Class Logistics, Milestones, Readings, etc.
Team Formation
Projects Selected by Class

A. Giving Farmers a Fighting Chance (Monterrey Tec)
B. Mobile social network for students in low-income communities (Telmex)
C. Thrive in Five Baby Blog (Boston Mayor’s Office)
D. Mobile diagnostics (CIDRZ, GE Healthcare)
E. Multilevel marketing for microfinance (COBIS)
F. Disaster Management + Mobile Sensors and GPS Mapping (CRS + InnovGreen)
G. M-commerce interface (United Villages)
Team Consolidation

- **New Students in Class**
  - Check skills and background
  - Team Designation

- **Early Casualties**
  - Each person check if your team is complete
  - Speak up if not complete or people wiggling

- **Logistics**
  - First meeting with Advisors?
  - Planned a contact strategy with Project Partner?
  - Planned Milestone completion schedule?
Team Formation

• These are small teams, each member puts multiple “hats” on. All workload must be equally distributed.

• However, each team member will be designated to log team accountability of:
  – Operation matters (MIT)
  – Sustainability matters (MIT)
  – Software Development matters (MIT)
  – System / “Product” Design and User Experience matters (MIT)
  – Media and Communications matters (Emerson)
What NextLab is About (and What it is Not...)
NextLab is About

- Addressing a real concern stemming from the grassroots of the developing world

- Learning the many barriers of doing so; and tolerance for uncertainty and setbacks

- Holding judgment and just learning what it’s like out there for billions of people

- Sensitizing yourself as to the possibilities of helping the developing world (a little) using ICTs
NextLab is Not About

• You

• Tech Prowess

• Fitting this class into a given career design

• A grade
Media Component
Keeping in Mind

• Communications officers as an integral part of the team
  – Include them in all meetings and communications; their role is as important as yours is
  – They will create a video of your technology. That is part of the grade (Public Presentation deliverable)

• Wear your NextLab gear on camera
  – It helps the cause!
  – We will give you more as the semester progresses

• NextLab t-shirt
  – Who does not have one (email me your name/size)
  – Who’s got a really wrong size? (ibid)
Readings
Readings

1. **10 Minute Powerpoint presentation**
   - 6-8 minutes synopsis of paper
     - Distill the most salient and important points

2. **Personal Commentary**
   - Your own critique
   - Share personal experiences
   - Express your own opinions
   - Compare with related work you might know of
   - Etc.

3. **List of questions for class to think about and discuss**

*Be prepared to help facilitate class discussion*
Guided Design Process
Logistics

• There is a Milestone (out of 6) to report on every other Wednesday, starting September 24th.
  – Each Wednesday, Instructors will randomly pick 3 or 4 teams (out of 7) to present their Milestone progress to the class
  – To observe the individual performance of each member, only one person will present a given Milestone. **Presentations are 10 mins long**
  – Immediately following the presentation, Instructors will randomly call on audience members to give constructive feedback (including critiques). **Feedback period is 10 mins.**
  – The teams that do not present on that Wednesday will present the following Wednesday
Ultimate Objective

• NextLab end of semester event
  – Scheduled at Bartos for December 10th, 11am-4pm
  – Poster Session
  – Demos of Working Prototypes
  – Videos of your technologies in their context (Emerson + MIT students)
  – Team presentations to a public audience
  – Lunch, Refreshments will be served

  – A wide array of personalities will be invited from the Institute and beyond
  – We will invite members of the press (NYT, etc.)
Milestones
Milestones

1. Elevator Pitch and Related Work (Sept. 24)
2. Needs Assessments Initial Results (Oct. 8)
3. System Design, and Initial Implementation Results (Oct. 22)
4. Sustainability / Financial Factors (Nov. 5)
5. Feature Complete (Nov. 19), General Progress Report
6. Working Demo (Dec. 1)
7. Final Presentation Event (Dec. 10)
Elevator Pitch

• _______
  is a ______________________

• for
  ______________________

• that, unlike
  ______________________
  ______________________

• This is good to have so that:
  – you know what you’re doing
  – you can easily explain it to others

* from Hal Abelson’s class
Elevator Pitch

• `<name>` is a `<service / app / device / platform / ?>`
• for `<purpose, problem that it solves>`
• that, unlike `<alternatives, current way it’s done>`,
• `<what it does differently>`

• This is good to have so that:
  – you know what you’re doing
  – you can easily explain it to others

* from Hal Abelson’s class
Solutions and Related Work

• The Present Solution
  – How are things done now?
  – What is wrong with that?

• Alternative Solutions / Related Work
  – Has anyone else come up with a better solution?
  – Has anyone done something not directly related that may be useful?

• Your solution (what can you do)
  – Just use existing solutions and put them together
  – Modify / extend existing solutions
  – How?
Milestone #1 (Sept. 24)

• Present your elevator pitch (1 minute)
• Present Solutions and Related Work
• What you need to do to prepare
  – talk to your project partner to get context, purpose, and current solution (start now!)
    • this is also a form of Needs Assessment
  – do background research on existing/related solutions
  – write-up your proposed improvement
Milestone #2 (Oct. 8)

- Present Needs Assessment and Feedback results from partner
  - What does your partner think about your proposed solution?
  - Does it fit their needs?
  - How does this affect your plans?

- What you need to do to prepare:
  - present your Milestone #1 report to your project partner (on Sept. 24, regardless of whether your are called)
  - Get their feedback
  - Think about how it affects your proposal / plans
Milestone #3 (Oct. 20)

- **System Design and Initial Implementation Results**
  - How are you going to achieve your goal?
  - What are the components of the system?
    - block diagram
  - How is it used?
    - users and interface to users
  - How does it work?
    - what happens in different use cases
    - what data moves where?
    - what computation needs to happen?
  - Any potential difficulties?
    - e.g., certain assumed functionality not being available
  - Progress report on initial implementation
- Start working on this asap (Sept. 24 or even before)