

# **Multi-Process CNC Build**

## **Preliminary Proposal**

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## **DISCLAIMER**

This report was prepared by students as part of a university course requirement. While considerable effort has been put into the project, it is not the work of licensed engineers and has not undergone the extensive verification that is common in the profession. The information, data, conclusions, and content of this report should not be relied on or utilized without thorough, independent testing and verification. University faculty members may have been associated with this project as advisors, sponsors, or course instructors, but as such they are not responsible for the accuracy of results or conclusions.

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# 1 BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a computer numerical control table (CNC). The CNC table will be built with multiple functions in mind that include routing, 3D printer, and a laser cutting. CNC machines now perform functions and movements, which were traditionally performed by skilled machinists. CNC machines meet the requirements of high production rates, uniformity and consistent part quality. Programmed instructions are converted into output signals, which in turn control machine operations such as spindle speeds, tool selection, tool movement, and cutting fluid flow [1]. CNC Machines are very important to manufacture complex curved geometries in 2D or 3D with reduced cost. The machine components can have high accuracy and require unmanned operations [2]. This project is initiated and sponsored by David Willy, a Mechanical Engineering professor at Northern Arizona University (NAU), located in Flagstaff, Arizona.

## 1.2 Project Description

Following is the original project description provided by Dr. David Willy:

The Mechanical Engineering Department is looking for a space saving CNC table that can be retrofitted as a routing table, a 3D printer, or even a laser cutter. This year's project will be centered on a routing table design configuration. As such, the client is looking for the following out of the finished product:

- Ability to use both a typical router or dremel tool as the spindle
  - A robust table that has the ability to clamp typical work pieces
  - A robust travel system that limits deflection of tooling during operation
  - Ability for the table, travel system, and controls to convert into future configurations (3D printer or laser cutter) by future capstone teams
  - Travel – approximately 12x12x3 inches
  - Ability to make both aluminum and wooden parts
  - Uses standard 120V 60Hz
  - Uses commercially available control boards and motors
  - Interfaces with available open source software on a windows operating system
  - Safety shielding around the table and the ability for the operator to still see the work piece
  - Must have a safety kill switch and appropriate fusing per industry standards
- The finished deliverable to the client will include the following:
- The functional system after a demonstration of the system making aluminum and wooden parts
  - Provide cut depth and width recommendations based on final design
  - Provide a feeds and speeds chart based on different materials
  - Provide a user's manual for operation Original System Structure [3].

This project involved the design of a completely new CNC Table. There was no original system when this project began.

## 2 REQUIREMENTS

This section explains the different parts of the House of Quality, including customer requirements, engineering requirements, testing procedure, and design links.

### 2.1 Customer Requirements (CRs)

Together with the client, David Willy, the requirements were weighted after importance. The assigned weightings add up to 130. These values were normalized to a scale out of 100%. The most important requirements were safety, cutting ability, and cost. The CNC machine needs to perform safely when cutting wood and aluminum. Cost is also a major constraint due to the budget given for the project. Tolerance of the finished part together with the ability to change the spindle to either a laser cutter or a 3D printer pen were also considered to be of high importance. Requirements that were preferable but not necessary are size, portability, and open source software.

Table 1: Weighted customer requirements

<b>QUALITY/CUSTOMER REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>WEIGHTINGS</b>	<b>MULTIPLIERS</b>
1.Safety	25.0	$25/130*100\%=19.2\%$
2. Cutting Ability (wood/ Al)	25.0	$25/130*100\%=19.2\%$
3. Cost	25.0	$25/130*100\%=19.2\%$
4. Tolerance	20.0	$20/130*100\%=15.3\%$
5. Open Source	10.0	$25/130*100\%=7.6\%$
6. Multiple Usage	15.0	$15/130*100\%=11.5\%$
7. Size	7.0	$25/130*100\%=5.3\%$
8. Portable	3.0	$3.0/130*100\%=2.3\%$
Total	130.0	100%

## ***2.2 Engineering Requirements (ERs)***

[Use this section to list and discuss the Engineering Requirements that have been developed. ER's must be verifiable, that is, specify objectively measurable parameters or conditions. Each ER must have a target, or design-to, value with tolerance along with justification/rationale for the selected value and tolerance]

## ***2.3 Testing Procedures (TPs)***

This section will be updated in later reports.

## ***2.4 Design Links (DLs)***

This section will be updated in later reports.



