyle to get a copy of his current information sheet. One or more of the following Web sites will be used for reference and tutorials:

http://www.freewebmasterhelp.com/tutorials/phpmysql

http://dev.mysql.com/tech-resources/articles/ddws/index.html

http://rubyonrails.org/

http://www.digitalmediaminute.com/article/1816/top-ruby-on-rails-tutorials

http://rubylearning.com/blog/2007/05/14/ruby-mysql-tutorial/