Design and Development of a Virtual Community for Collaboration on Businesses and Projects

BY

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Being A B.Sc. Project Work Submitted In Partial Fulfilment Of The Requirements For Award Of Bachelor Degree In Computer Science Godfrey Okoye University.

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby declare that the work presented herein was done by me and not by a third party. Should I be convicted of having cheated in this work, I shall accept the verdict of the university.

_____

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APPROVAL

This project is approved for submission

Dr N. M. Ozofor

_____ _____

DR (MRS) M. N. AGU **DATE**

(HEAD OF DEPARTMENT)

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty, trusting in His ability to see this grow beyond just a project work to being improved and established; to every promising individual and organisation that believe and work towards giving ourselves and others a better computer experience and also to computer science students in Godfrey Okoye University and beyond, trusting that this will serve as an educational resource and inspiration causing subsequent development and innovation.

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ABSTRACT

This project work 'Design and Development of a Virtual Community for Collaboration on Businesses and Projects' was aimed at creating a computer based platform to empower entrepreneurs/freelancers and organisations by interconnecting them to each other as sponsors, collaborators, teams and investors for productivity and progress in business. The project work is also aimed at improvement of the quality of employees and contractors engaged in business/work/office, increasing productivity - breaking the geo-location limitations, create efficient project management and collaboration, socialise the business world. The project has the following objectives; creating a possibility of hiring people and services nationwide, provide support for advertisement and publications, possibility of scheduling and holding meetings online or physically nationwide and also support sharing and view of the activities of users/accounts on the platform. The project analysed the platform, system requirements and implemented the Object Oriented Model for methodology. The OOM involved the sourcing, implementation, testing and reuse of software components. The platform was designed is to be in accordance with specifications to satisfy the requirements. The program was designed and the functions were implemented with Hyper-text Pre-processor (PHP), Cascading Style Sheet (CSS), MySQL and Hyper-text Mark-up Language (HTML) which constituted in a web-based platform that allows users send requests, create posts, share posts, view posts, delete posts, create and edit user accounts, place adverts and afford the program manager access to manage and regulate adverts. The web platform was hosted locally via 'localhost' and composed of a MySQL database which was managed via phpMyAdmin both provided by XAMPP Server. Being a web-based platform a web browser is needed to use the product. The instruments in this case would include the web browser, XAMPP server and an IDE (Sublime Text 3 and NetBeans 8.2 IDEs were used for the development). The platform would enhance freelancing, boost entrepreneurs' growth, create a common ground for various scales of business, implement computer science into business management and administration, utilise social virtual communities for business development and result in economic improvement by increased productivity, employment rate. And results from researches show that many of people search the internet looking for other individuals having required/desired/similar interests, skills, knowledge, provisions and opinions and who are willing to share. And that the best platform/domain for such sharing and discovery is a virtual community (VC). Further evaluations, improvements and advancements are intended to see the program develop to meet all business/corporate standards.

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