

# Specification Modification 1

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## Abstract

*This document presents a proposal to modify the original aim of the Notate music-notation system. The advantages, disadvantages and consequences of the proposal are considered.*

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## Current Aim

The current aim of the project (as found on page 2 of the current specification document) is as follows:

To develop a web-application to allow musicians to easily and intuitively create and edit their own sheet-music online. It is important for this problem for the focus to be on the user-experience, which is to be as simple and intuitive as possible.

**Note:** This aim emphasises the creation of the sheet music by the user as the main goal of the system. It implies that further requirements, such as having user-accounts and server-side storage of users' work, are only useful for satisfying this core aim.

## Problem with the Current Aim

**User Interest** Although it would probably be the first entirely online, free music score editor, in itself there are few reasons why a musician would not prefer to download a free (or cheap) program that would be able to do the same thing. A program fully installed on the user machine would not be dependant on the internet and would be able to interface directly with hardware, naturally allowing for more potential in terms of usability and functionality. Aside from the fact that it is all online, there is nothing original about this system.

## Proposed Change

The proposal is to enlarge the scope of the project by making the current aim one of three, wider aims:

1. To create the website for a web-community where users may register and share their musical scores with each other.
2. To allow users to comment on each other's publicised sheet music within this web-community.
3. To enable users to create and edit their sheet-music online, via an interactive sheet-music creator/editor page.

## Advantages of the New Aim

- **Popular web-niche:** Web-communities are very popular at the moment with many websites (e.g. blogs, wikis) centering around user-provided information and the ability to view and comment on other users' information. The new system would jump on this bandwagon and would have a significantly better chance of being popular.
- **Originality:** Although this sort of website is very popular at the moment, there is not currently a free web-community based around musical scores that allows you to create your scores online for free and allows you to upload them from a variety of formats for free. The nearest is *sibeliusmusic.com*, for which a browser plugin is necessary to view scores (which is not available for linux) and the expensive *Sibelius* software is necessary for creating and uploading them.

This system would also place the focus on users assisting each other throughout the development of their

own scores, rather than only providing a forum for publishing completed works. In this respect it is entirely original.

- **Greater potential:** Due to its increased scope (which fully contains everything the current system has), the new system has a larger potential for being expanded.

### Disadvantages of the New Aim

- **Greater scope:** Under the new aim, the project would be much larger. The amount of work needed would be at least as much as required for the current system and may be too much work for one person to complete in 5 months.
- **Popularity:** If the system did gain popularity and a user-demand developed for it, it would be necessary to maintain the website and provide some sort of user-feedback service. There would be a demand for updates to be made to the system and new features to be developed. It may not be possible to make this commitment.

### Consequences of the Change

If the new aim were adopted the specification would have to be modified and several things about the system and development lifecycle would need to be changed:

1. The new system would have more requirements (including that of the current system). These requirements would need to be understood, designed, implemented and tested.
2. The project timeline may need to change, allowing more time for the greater amount of design and implementation that would be required. It may also be necessary to commit more time, on a weekly basis, to the project as the amount of work would be increased.