Alex Sanders

Vision Statement (revised), 10/31/11

Natural Disaster Prevention

New Orleans aftermath 2005(Wikipedia.org "Hurricane Katrina")

What world problems are you concerned about?

Natural Disasters are a continuing phenomenon. They have occurred throughout recorded human history. Natural Disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods can have varying ranges of severity. The tumult followed by a disaster is usually felt more by the poor, due to their limited resources.

Why is this problem important?

Natural Disasters can change the face of the land itself. They can adversely affect the quantity of good water, transportation, food production, and shelter. For example, 80% of New Orleans was flooded after passage of hurricane Katrina in 2005[2]. Recent progress in the meteorological and hydrological sciences shows that the impacts of natural disasters can be reduced through prevention and preparedness.

What aspect of this problem seems particularly important to you?

Natural disaster prevention is very dear to me. I have family that lives on the Mississippi portion of the Gulf of Mexico. They had a good source of information when the crisis came in 2005. The sheer amount of destruction very nearly crippled the entire coast region where hurricane Katrina

touched down. It was crippled economically, physically, and structurally. The preparations made before the hurricane arrived save countless lives. This is the goal of this software application: to save people's lives and homes.

How could a new software system help solve this aspect of the problem?

The internet is a valuable tool, which coupled with the correct software model will allow people to have adequate preparations in place should a natural disaster occur. My software system will link the various weather and disaster prevention websites into a central viewing hub. The Disaster Prevention Hub (DPH), will allow users to login, view information from other websites that will impact their selected region of interest. The DPH will also contain a database of past incidents, related articles, statistics. Users will have several designations, including visitor, meteorologist/weather expert, and moderator.

Why do you think this idea will make a big impact on the world?

The DPH is an attempt to bridge all the variant websites that forewarn possible natural disasters wherever they may occur. Information and preparedness are integral to prevention of the worst case scenarios that often have accompanied natural disasters. This website obviously will not end the natural occurrences, but hopefully if can help some people preserve as much of their family and possessions as possible.

What sources did you use in writing this Vision Statement?

http://www.hurricanecity.com/city/neworleans.htm [2]

Roger D. Congleton, "The Story of Katrina: New Orleans and the Political Economy of Catastrophe," *Public Choice*, vol. 127, April 2006, pp. 5–30, especially pp. 5, 6.

`