GovtSoft - Certification and Accreditation

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Zoom C&A Project Progress Table			
Task	**Responsible**	**Completed?**	**Date**
System Architecture and Design Document submission	System Owner	✓	14/12/2019
Risk qualification questionnaire submission	System Owner	✓	17/12/2019
Risk assessment submission	Assessor	✓	21/12/2019
Risk assessment approval	Certification Authority	✓	04/01/2020
Test documentation submission	System Owner	✓	10/01/2020
Audit scope submission	Assesor		
Initial audit report submission	Assesor		
Recommended controls implemented	System Owner		
Controls implementation audit report submission	Assesor		
Final Report	Assesor		
Final Report and Residual Risk acceptance	Certification Authority		
Final Report and Residual Risk acceptance	Accreditation Authority		

Project progress table - Solution 1

Homepage - Solution 2

INTRODUCTION

Certification and accreditation (C&A) is the process that all New Zealand government departments must follow when implementing a new IT system. The goal of this project was to develop a web based application that tracked and monitored the C&A process. As far as we know, there is no software application currently used by New Zealand government departments to track and monitor the process.

Our project manager, Chris, interned at a government department last summer and learned that the C&A process was conducted manually. There was no system that helped track or monitor the process. He discovered that there were issues conducting the C&A process manually: Lots of paperwork, no central repository for all C&A participants to access associated files, no single channel for participants to communicate with each other, and inconsistent C&A assessments, just to name a few.

DEVELOPMENT

During the analysis and design phase, our team focused on identifying what steps in the C&A process each participant was responsible for. The participants (System Owner, Assessor, Certification Authority, and Accreditation Authority) are responsible for different tasks. The System Owner and Assessor are responsible for the majority of the tasks within the C&A process, whereas the Certification Authority and Accreditation Authority are responsible for reviewing the findings, and making an informed decision.

It was imperative that we understood how each task linked with the next task and the previous.

Halfway into the project, it was decided that the development be forked, enabling the team to create essentially two solutions. Both solutions remain incomplete.

The first solution is entirely static. It focussed on developing a C&A project progress table to show where in the process a project is. The second solution had somewhat of a backend with functions such as register user, login, and download and upload files.

CONCLUSION

Because the development was forked, the focus of what we were initially aiming to complete was split. There were communication issues that prevented the team from being more effective and efficient, however, the forking of the development unfortunately allowed the team to work in harmony.

Both solutions are incomplete. Solution 1 lacked a backend. However, it illustrates how a C&A project could be tracked. Further development could see the solution complete.

Solution 2 focussed on some of the initial tasks of the C&A process. However, it does not provide a method to track and monitor a C&A project.

The combination of both solutions could've presented a more complete solution where in our opinion, in hindsight, if we had resolved our communication issues more effectively instead of resorting to the fork in development, we would have accomplished more.