### 3 EXISTING DESIGNS

CNC machines come in different sizes and models depending on the application. The following section explains how the team started researching over a wide range of CNC machines and similar machines. The section also includes different alternatives of CNC machines as well as different alternatives for the subsystems of a CNC machine.

#### 3.1 Design Research

The purpose of the research was to expand on the team’s previous knowledge of CNC machines, and widen the knowledge about machines used for similar applications. The research incorporated CNC machines as well as lathes, drill presses, and milling machines. The research also included machines ranging from machines used in industry to machines used for hobby applications. Web-based sources comprised most of the research because of both the diversity, as well as the amount of information. Without previous knowledge of building a CNC router table, the team conducted extensive research about the CNC router table and its components.

#### 3.2 System Level

This section examines commercially available CNC machines. The following designs assisted in generating ideas for meeting the client’s needs. Each table uses a router or similar cutting instrument and can mill multiple materials from wax, various plastics, hardwoods and metals. The tables are compared based on cutting area, power, software available, size and cost. Cutting area, power, software, and size are project requirements. Cost is used a benchmarking tool for comparing various capabilities between the different machines.

##### 3.2.1 Existing Design #1: Carbide 3D Nomad 883 Pro

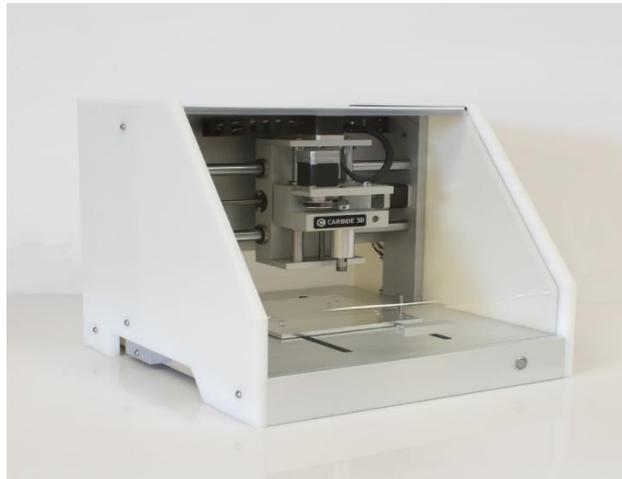


Figure 1: Carbide 3D Nomad 883 [4]

Table 3: Specifications for the Carbide 3D Nomad 883 [4]

Cutting Area	Power	Software	Size & Weight	Cost
8" X 8" X 3"	110V	Carbide Create MeshCAM	20"X20" 65lbs	\$2599.00

The Nomad 883 Pro is a fully enclosed desktop CNC machine capable of cutting all materials and is Mac and Windows compatible. This design is comprised mainly of aluminum and comes in HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) or Bamboo housing.

Design #1 is fully enclosed which protects users and bystanders from expelled pieces of milled materials. This project requires a safety shield to ensure expelled milled materials do not harm bystanders. This design shows an option of adding a safety shield to the table without compromising the machine’s capabilities and allows for viewability.

### 3.2.2 Existing Design #2: Shapeoko Deluxe RB-Spa-1299

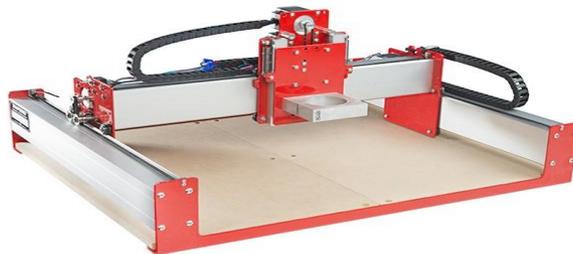


Figure 2: Shapeoko Deluxe RB-Spa-1299 [5]

Table 4: Specifications for the Shapeoko Deluxe RB-Spa-1299 [5]

Cutting Area	Power	Software	Size & Weight	Cost
17" X 17" X 3"	24V	Open Source Java	28.5" X 23.6" 55lbs	\$999.95

The Shapeoko is a desktop 3-axis milling CNC machine capable of milling non-ferrous metals such as aluminum, hardwoods and plastics. This table is comprised of steel and extruded aluminum, spindle head is not included in this package.

Design #2 is not enclosed but offers a larger cutting surface closer to those required. Another of this project’s requirements is that the table is capable of using some type of open source software, which this table is capable of.

