
Project proposal

This project proposal is meant to serve two roles: First, for those of you taking the project sequence, this is the first step towards preparing for the project you will complete during the spring term. Second, for everyone, coming up with good project ideas requires thinking creatively about the topics we are studying in the course, and so it is a good technique for forcing you to think beyond what we are covering in the lectures.

The details:

You should work in groups of 2-4 people on the projects. Your task is to propose 3 possible project ideas. (We have you propose more than one project so that you don't settle for the first idea you come up with.) For each project idea, you should write a short description – 1-2 pages in length – including a discussion of the idea itself, the motivation for the project, the relevant background/citations for the project, and the end product that would result from a successful project.

You are required to discuss your project ideas with either the TAs or the professor (during office hours) before turning in your proposal. Preferably >1 week before, so that we can help provide guidance.

Some guidelines:

The scope and topic of your project proposals is very open ended. A great project idea can be thought of as leading to either a paper or a startup, and anything related to the topics in the course, the topics in the book, the topics in 143, or just web technologies in general is appropriate. To help guide you a bit, here are some possible genres for the projects:

- An experimental evaluation of an algorithm, model, or network property on a web or social network dataset.
- A theoretical project that studies an algorithm, model, or network property and derives new results about it.
- An extended survey about one of the topics we've covered, or one we've skipped, going into significant depth and offering a new perspective on the topic.
- A new application/plugin for facebook, digg, flickr, twitter, etc.

Ideally projects will include a mixture of these genres. There are links on the website to interesting datasets and interesting papers that may help stimulate your thoughts.