**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*

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**Study Area:** DEVELOP National Program

**Study Period:** 1998-present

**80-100 Word Blurb**

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 Fall 2014 Tech Team’s work including improving the downfalls of DEVELOPedia such as its usability, and its lack of information that is readily available. The goals of this project during the Fall 2014 term were to add more features such as customization on pages, data accumulation, and to make the website more user-friendly so participants will overall want to use it. The term concluded with the site being ready for a Spring 2015 controlled launch at the Langley DEVELOP node where all deliverables will be submitted via DEVELOPedia. The site will be accessible for DEVELOPers nation-wide for the Summer 2015 term throughout the program nationally.

**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 needs to have the forms, templates, and features to add projects and participants easily while allowing for effortless edits and viewing ability.
* The new site will allow new participants to access the research and methods of past teams without difficulty 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 currently houses 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. A new site called DEVELOPedia was produced to solve those problems by providing a private web interface using Mediawiki software. The majority of the DEVELOPedia website was already created and has a long list of features available. Participants at Langley have used the site giving the Tech Team to solve active problems and improve the website to work effectively and easily for searching past projects and participants.

**Abstract**

Throughout the fall 2014 term the tech team at NASA DEVELOP worked to complete a new sharing and storing website, 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. DEVELOPedia had a long list of issues and ideas from the previous term to be implemented before the site was ready to be used. Several Langley DEVELOP participants tested the site throughout the fall term to prepare for a limited live launch in the spring of 2015. At that time, Langley DEVELOP participants will use it for their entire list of deliverables. DEVELOPedia will be able to be used 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 are not limited to: being able to look up keywords in old projects, searching previous end users and partners, researching projects completed under each application area, viewing current lists of proposals, both approved and not approved, and allowing 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 other DEVELOP research. 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