### 3.2.3 Existing Design #3: BoXZY Three-in-one 3D printer, CNC Mill and Laser Engraver



Figure 3: BoXYZ Three in on 3D printer [6]

Table 5: Specifications for the BoXYZ [6]

Cutting Area	Power	Software	Size & Weight	Cost
9.63" X 4.25" X 2.5"	19V	Open Source Google Sketchup	15.5" X 13.35" X 14.06" 40-45lbs	\$3599.00

BoXZY is a desktop CNC table that is capable of interchanging milling, laser cutting, and 3D printing. The final goal of the project is to create a desktop table that is able to easily shift between these same three capabilities.

Design #3 is a fully enclosed milling, laser cutting, and 3D printing machine. This project's end desire is to incorporate each of these functions seamlessly which this design has already accomplished.

### 3.2.4 Existing Design #4: Pocket NC

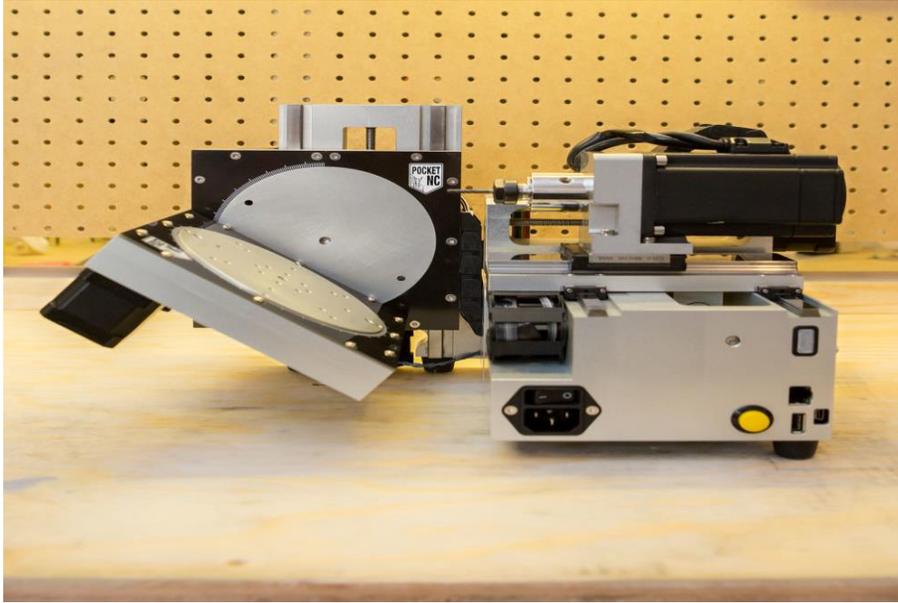


Figure 4: Pocket NC [7]

Table 6: Specifications for the Pocket NC

Cutting Area	Power	Software	Size & Weight	Cost
4" X 5" X 3.55" 100° 360°	90-264VAC 127-370VDC 47-63Hz	Autodesk Fusion360	17.5" X 12.5" X 12.5"	\$4000.00

The Pocket NC is a 5 axis desktop CNC machine. Unlike many commercially available CNC tables where the spindle head moves while the cutting surface remains stationary. The PocketNC is capable of moving in the x,y,z,a and b axes and is able to create complicated geometric parts while staying compact.

Design #4 is a desktop CNC milling machine capable of traversing in 5 axes. This project requires 3 axis travel but did not specify if more axes could be added. This design is capable of creating more complex geometries compared to the traditional 2 or 3 axes machines. This design shows an alternative for the project where instead of the spindle head being mobile, the cutting surface is mobile.

### 3.3 Subsystem Level

This section will take a closer look at some of the core subsystems that make a CNC machine function. Each of these subsystems will directly impact the performance and ability of the CNC machine and will be analyzed in the following sections. The subsystems being looked at are the spindle, linear motion, and the bearings and guides. All of these subsystems can make or break a system if an inadequate part is chosen for the application.

### 3.3.1 Spindle System

The spindle system is at the heart of the cutting ability for the CNC machine. The power, run time capability, speed variability, and tooling availability will dictate how well the CNC machine will meet the cutting requirements. There are multiple options available for a CNC machine. Table 6 shows the three types of spindle systems that are regularly used in desktop CNC machines. Table 6 also compares some of the feature and options for each type.

