**NASA DEVELOP National Program**

****Langley Research Center

**Fall 2014**

**Technology Team**

**DEVELOPedia and the Art of Communicating with End Users**

*Improving the functionality and features of DEVELOPedia to appeal to all DEVELOP users current and future by replacing the DEVELOP Exchange.*

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DEVELOPedia Team LaRC Summer 2014

DEVELOPedia Team LaRC Spring 2014

DEVELOPedia Team LaRC Fall 2013

**Applied Sciences National Applications Addressed:**

Cross-cutting Technology

**Study Area:** Langley Research Center Node

**Study Period:** Fall 2014

**80-100 Word Blurb**

The fall 2014 Tech Team’s work included taking the downfalls of the DEVELOP Exchange site and implementing those solutions into DEVELOPedia. DEVELOPedia is a repository which strives to organize and share the wealth of information, technical knowledge, and practices accumulated both during and as a result of NASA DEVELOP’s applied science research projects. The term concluded with the site being ready for a spring 2015 controlled launch at the Langley Node where all deliverables will be submitted via DEVELOPedia and pending the term goes well the site will go full live for the summer 2015 term throughout the program nationally. The goals were to add more features, make the website more user friendly, and overall make a site that participants will want to use.

**Community Concerns**

* The DEVELOP Exchange is currently used to submit all files to the National Program Office and it has been plagued with complaints about the lack of search abilities and its general lack of customization and user friendliness.
* The new site will need to have the forms, templates, and feature to easily add projects and participants while allowing for easy edits and viewing ability.
* The new site will allow new teams to easily access the research and methods of past teams while also having access to tutorials and introductions to the collection of NASA resources.
* The new site will also feature a proposal page so that proposals can also be submitted and stored via the site. This will also allow easy editing for old proposals to be updated for new terms.

**Current Management Practices & Policies**

The DEVELOP Exchange, which is currently used to deposit all deliverables, was found to be ineffective, difficult to use, and not very user friendly. The site does not allow searches of previous projects and made organizing past projects very basic and non-customizable. Therefor a new site DEVELOPedia was developed to solve those problems by making a private web interface using Mediawiki software. The majority of the DEVELOPedia website is already created and has a long list of features available. The Tech Team will work to make all of those features and a list of new ones work effectively and create an easy to use site that will be versatile and conducive to searching.

**Abstract**

Throughout the term the tech team worked to complete the DEVELOPedia sharing and storing website. DEVELOPedia is a repository which strives to organize and share the wealth of information, technical knowledge, and practices accumulated both during and as a result of NASA DEVELOP’s applied science research projects. DEVELOPedia had a long list of issues and ideas from the previous term to be implemented before the site was ready to be used. The plan involved using the current Langley Node participants to test the site and gauge its popularity throughout the fall term to prepare for a limited live launch in the spring at the just the Langley Node where participants will use it for their entire list of deliverables. DEVELOPedia will go full live nationally for the summer 2015 session.

The DEVELOPedia site will allow users to complete a multitude of functions not available on the DEVELOP Exchange. These features will include, but aren’t limited to: being able to look up keywords in old projects, search previous end users and partners, research the projects completed under each application area, view current list of proposals both approved and not approved, and allow real time editing of all of the features. DEVELOPedia is also accessible to participants once they leave the program giving them permanent access to their old projects and reviewing the research of others. This will also create a quasi-DEVELOP alumni database using LinkedIn profiles.

**Decision Support Tools**

* DEVELOPedia Website: http://www.devpedia.developexchange.com/

**Benefit to End-User:**

* Database for DEVELOP users will allow DEVELOP members to access old DEVELOP projects and scripts.
* User friendly showcasing of DEVELOP proposals, projects, people, and centers.

**Software Utilized**

MediaWiki – DEVELOPedia wiki package

DEVELOP Exchange – Old Storage Server