



Data management on homelessness INF3011F project – May 2019



The UCT Knowledge Co-op facilitated this collaborative project with OBSID.

See <http://www.knowledgeco-op.uct.ac.za>



UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP



CAPE ANALYTICA

Project Management



Introduction

The team comprises of 5 Students namely: Thomas Baisacc, Sabir Buxsoo, Tumi Moeng, Sheldo Reay and Noaman Zahid

Project sponsor is OBSID (Observatory Improvement District)

Key stakeholder is CEO of OBSID Amanda Kirk



Context and Background

OBSID is in charge of providing supplementary services such as cleaning, security and assisting vulnerable members in observatory.

OBSID is run by the Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Kirk, who is responsible for the day to day management of all operations.

The organisation employs social development managers that assist vulnerable members of the Observatory community..



Current Process and Problems

Current Process:

- Collecting information in regards to homeless individuals
- Information is used for keeping track, creating reports and sharing with other organisations

Current Problem:

- Lack of Centralised database
- Difficulty Managing and Accessing information
- Inability to share with other organisation





Problem Statement

OBSID is unable to store and manage their data in a reliable and efficient manner. This has resulted in difficulty accessing information, sub-par reporting procedures and inability to share with outside organisations.



Solutions

1. Custom Made Platform
2. Already Existing Platform
3. Free Open Source Platform



Open Source

Pros

- Ready-made
- Free

Cons

- Poor Adaptability
- Poor Scalability



Off The Shelf / Existing Platform - Caspio

Pros

- Ready-made
- Secure
- Less financial risk implicated -- monthly subscription based

Cons

- Poor Adaptability if requirements change
- Dependent on an external organization



Customised Platform

Pros

- Adaptable
- Secure
- Unified platform tailored for the organization
- Scalable

Cons

- Time to build
- Larger financial risk -- roughly R50 000 to develop and implement



Recommended Solution

- Adopt an already existing platform: Caspio
 1. When considering Financial Risk...
 - Setup cost only requires a monthly subscription, roughly R1200 per month
 1. When considering Functionality...
 - Caspio caters for all functional requirements, such as data capture, storage and analysis
 1. When considering the Future...
 - Able to scale with demand, such as other organizations joining the operation
- However, we are concerned regarding the constraints of adaptability if functional requirements change

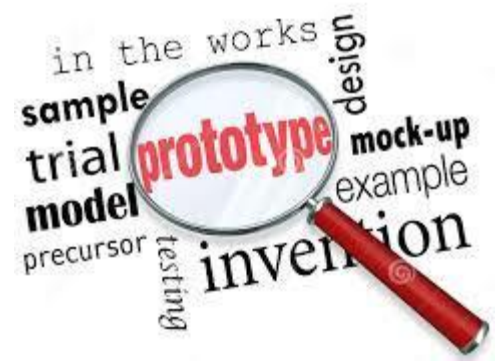


Important Functionality of Caspio

- Easily input data.
- Data security.
- An email alert system for new database entries.
- Multi-user access with role-based data privacy.
- Data analysis.
- 24hr customer support as well as online tutorials to help you develop your system.

Testing and Prototypes

- 2 potential off the shelf solutions: Caspio and Zoho Creator
- No database tables for Zoho Creator.
- Caspio is prebuilt: it has already undergone prototyping and testing.
- Mainly tested creating/using tables, input forms and charts.





Testing and Prototypes

Prototype Input Form

- No calendar icon next to DOB and Date of first contact.
- “Select All” for options like Gender and Cultural Status.

Preview: HomelessRecords Web Form Prototype

ID *	<input type="text"/>
Date of First Contact	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>
Gender	<input type="text"/> ▼
Cultural Status	<input type="text"/> ▼
DOB	<input type="text"/>
SA ID	<input type="text"/>
Marital Status	<input type="text"/>
Language	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	<input type="text"/>
Income Status	<input type="text"/>
Explain Circumstances	<input type="text"/>

SUBMIT



Testing and Prototypes

Prototype Chart

- Making charts is not the strongest point of Caspio

