



UC NeXt:

The UC is launching what's NeXt in Tech:

A culture of Innovation and Collaboration

(Project Design Brief)

Overview – Getting to what's NeXt for the UC!

Technology has made it possible for communities on platforms such as Assembly, Kickstarter and Quirky to gather and inspire investment in and development around new products, services and ventures. Without technology, these micro-communities could never form, but thanks to technology, these communities have effectively executed on new ideas at an amazing pace.

How do large and traditionally heavy University systems take that same concept and weave it into their own culture? The University of California is made up of over 7,000 IT professionals scattered across 10 campuses, the Office of the President and affiliates. The UC NeXt movement, a sub-committee of the UC IT Leadership Council, seeks to tap into this enormous network to foster new and innovative collaborations. To do this, the group intends to deploy a platform to help ideas form and innovative projects grow.

The UC NeXt Platform will allow passionate and inspired technologists to grow their innovative projects and ideas into broader system-wide collaborations. IT staff can “like” ideas, offer comments to improve them, and even volunteer their time towards helping grow them. UC NeXt is all about enabling offers of help and volunteerism to evolve into funded and supported efforts that build momentum and ongoing support by showing value and return-on-investment.

The UC NeXt Platform will start linking people and ideas together across the system, but first it must be designed and built.

Scope – What will the UC NeXt Platform do?

The UC NeXt Platform should allow users to:

- PITCH ideas;
- LIKE others' ideas;

- HELP ideas they like;
- FIND the right talent for their projects;
- GROW their collaborations to multiple campuses
- LEARN something new; and develop their collaborative reputation
- GET digital badges for doing good work on projects

The development encapsulated by this scope of work is everything necessary to bring the UC NeXt platform to the point of a production pilot service that supports the above concepts. In specific, this means developing the following core elements:

- Ideas** New ideas form the basis of the platform. All IT Staff will be able to propose an idea, and all UC IT Staff should be encouraged to review and vote on them. Anyone should also be able to comment on any idea, allowing them to grow from an initial seed into something broadly useful across the UC. If an idea particularly jumps out at someone, they should also be able to indicate that they'd be willing to support it with time and/or money.
- Projects** Projects will form out of ideas, as well as be added directly if they already exist. A project profile will increase the project's visibility across the system and allow for the recruitment of like-minded individuals who may want to collaborate. Rich search and matching interfaces shall allow individuals to find projects that align with their needs, as well as those they'd be well-suited to participate in given their competencies.
- Badges** Projects and Events will be able to distribute badges and awards to members of the sites. There may eventually be multiple types of badges, for example event participation, speaker badges, awards presented at events etc. In addition, there may be direct effort badges, X number of lines of code gets you X "Code Hero" level badges etc.
- Events:** Events both in person and remote, will be listed in an events calendar on the platform. This will be a way for people to find out about events they might not have otherwise known about, bringing people with common interest together and generating informal networks that allow for more collaboration in the future. The plan is to tie Events to measurable collaborations that increase the University's efficiency while saving it money by avoiding duplication of effort.
- Groups:** The University of California is a collection of 10 renown Universities with some differences, but many similarities. The UC Information Technologists (some 7,000 strong) need to focus ourselves around our similarities so we can do more innovation and more collaboration between our resources. UC NeXt groups will enable communities of practice to get help one another, allow for more sharing of knowledge and form the network of collaborators that can mobilize onto projects as they arise.

Profiles

A Profile Module lets UC Next members define a professional profile for their work at the UC, highlighting their competencies and linking to the ideas they support, projects they're involved with, and events they've attended or led.