Co-Op Student Evaluation System

Team Char c = 5
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Sponsor
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RIT
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Motivation & Background

The Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services (OCECS) previously sponsored a senior project for an online co-op evaluation system for employers of RIT co-op students. As a natural progression, they wanted to extend the system to encompass student evaluations as well. This new system would allow for:

- Students to easily submit co-op evaluations online, removing the need for paper copies to be mailed to the departments.
- Easier and faster access to the co-op evaluations by the OCECS.
- Faster, more reliable access to the co-op evaluations by individual departments.

Figure 1: (A) An example of analysis report results. (B) Viewing a notification e-mail template.

Process

Our process:

- Was a tailored, agile, incremental process
- Allowed for constant feedback from stakeholders
- Allowed for a highly adaptable development process

Iterations

The project consisted of four major iterations. These were:

Iteration 1 – Complete student view and e-mail system.

Iteration 2 – Polish student view based on feedback. Add dynamic form editing.

Iteration 3 – Report generation for student forms.

Iteration 4 – Testing in preparation for final launch.

Benefits

The new extended online co-op evaluation system provides one central place where students, employers, academic departments, and OCECS can access all relevant information pertaining to student and employer co-op evaluations. Some of the main features are:

Students

- Easily get overview of all submitted, saved, and pending student and employer evaluations (Figure 4).
- Complete and submit evaluations online — no mailing paper evaluations (Figure 4).
- Save incomplete evaluations online to be finished later.
- E-mail notification for upcoming evaluations (Figure 1).

Employers

- Complete and submit evaluations online — no mailing paper evaluations (Figure 4).
- Save incomplete evaluations online to be finished later.

Academic Departments

- Faster, more accurate access to submitted student evaluations.
- Access to full reporting on both student and employer evaluations (Figure 1).

OCECS / Administrators

- Easier access to student evaluations (previously had to go through the departments for access).
- More integrated view for student and employer reports (Figure 4).

Figure 2: Integration of the student and employer evaluations has been a high priority for the system. The form search page shows the status of both the student and employer evaluations side-by-side.

Requirements Changes

Because this system involves many different departments across RIT, we knew that it would be near impossible to flesh out all of the requirements during a traditional up-front design phase. As expected, the requirements did change often throughout the development of the system. From minor changes to the UI to major changes in the way evaluation forms are structured, our iterative process let us handle them all with less pain and effort than would have resulted from a more traditional, up-front process.

The chart shown below shows the requirements changes, broken up by status, for the duration of the project (Figure 3).
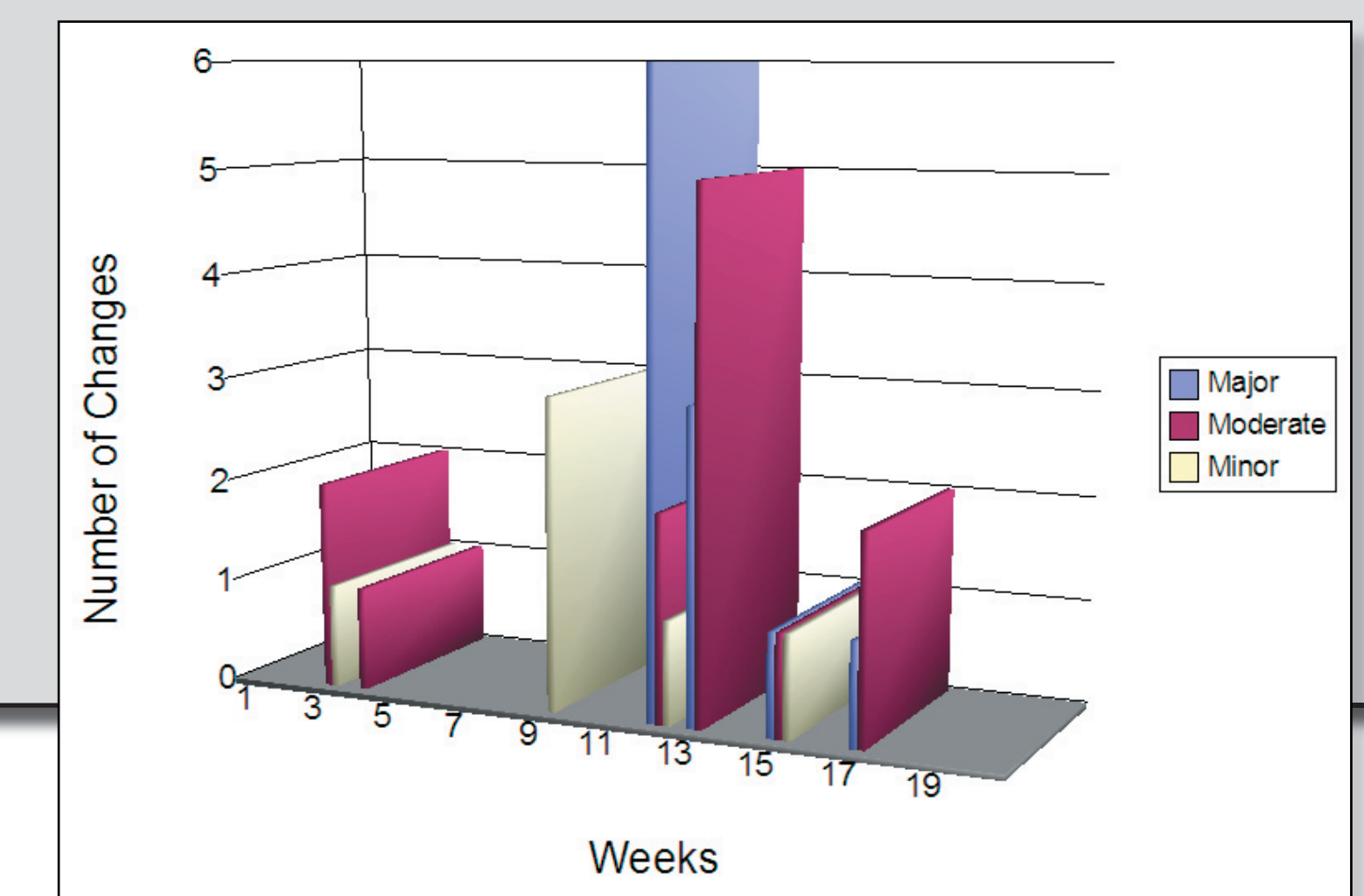

Figure 3: Requirements Changes Chart

Figure 4: (A) An example evaluation form. (B) Student form management. (C) The student overview page.