

**DEVELOPING A NOTES-AND-BOOKMARKS MANAGER EXTENSION FOR
GOOGLE CHROME**



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**DEVELOPING A NOTES-AND-BOOKMARKS MANAGER EXTENSION FOR
GOOGLE CHROME**

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Ateneo de Davao University**

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**of the Requirements for the Degree
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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Internet browsing has reached its tipping point. According to Yahoo-Nielsen Net Index 2010, the number of Internet users in the Philippines alone amounts to a staggering 30 million people, where ages 10 to 39 are the predominant users. Search, according to Yahoo!, is the number one activity in the Philippines and the most sought after information is for entertainment (62%), video content (52%), followed by documents for research (44%) and lastly, audio content (31%). Looking at these numbers, one can definitely say that a considerable fraction of people's information is taken from the Internet.

A lot of people nowadays prefer searching the Internet for information than say, the traditional encyclopedia. And no one can blame them for the Internet truly is the quickest and surest way of finding information at present. But gathering information can also be quite a feat. It also takes time and effort, especially in doing research; that is why quite a number of applications and tools have been developed, and is continuously being developed.

Note-taking is an important skill for students, especially at the college level, but not just students—this is significant for professionals as well. It is the practice of recording information captured from a transient source, such as an oral discussion at a meeting, or a lecture. This can also apply to taking down notes from textbooks, other reading materials, and these days, the Internet. Frequently written in notebooks, all sorts of paper have also been put into use. Some people, for instance, like to make use of post-its. In some contexts, such as college lectures, the main purpose of taking notes may be to implant the material in the mind; the written notes themselves being of secondary importance.

Many different formats are used to structure information and make it easier to find and to understand. Now that computers, particularly tablet PCs and personal digital

assistants (PDAs) are beginning to see wide use as note-taking devices, acquiring information from the Internet by taking down notes has certainly become paramount.

One of the innumerable remarkable features of Internet browsers is the bookmark feature. It helps Internet users organize, store, manage and search for bookmarks of resources online by saving links to web pages that they want to remember and/or share. This is a helpful tool relating to note-taking. Since the Internet is one of the most, if not the most, popular source of information these days, and since it is such a wide web out there, there is not a single important information we would want to miss. This is when bookmarking comes in handy. Bookmark one webpage and it is right there, pinned on your browser, never to be missed again.

1.2 Technology Application Context (IT)

A browser extension is a computer program that extends the functionality of a web browser in some way. The term may be distinct from similar terms such as plug-in or add-on depending on the browser. In Google Chrome, using extensions let users customize the browser with features they like, while keeping the browser free of things that they don't use.

Meanwhile, social bookmarking is a method for Internet users to organize, store, manage and search for bookmarks of resources online. Unlike file sharing, the resources themselves are not shared, merely bookmarks that reference them.

The team developed a plug-in / extension for Google Chrome, one of the more popular web browsers today, that facilitates note-taking from webpages in a simplified, unhurried, and uncomplicated manner using JavaServer Pages Technology, Java Data Objects API, Google App Engine and its Datastore, which will all be discussed in length in Chapter 4.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to create a Google Chrome extension which allows users to create personal notes on websites and automatically bookmark the web page's URL. This will likely work as a notepad extension wherein users are allowed to take notes about the current website they're reading and save it.

The specific objectives of the research are:

- Use Google Accounts to facilitate user log-in.
- Use the Google App Engine and its DataStore for better scalability.
- Allow for adding, editing, deleting, and searching notes and bookmarks.
- Design a simple, user-friendly, but efficient user interface.
- Test the extension.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is significant for people who constantly do research on the Internet, specifically Google Chrome users (e.g. students, researchers, professionals, etc.) This will alleviate the otherwise tedious task of conventional research, note-taking and Internet bookmarking. With this extension, people can go anywhere and still have their notes with them, given that the extension is installed on Chrome.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study will focus on implementing a notepad browser extension. The expected output for this study is a browser extension that will let users save their notes on a specific web page. Also, the proposed extension will only be available for Google Chrome. The available development tools from Google are used in the research.