**Project #2 - Identify a User Group**
CS 422 Software Methodologies
A. Hornof - October 30, 2026

**Due Date**

Tuesday, November 3, 8 PM, on Canvas.
One-minute in-class presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

**Summary of Exercise**

In short, each student should find a campus or community group that is organized around some sort of productive goal. You should interact with a couple expert members of that group to get an initial view into the group's activities for accomplishing these goals, and how the group functions. Take a few photos of the group, or members of the group, ideally as people are engaged in an activity or task. Prepare a short explanation of the goals, tasks, and activities of the group, and the people that you interacted with.

**The Point of the Exercise**

**The point of this exercise is to help you learn how to do *user-centered design* as part of requirements analysis.**

Requirements analysis is the most important and yet the most difficult phase of software engineering. It is difficult to figure out what systems would best-serve the needs of potential users of a system. Many products are developed based on imaginary user needs that are dreamt up by developers or marketers, with little or no basis on of the reality users, user groups, and what they need to accomplish their goals. User-centered design, in which developers work closely with groups of people to build systems that truly meet the needs of those people, has emerged over the last half-century as a solution to this problem. But most developers and marketers don't know how to do it, or simply don't care about the real needs of users. In Project 2, your group should use user-centered design to try to support real-world user goals.

The point of this initial exercise for Project 2 is to get you, as a developer, out into the world engaged in the initial phases of user-centered design as part of requirements analysis. You should engage in *direct observation* of users accomplishing real-world tasks, and conduct *initial interviews* to learn about user's goals and tasks. You should identify expert users (such as group organizers) who would be willing to meet with you a couple more times over the rest of the term, so that you can confirm you understand the goals of their group, and can present them with a prototype of a system that might support them in their goals.

The exercise should help you develop skills that will not likely be replaced by AI (artificial intelligence) any time soon. For example, AI cannot currently walk into an organization as a student and express true human interest in learning about that organization.

**Two-Page Description of User Group**

The two-page description (300-500 words). The document should be a PDF and < 2 MB (manage your photo sizes). The document should include:

1. A title such as "User Group: UO Album Listening Club".
2. Your name and date.
3. A description of the activity or organization that you observed, including:
   a. The goals of the group.
   b. The tasks that the group engages in.
4. One or two photos that you took that shows people in the group engaged in tasks.
5. Initial ideas for a project based on what you learned observing and interviewing.

**Additional Details**

In Project 2, you can work on projects of your choosing, but these projects need to be based on interviews and observations of real-world goals and users. Rather than starting with a project idea, and trying to find a group to use it, start with a user group, learn about that group, and what they do, and then after observation and interviews, propose projects that might be useful to that group.

Identify two or more users of an organization who would be available for a few half-hour meetings during the term, to assist you in learning about their organizational goals and tasks.

You should have no affiliation with the group.
You should not have a friend who is in the group.
Please work with users who are not computer science students.
Your observations and interviews be in person, nothing virtual.

***Photos.*** You should take photos of the activity or group, or the person you spoke to, or the meeting, or the office space. This should be a photo that you take with your camera/phone, not a photo that you download from the web. The photo should help to explain something about the group. Here is an example of excellent photos that help to explain goals and activities: photojournalistic essay of the Classic Tetris World Championship.

Please do not interview someone if it turns out someone else from the class has already interviewed them. (We don't want to overburden any individual.)

Your participation in this activity will count towards your participation grade for the class.

**Relevant Reading**

• Task Analysis: Support Users in Achieving Their Goals by Rosala, 2020
• Sommerville Ch.4 “Requirements Engineering”, especially 4.3 “Requirements Elicitation”
• Hierarchical Task Analysis readings (“HTA_Materials.pdf” on Canvas)

**Organizations You Might Observe**

There are hundreds of educational, creative, civic, or health-related organizations and activities on campus that contribute to learning, creative expression, political activism, and good health. You could observe, for example:

- Planning an event at the UO Outdoor Program.
- Completing a shift at the KWVA radio station.
- A UO club having an event.
- Running a class or lab.

If the activity is the planning of an event, you should attend the actual event that is planned.

An important first step is to find an appropriate activity or organization. You can get ideas from:
https://uoregon.campuslabs.com/engage
https://uoregon.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations
https://studentlife.uoregon.edu/events
https://calendar.uoregon.edu/

**Suggestions**

- You may need to visit several groups or activities until you find one suitable for this exercise.
- Work in pairs, and let one student take the lead for one group, and the other student for another group.
- Identify yourself as a UO computer science student who is trying to learn how to build computer systems that are easier to use by focusing on people and what they do. (I find that people generally respond quite positively to this sort of description of my research.)
- Take a printout of this assignment to the activity that you will be observing. If anyone seems confused by what you are trying to do, you can show them the assignment.