Table 7: Spindle comparison chart [8] [9] [10]

Spindle System Comparison	Image	Power available (W)	Capabilities to engrave			Capabilities to Shape/Route/Cut			Cost Range (USD)	Cooling	Variable Speed
			Wood	Metal	Plastics	wood	Metal	Plastics			
Dremel Tool		<192	●	●	●	●	●	●	40-120	●	●
Router		700-2400	●	●	●	●	●	●	50-400	●	●
Spindle		275-2200	●	●	●	●	●	●	150-3500	●	●

● Not Available   ● Available or Moderate   ● Standard or Yes

#### 3.3.1.1 Subsystem #1: DREMEL®

Dremel rotary tools are often used in small CNC routing and engraving machines. Dremel have capabilities in cutting metal, plastics, fiberglass, and wood. They also have the ability to do small detail work due to the smaller available tool sizes. Some of the models offer adjustable speed ranges so that the cutter speed can be changed based on what best fits the application. Figure 5 shows what the Dremel® rotary tool looks like. This tool if implemented in the CNC project would enable the machine to engrave, and cut aluminum and wood but at a relatively slow speed when compared to the router or spindle options.



Figure 5: Dremel ® rotary tool [8]

### **3.3.1.2 Subsystem #2: Router**

Routers are powered hand tools that are meant to shape and form wood and plastics. Some models are available with adjustable speeds similar to what is offered in the Dremel® tool. Routers generally have a much higher power rating when compared to a Dremel® tool, usually between 0.5-3.5hp. Tooling to cut aluminum is also available for routers and there are commercially available CNC machines with routers as the spindle system. Routers offer relatively inexpensive horsepower when compared to CNC spindles. Drawbacks to using routers are the larger size, when compared to spindles, often have non-variable drives, and typically have a plastic case, which is less rigid than a metal encasement.



*Figure 6: Dewalt 2.25hp router [9]*

### **3.3.1.3 Subsystem #3: Spindle**

A spindle is rotary tool that is intended to be used in a machine application. Typically spindles come with a variable frequency drive (VFD), and have water cooling as another option. The VFD enables the spindle to work at a wide variety of spindle speeds by rheostat type control that offers infinite adjustability within the capabilities of the spindle. In comparison the router and Dremel tools usually have selectable ranges for speed. Although, top router models do offer an electronic VFD type system built into the assembly. Figure 7 shows what a typical spindle with VFD looks like.



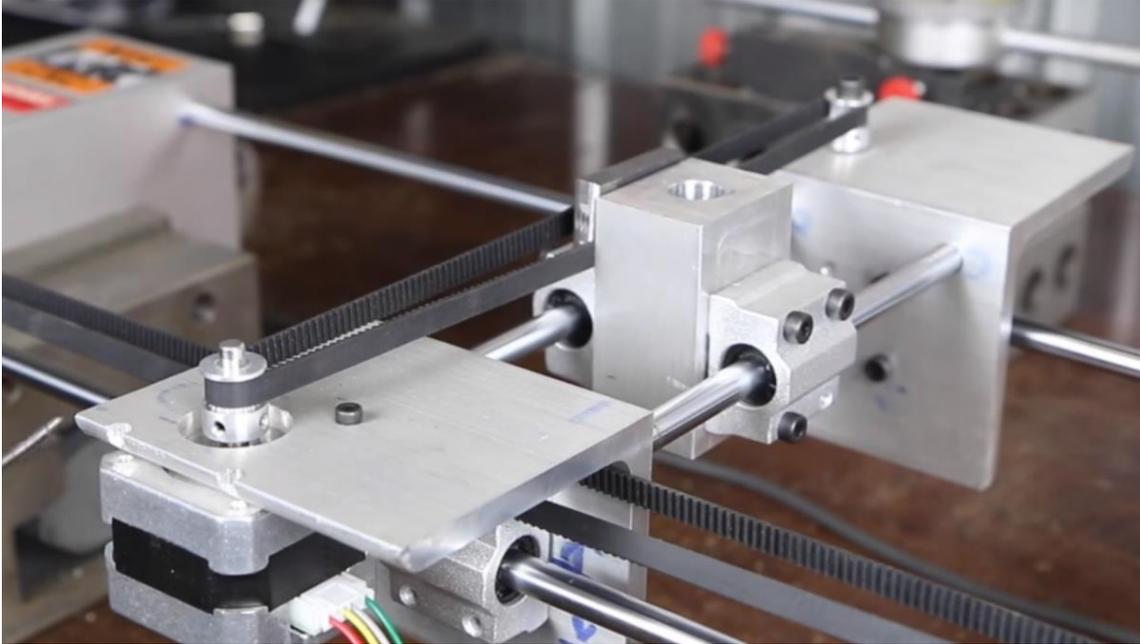
*Figure 7: Spindle with VFD unit [10]*

### **3.3.2 Linear Motion**

Linear motion will look into the systems that transfer the drive motor power to motion in the CNC system. There are several systems available for the desktop CNC machine. These include the pulley and belt system, rack and pinion, and lead screw or ball screw designs.

