

## STEM Career Planning Tool

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Client: Owen Software

No.Inc partnered with Owen Software to plan and design a STEM career planning tool. Called Pathevo, the system helps students and advisors plan the steps along career paths for STEM subjects. The system starts off broad with an academic starting point and a desired outcome. It gradually gets more detailed about milestones such as class and credit requirements for a computer science degree.



Pathevo is designed to act as a guide for documenting achievements and milestones and presenting education options that help direct students along a path from high school through college.

### The Challenges

- Manage infinite career path options
- Create a system that stays with a user through high school and beyond
- Create one system for students, faculty, parents, and advisors

### Our Approach

- Conduct user interviews and create personas to guide interface decisions
- Design, prototype, and refine wireframes

### The Results

- Successful product used in more than 30 schools

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### Plan Builder

The screenshot shows the 'Plan Builder' interface for Pathevo STEM v2.0. At the top, there is a user profile for 'yamehrays' with options to 'Edit Account' and 'Logout'. The main heading is 'OK, let's start planning'. Below this, there are three main sections: 'Your Starting Point', 'Milestone', and 'Primary Milestone'. 'Your Starting Point' has a dropdown for 'High School' and a selection for 'Junior - Q3/Q4'. 'Milestone' shows 'Type: College' and 'Value: Bachelor's Degree - Information Technology'. 'Primary Milestone' has a dropdown for 'College' and a selection for 'Bachelor's Degree - Informa...'. Navigation buttons 'Prev' and 'Next' are visible. At the bottom, there is a 'Preferred Zip' field set to 'within 5 miles' and a 'generate pathways' button. Footer text includes 'Terms of Use', 'Site Map', 'Webmaster', 'Company', and '© Copyright 1999-2008, Owen Software Development Co. Ltd. All Rights Reserved'. The slogan 'pathways evolved.' is at the bottom right.

The screenshot shows search results for 'UMD BS/CS'. It includes a 'Start' point: 'Junior - Q3/Q4 in High School' and an 'End' point: 'College with Bachelor's Degree - Information Technology'. A 'Views: Visual' button is present. The main heading is 'UMD BS/CS' with a 'Save to my plans' button. The plan is visualized as a sequence of tasks: 17 tasks for 'Howard Community College - The Freshman Application' (~\$0, ~15 days); 8 tasks for 'First Year: Freshman' (~\$0, ~60 days); 8 tasks for 'Second Year: Sophomore' (~\$0, ~60 days); 17 tasks for 'University of Maryland College Park - The Junior Application' (~\$0, ~20 days); and 6 tasks for 'First Year: Junior' (~\$0, ~60 days). A summary bar at the bottom shows 'Difficulty: 3.5 out of 5', 'Start Date: 11.15.10', 'End Date: 10.16.11', 'Total Time: ~4yrs', and 'Cost: \$50,000.00'. Footer text includes 'Terms of Use', 'Site Map', 'Webmaster', 'Company', and '© Copyright 1999-2008, Owen Software Development Co. Ltd. All Rights Reserved'. The slogan 'pathways evolved.' is at the bottom right.