



Turkey

Istanbul



Team Members:
Alkim Senkan
Mert Unan
Umut Karakulak

Mentor:
Dr. Tacha Serif

TITLE OF PROJECT: CogoStuff

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CogoStuff is a system that consists of sub social groups which are based on cultural items or belongings. All those sub societies help people learn about other cultures while having the opportunity to showcase their own. It is a place where you can learn about something you had never heard of, and at the same time meet new people and share their culture and feelings.

TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE USED

- .NET Framework 3.5
- C#
- Microsoft Silverlight 3.0 Beta
- Microsoft Visual Studio 2008
- Microsoft Expression Blend 2-3
- Microsoft Expression Encoder
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008
- Deep Zoom
- Microsoft Virtual Earth
- CTP Mobile SDK
- Silverlight
- Toolkits
- DirectX Pixel Shader
- SDK
- LINQ
- Microsoft Live SDK

INSPIRATION

This project was an idea in our heads since we started the college and met each other. I guess we were looking for the spark that would start everything, then one day we heard about Imagine Cup and joined a conference about it. We exclaimed, "yes that's it!" then it all started. Software Design seemed to be the most suitable category for our project so it wasn't hard to decide.

TEAM HISTORY

None! That's the best part of it! We hadn't used any of the Microsoft's technologies for developers before. We saw Visual Studio for the first time when we decided to start the project. So we learnt C#, Silverlight, Visual Studio, Expression Blend and SQL Server in this period and at the same time we tried to develop our project. We had considerable knowledge and creativity in algorithms and we put that to use that in our project. Our goal was to be innovative and to do something that was never done before.

TEAM EXPERIENCE

As we are from the same university, we have experience working on different projects, both software and hardware. We have developed projects like human face editor, air port simulation system, messenger which extracts emotions from sentences and generates emoticons, robot for plowing, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS

Turkey finals... Without a doubt that was one of the greatest times of our lives. We were so excited that we didn't really believe that we were selected to be in Cairo for a short time! Everything aside the whole process and the experiences we have shared are unique.

CHALLENGES

First of all to work in such a project as a team requires considerable skill in teamwork. This was our first serious effort but we managed to put everything together and work efficiently. We learned how to use our time effectively and to plan. Also we had no idea which technologies and tools that we were going to use in the project so we started digging MSDN and developer blogs. That was hard work but it was worth it. Needless to say we had hours and hours of coding and design sessions, sleepless nights and cups of coffees but they were all worth it.

FUTURE PLANS

Exactly. We had the idea of this project before we heard about Imagine Cup so we definitely want to use this opportunity as a huge leap forward and launch this project. We are living in a world where people can create web projects that effect the whole world. We believe CogoStuff would be one of them and soon we all will be visiting it daily.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.cogostuff.com
- www.mertunan.blogspot.com
- www.umutkarakulak.blogspot.com
- www.alkimsenkan.blogspot.com
- www.devblog.cogostuff.com