

Student: Samuel Gross

Firm: Virtual Technology Corporation

Mentor: Mr. Dennis Bergin

Title: Web Interface for the Matrix Mapping Tool

Background:

The Matrix Mapping Tool (MMT) is a software application created by Virtual Technology Corporation (VTC) for the Department of Defense (DoD) that aids DoD officials in identifying assets and needs and acquiring and deploying weapons used by the armed forces, ranging from small arms to fully equipped aircraft carriers. Because of the restrictions on installing software on DoD computers, a web based interface for the Matrix Mapping Tool is more practical in some areas. My goal was to create a web interface that provided all the functionality of the desktop application and did not require the user to have any special software installed.

Description:

Because the desktop version of the Matrix Mapping Tool was still being developed, the design of the web interface needed to be flexible enough so that when features are added to the desktop version, they can be easily added to the web interface. In order to do this, I used as much of the same code from the desktop application as possible. Because the desktop application was written in Java programming language, the web interface used Java's Servlet and JSP technology.

Another important objective of the web interface was to provide a user interface that looked similar to the desktop application's user interface. This was difficult because designing the layout and looks of a web page is very different than designing a graphical interface in Java. Quirks in the way different browsers display pages differently also made this difficult.