Purple Universe
CSE 403 Project Proposal

Team Members

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Vision

The Purple Universe is a web application that gathers campus events into one place and allowing students and event hosts to post information and comment on it. The application can simplify the process of finding events for students and posting events for hosts.

Traditionally, students will find out events either on the school webpage or from Facebook. However, the school webpage doesn't list all events directly so users need to do lots of searching to find a specific event. Facebook also doesn't provide an efficient way for users to find events. Since users need to "like" the certain association or club pages or even get invited to get all the information published to them, freshmen or transfer students may not quickly find the right page for them.

The Purple Universe will solve the preceding problems because it will list all the events going on campus. Students can easily find what they are interested in and put them on to their own calendar. Event hosts can publish their upcoming events on this application instead of putting up posters all around campus. The "comment" function on this app will give guidance to both hosts and students. Pinning these events on a map will make them even easier to find and overlook. Also certain possibility to filter and/or search content is one of our goals.

The vision is to create a visually appealing tool with great overview of all the great things that are going on around the UW campus!

Minimum Viable Product

The site has to provide a calendar functionality by which all the campus events are overlooked. The content of these events needs to be easily posted by the users, and deleted/hidden automatically after the event has ended. Some lighter functionality for navigating through events is vital, such as free text searching, filter by time, day, etc.

Future Enhancements

- Capability of recommending certain event to friends
- Reminder of the events on calendar
- Move the application to a mobile platform?
- Advanced tagging/categorizing of events

Technology Stack

We are proposing that we should use PHP and MySQL for the backend programming as they are well known and stable, but also because we in the team have experience with these languages.

For the frontend part of the program we would suggest using JavaScript, HTML 5, CSS 3 and Twitter's toolkit Bootstrap as it holds a bunch of useful templates and JavaScript extensions.

Risk Factors

We believe that one of the major risk factors by executing a crowd sourced project, is actually getting the users to contribute to the content of the web page. Facebook would be nothing without its users, right? Getting users to contribute may require extensive functionality and a very appealing user interface which we might not have the time and/or the resources/experience to develop.

Going for a web application might also be risky. Maybe our idea would attract more users as a mobile application? Then we would have to consider adapting our webpage to many kinds of different devices which would make the workload a lot heavier.