

# PROJECT PORTRAIT

## Design of a Content Management System for a health NGO # 17 (2011)

### What is this project about?

This project came about through the request of the NGO Epilepsy SA (Western Cape) to electronically document and manage data relating to their clients details and activities. Up to that time all of this was done manually. Additional requirements were:

- reporting sub-system to produce weekly / monthly reports
- intranet-based system
- secure user friendly interface for use without high proficiency in IT skills
- mobile service to provide appointment & event reminders

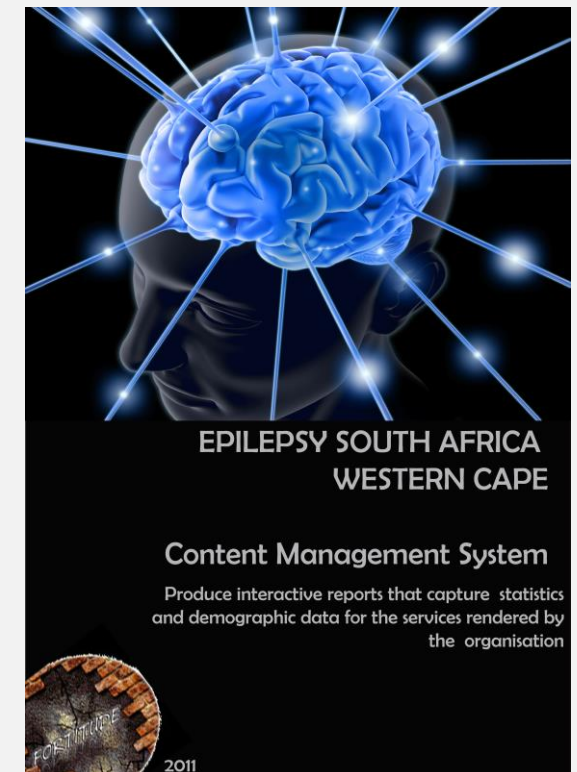
### Project plan

The team of five Information Systems Honours students divided up roles and responsibilities between them. They formed a team that

encompassed the functions of team leader, programmer, documenter, communications and analyst. These roles were rotated within the team over the course of the research.

The team met regularly with Epilepsy SA to ensure their requirements were being met and to provide an opportunity to discuss potential changes. The project was divided into stages, at the end of which an iteration meeting was held to ensure a smooth transition to the next phase of the project.

Regular progress meetings and monthly progress reports provided the mechanism to prompt reflection and consider how to best address arising issues. Hence quality assurance was a prominent feature of the way students planned and peer reviewed their work. They followed an agile methodology that is known as 'Scrum' in the discipline of Information Systems.



### What you need to know:

Getting help to plan and implement work on the design, building and testing of web applications can be difficult and expensive. In order for this to be done by a student team, it is essential that someone in the organisation has sufficient understanding of IT; what it can / cannot deliver; and the costs of implementation. Otherwise the effort may be wasted.

## Project implementation

**Programming:** The team coded a web application that was able to perform the functions requested by Epilepsy SA:

- access and amend information in the database.
- manage the scheduling of appointments, send reminders via email and text message alerts.

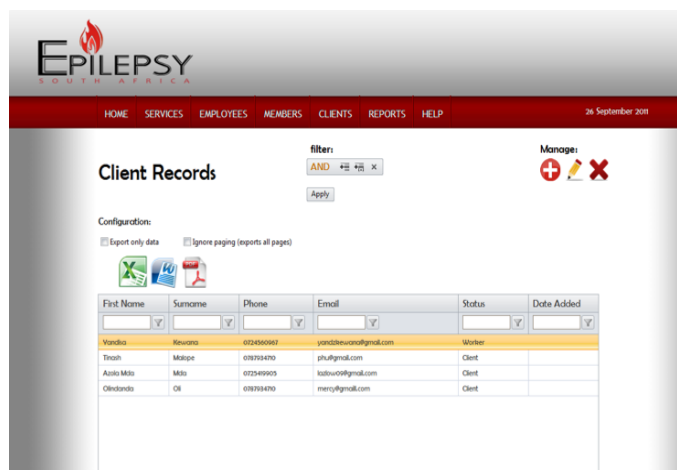
**Design:** By the final round (Sprint) of work students had branded the web page, selected colour themes and redesigned the page layout to ensure consistency across all tabs.

**Testing:** The team designed test cases and used them to test the system thoroughly in order to minimize the need for IT support once the system was released to Epilepsy SA.

**Documentation:** The team produced detailed documentation for installation, training and maintenance purposes. This included the system specification and user manual.

## Using the project documents

The project documents may provide an example of how to go about managing a team in order to deliver an IT product that fully involves the product users. By taking into account Epilepsy SA's needs and concerns throughout the production process, the technical team could respond to issues as and when they arose.



An example of a Graphic User Interface (GUI) used to add or amend a client record.

## Want to know more?

Work was carried out by Rebecca Goba, Phumlani Majozi, Azola Mda, Olinda Mombeyarara and Sekai Muvembi at the department of Information Systems, University of Cape Town. This summary is based a report titled 'Epilepsy South Africa Western Cape: Content management system: project plan and control.' The user manual will be available on the Co-op website.

**Keywords:** Web Application, Content Management System, Graphic User Interface, SCRUM

**To reference** this Project Portrait, cite UCT Knowledge Co-op as the author.

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