Project Name – Learning Factory Project Billing Implementation

Overview
Students use the Learning Factory as an area to design and develop projects for classes or senior design projects. The Learning Factory has recently undergone a change and is now responsible for footing the bill for raw metal stock in the materials cage. Currently the Learning Factory was using a clipboard that students used to enter material use on to that was inefficient and wasn’t satisfying the Learning Factory Requirements. The team was responsible for implementing a solution to this problem.

Objectives
To retrieve 80% of the raw materials cost for the Learning Factory in the future by developing a solution to solve reporting issues and to streamline the data entry process.

Approach
• Define project scope and boundaries through discussion with project sponsor
• Understand current raw material reporting methods and the process associated with it
• Identify potential problem areas with the current reporting methods
• Brainstorm ideas to solve each problem associated with reporting of materials
• Split the potential tasks amongst group members and assign specific tasks to individuals
• Split the group into two separate teams to focus on two separate areas of reporting issues: Materials cage organization and computer installation
• Develop a gantt chart of necessary activities to meet desired project deadlines
• Constant communication with sponsor, advisor, and IT department about needs and proposed deadlines for each task the team desired
• Weekly meetings with team, sponsor, and advisor to make sure the team was operating in conjunction with what was desired or expected

Outcomes
• Implemented a computer system next to the Learning Factory raw materials cage
• Developed a web-form for ease of data entry
• Streamlined data entry process and eliminated unnecessary reporting steps
• Organized materials cage for faster, more efficient identification of needed materials
• Labelled materials for better understanding of separate materials to
eliminate confusion when reporting
• Error proofed data entry through coding of the web form