Motivation and Background

This system is sponsored by the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), a non-profit research organization, and Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a global technology corporation. It is a Microsoft .NET web application that provides both public and member-only access to various electronic research collaboration tools. The portal supports the Collaborative Clinical Research Network in Friedreich’s Ataxia (CCRN in FA) initiative sponsored by FARA. The CCRN in FA is a consortium of research professionals and scientists dedicated to uncovering new information about Friedreich’s Ataxia. This project supports the CCRN in FA by providing new and independent features such as forums, document collaboration, and event planning to an existing clinical research system referred to as Ataxia Scales (AS). With the CCRN in FA Collaboration Portal, researchers and coordinators of FARA’s clinical research initiative will be one step closer to clinical trials so that FARA can better learn how to slow, stop, and reverse the damage done by Friedreich’s Ataxia.

System Features:
- Authentication & Authorization
- Role Based Security
- Event Calendaring
- Forums
- Document Management
- Site Administration

Technologies Used
- ASP.NET v2.0
- Microsoft C#
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft Internet Information Services v.6.0

Lessons Learned
1. Iterative and incremental development works best with Information Systems
2. High fidelity prototypes are great for eliciting requirements
3. Organizations will impose business requirements beyond the system itself
4. Some companies will not support use of Open Source software technologies.
5. Common Information System features such as user management are easily forgotten in the grand scheme of system features
6. Different stakeholders have different needs. Prioritize these needs and communicate that some needs will likely not be met.
7. Understanding domain-specific regulations, such as HIPAA compliance, is critical.