#### **3.3.2.1 Existing Design #1: Pulley and Timing Belt**

The pulley and belts utilize a drive pulley, idler pulley, and a drive belt to transfer motor motion to the CNC assembly. The drive pulley attaches to the drive motor so that all of the motor power can be transferred to the belt. The belt transfers the motion to the part that needs to be moved. For instance; the gantry assembly of a CNC machine. The idler pulleys' purpose is to guide the belt and maintain tension to ensure that power gets transferred to the assembly intended to move. Figure 8 shows what a typical pulley and belt system may look like, and how that would attach to the CNC machine. Advantages for a timing belt with pulley system is that gear ratios can be changed, accurate, and can transfer power perpendicular to the motor location. Some disadvantages include less capable at higher torques, may experience slippage, and can be susceptible to oils and grease [11].



*Figure 8: Timing belt and pulley arrangement [12]*

### **3.3.2.2 Existing Design #2: Rack and Pinion**

Rack and pinion drive systems use a pinion gear and a drive rack. The pinion gear is either connected directly or indirectly, with a belt, to a drive motor. When the drive motor turns, it drives the pinion gear on the rack. This moves the pinion assembly along the rack, or depending on how it is positioned, the rack across the pinion gear. Figure 9 shows a rack and pinion with a belt driven pinion gear, this is an example of a stationary rack with moving pinion gear.



*Figure 9: Stationary rack and belt driven pinion assembly [13]*

### 3.3.2.3 Existing Design #3: Lead Screw/ Ball Screws

Lead screws and ball screws use a spirally machined shaft to drive parts back and forth. A typical lead/ball screw assembly will consist of two fixed bearings, screw shaft, and a drive housing. The fixed bearings will support the assembly on either end so that the shaft can freely rotate without translating. The screw shaft can be driven at one end by either attaching a belt, pulley, or directly by a drive motor. The drive housing is where the lead screw and balls screw assemblies differ. Lead screw drive housings have a matching thread pattern to the screw shaft. This enables the drive housing to translate when the screw shaft rotates. The ball screw drive housing contains a system of recirculating balls that move around within the drive housing when the screw shaft is turned, reducing the friction when compared to the lead screw system. Advantage to the lead/ball screw systems is that they can be very precise, accurate, and handle heavy loads. Disadvantages are that they can be expensive when compared to other drive systems and the ball screws can be driven backwards without a braking system [14]. A recirculating ball drive assembly is shown on a screw shaft in Figure 10.



*Figure 10: Recirculating ball drive assembly with screw shaft [15]*

### 3.3.3 Bearings and Guides

Bearings and guides are important to the efficiency and accuracy of the CNC system. Just as the drive system previously discussed, the bearings and guides have a large impact on the accuracy and repeatability of movement. A poorly designed bearing and guide system will result in twisting of assemblies or unwanted lateral translation.

