ICT Project Nomination Form 2011

The teams choose projects based on this short description. There is no guarantee that your project will be taken, make it sound as interesting and as educational as possible.

Project Title:
Cloud Services Account Portal

Client retains Intellectual Property: Yes/NO - Where components can be useful to others, we would like them to be available as open source.

Confidentiality Agreement required: YES/No

Project Description:
Eighty Options is a Hobart based software development firm, specialising in web-based application development using the open source, PHP/MySQL based Content Management System (CMS) named Drupal. To value-add on top of our core expertise we also offer our clients the following services:

- Website Hosting
- Email Hosting
- Domain Name Registration
- DNS Hosting
- Offsite Backup Hosting
- Hosted E-Newsletter Software

For some of these services we manage our own infrastructure and others we act as a reseller for a range of cloud-based service providers. Most of these providers have API based interfaces that we are not currently utilising.

This project requires students to develop a portal where customers can login to manage their accounts with us, including the services listed above. This includes tasks such as:

- pay their invoices with us
- add / remove email addresses
- register domain names
- change DNS records
- commission a new hosting environment
- view reports on their backup hosting
- submit support tickets

Most of these functions would more likely interact with 3rd party APIs rather than
being programmed from the ground up. This focus on the integration of multiple applications through web services will give enthusiastic students hands-on experience with some exciting emerging trends in the ICT industry.

This facility has the potential to significantly reduce the administration load within Eighty Options and will be a great tool for our clients to manage much of their online infrastructure quickly and easily.

Many components of this project are likely to be useful not only to Eighty Options. In these cases we would like to see modules available freely as open source. This would allow interested students to continue involvement after the end of the University project or perhaps simply see the results of their work expanded on by the open source development community into the future.

As the end product of this project will be client-facing the project should have a strong emphasis on:

1. Security of client data
2. Interface design

**Project Technical Information:**

We will look favourably on an end product that we have the expertise in-house to support, debug and develop further. This means using technologies that we understand and very clearly documenting the system in a way that both our developers and administration staff can understand easily.

The current focus of expertise of our in-house developers is on the PHP/MySQL based CMS named Drupal and our current website also uses this environment. (You can use something else, you'll just need some pretty good justification)

Again to help us support the end product, we would encourage the project team to avoid re-inventing wheels and to use open source resources wherever possible.

**Contact Information:**

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(We are happy to conduct Skype meetings and to travel North once or twice if Launceston teams are interested in this project)