

Digital Edge's 2008 "Key to the Future" Scholarship Contest (Competition)

General

The Digital Edge scholarship is designed to recognize and award extraordinary young people who have significant achievements and knowledge in the information technology field.

Digital Edge is an advanced technology team that provides advanced support, implementation and emergency services for Enterprise networks, servers and data storage.

We recognize the importance of attracting young talents and getting them involved in the thinking and problem solving process to propel the high technology industry in the future.

Project Goals

To fully or partially design and implement a school Emergency Notification System allowing to broadcast or multicast alerts, warnings or informational messages utilizing available ways of information delivery. These delivery methods should include commonly used portable devices and existing communication methods.

High school students, faculty and staff should have the opportunity to receive voice/text messages on their home, office or cell phones and e-mails in the event of an emergency with this program.

Students should be able to sign up to the notification system by leaving a phone number and/or e-mail address. Faculty should be able to log in to the system to send group notification via voice/text messages and e-mails regarding emergency situations that may arise. With the recent tragedies in high schools all over the United States, including the most recent at Virginia Tech, the Emergency Notification Program will be beneficial due to the prevalence of mobile and internet use among students in a state of an emergency or in the case of a school closing.

Project Criteria

Scholarship is awarded on the basis of creativity and problem solving skills using modern technologies.

The following will be used for the selection for the Digital Edge scholarship award:

- Solution architecture (30 points)
- Solution implementation and technology use (20 points)
- Solution's user interfaces, usability and practicality (30 points)
- Solution presentation and presenter's skills (20 points)

1. Solution architecture

Solution architecture is a section that measures:

The architectural design can be accepted in any form such as: Power Point presentations, Visio maps, drawings, diagrams or working models. The architectural design should be complete and self contained as much as possible, have all components defined, component inter-communication presented and explained.

2. Solution Implementation and technology use

The whole system or example of components or block implementations should be presented. Working models, segments of codes, examples of configuration scripts or settings can be used. We also accept ideas for block or component implementations, algorithms or logic definitions.

3. Solution's user interfaces, usability, and practicality

We will score usability of user interfaces, creativity in creating user friendly interfaces allowing fast and intuitive usage.

4. Solution presentation and presenter's skills

We will score presentation skills and techniques used. We will also score the ability to fully cover the project, emphasize the most interesting parts, and present an analysis of the pros and cons of the suggested solution.