### 3.3.3.1 *V Wheels and V Guides*

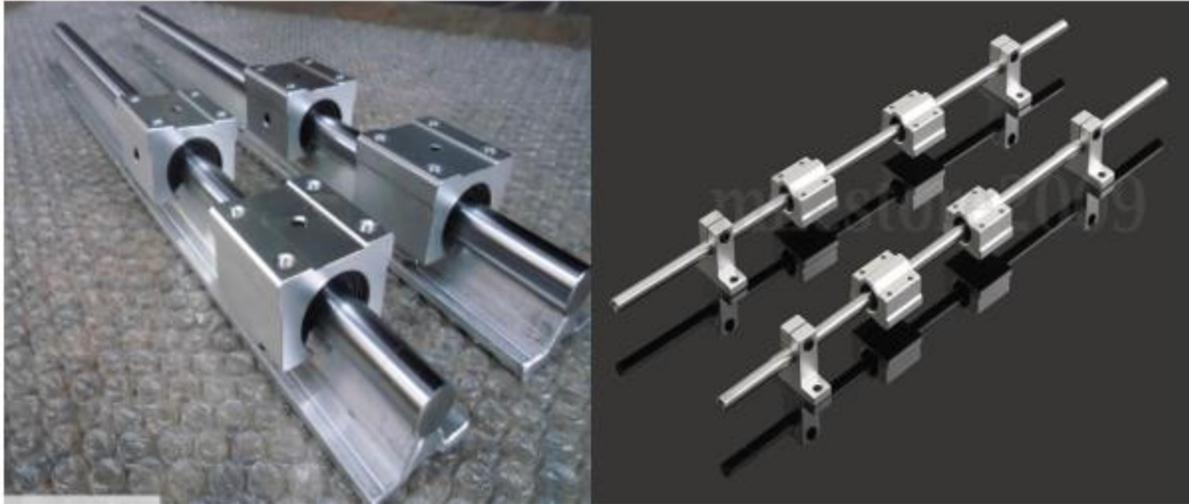
The first bearing and guide system that will be looked at is the v wheel and v track systems. V track is similar in concept to how sliding doors work. There is a track that keeps a wheel restrained within the track, usually by the shape and pressure applied to the wheel. Multiple wheels can be used on the top and bottom in v track type systems to “cage” the assembly so that it will not lift off the track when a force is applied. V wheel and track systems are usually the less expensive when compared to other bearing and guide systems, and when properly designed can provide suitable stability in low weight, low torque applications. Figure 11 shows a “caged” v track system on a CNC machine.



*Figure 11: V track wheel system [16]*

### 3.3.3.2 *Linear Shafts and Bearings*

Linear shafts are the next evolution of stability commonly found in CNC machines. These consist of either fully supported rails or rails with supports on either end. Depending on the type of rail there can be some different bearing options as well. The fully supported rail uses an open bearing design so that it can slide down the rail. The open rail with supports on either end uses a close bearing design. These systems can usually provide less friction and more accuracy than the v track systems. However, they do cost more than the v track systems making them less desirable for some hobbyist level CNC machines. Figure 12 illustrates the open and closed linear rail systems.



*Figure 12: Linear rail systems with open bearings on the left and closed bearing on the right [17] [18]*

### 3.3.3.3 Linear Motion Guides

Linear motion guides offer the best performance available for CNC machines currently. Linear motion guides are capable of having loads in any direction without deflection. The guide bearing works on a recirculating bearing designs that resist motion other than in the direction of the track. These bearing systems offer more rigidity and accuracy than the linear rails and the v track systems discussed in previous sections. However, they are typically twice the price of similarly sized linear rails. A typical linear guide is shown in figure 13. Linear guides are offered in two general types. The recirculating ball bearing type and the recirculating roller bearing. The biggest difference in the bearing types is that the roller bearing resist motion in unintended direction better than the ball bearing design, meaning they can be used in any orientation [19].



*Figure 13: Linear motion guides with round bearings (left) and roller bearings (right) [19]*

## 4 DESIGNS CONSIDERED

[Using the information and data collected as a result Current System analyses and benchmarking (if used), the design team should complete a group brainstorming session of how to solve the design problem(s). Provide **at least TEN complete possible designs for your system. Each possible design must include all subsystems in your functional decomposition.** List advantages and disadvantages of each using brief but compelling technical analysis.]

[Do not confuse Designs Considered with Existing Designs. Designs Considered are new concepts you generate. Existing Designs are entities that currently exist.]

[Include in Preliminary Proposal and all subsequent reports.]

### 4.1 *Design #1: Descriptive Title*

[Describe in detail a design solution you have considered. Include a list of Pros and Cons.]

[Include in Preliminary Proposal and all subsequent reports.]

### 4.2 *Design #2: Descriptive Title*

[Describe in detail a design solution you have considered. Include a list of Pros and Cons.]

[Include in Preliminary Proposal and all subsequent reports.]

### 4.3 *Design #3: Descriptive Title*

[Describe in detail a design solution you have considered. Include a list of Pros and Cons.]

[Include in Preliminary Proposal and all subsequent reports.]

[Note: You must discuss **at least TEN** Designs Considered. More are encouraged. Copy & paste additional headings as necessary. Be sure to update your Table of Contents.]

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