Vision Document
Project for NordVisa
2DV603

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to give a high-level overview of NordVisa folk ballad event management system and describe its purpose. It outlines the stakeholders and users, and discusses their respective requirements.

2. Domain

2.1 Introduction

The domain is "folk ballad event management." The task at hand is to build a system which helps to communicate information about folk ballad events between the people hosting the events and their visitors.

2.2 General knowledge about the domain

The first important aspect of the structure of this domain is the actual organizations. We are not dealing with only one organization, but several all over the Nordic countries. The fact that the domain is distributed has to be taken into account.

Since organizations can differ quite a lot in size and amount of members and geographical reach, each one might want to display events in their specific area. For example, a national organization may want to display all events in their country, while an organization in a small city might only want to showcase events near them.

Then there is the question about what information should be included in each event. Name, location, date, time, duration, images, and a description is what has been gathered from discussions with a domain expert and from looking at existing systems such as NordVisa's current website and the Norwegian website viser.no.

3. Stakeholders and users

NordVisa

For our purposes NordVisa is seen as the main stakeholder. They are the ones who will be responsible for hosting the system and distributing the service to the other organizations. They will also want to display events in the Nordic countries on their website which would create a single point where you could see all events in the Nordics.

Other organizations

These are everything from national organizations in the Nordic countries to smaller local organizations. They might not be interested in every event in the whole country, but instead

only those happening near them. And they want to take these events and make them visible to other people in the same area.

Organization members

These are people who are most likely members of one or more of the organizations. They are enthusiasts in the topic of folk ballads, and know the scene and the artists. They want to be able to keep track of upcoming events.

Artists / Performers / Event Managers

The artists, performers, and event managers are people or groups who have an event they would like to make visible. They want as many people as possible in their demographic and who are interested in attending their event to get information on this event and be able to attend.

Visitor

A visitor is someone new to the scene that want to learn more and go to more events surrounding folk ballads. They want information on upcoming events happening near them so they can meet like minded individuals to discuss and listen to folk ballads.

Registered User

A registered user is a person or organization who has created an account in the system in order to participate in it. Only registered users can create, update, and delete events and they are able to do so through the system dashboard.

3.1 The environment

The calendar application will not have to interface with any existing application or system. The only interaction between existing software and the calendar system is that the client software has to be able to be embedded into the existing websites. The NordVisa website is currently running on WordPress. However, the software should not only run on NordVisa's website, but also on the website of any other organization who wish to display the events. Therefore, the environments for the client might look very different in both implementation and execution. So the event calendar has to be able to be implemented into the website environment regardless of framework or programming language used on the server.

Since the application will have to be a web application it will run in a web browser. Modern web browsers like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, and Microsoft Edge are quite good at having unified standards. So making software work in the most commonly used browsers should be quite easy by using standards like, HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript.

We will still need to have some backend services which the client can talk to. Since NordVisa already has a VPS where they host their website, we should try to work with or around the software already on that server.

Here is some information we got on the system.

- Apache 2.2.20
- JDK 6u26
- MySQL 5.1.63
- PostgreSQL 8.4.17
- Perl 5.10.1
- PHP 5.3.29
- Python 2.6.7
- Tomcat 6.0.32

3.2 Tasks and procedures currently performed

Both NordVisa and their Norwegian counterpart has a system in place for handling events. While a bit different, they both work with similar procedures.

For someone who has an event and would like it added to the calendar they would have to contact someone to add this for them. NordVisa handles this with email while viser.no has a form in place which creates an event that is then sent to the administrators, who check it for spam or advertisements.

3.3 Competing software

We can start by looking at the systems currently in use by both NordVisa and viser.no. Anyone who want their event to be on the event list or calendar has to send an email or fill in a form which then has to be validated by someone. Both of these systems have a clear bottleneck in that some administrator has to validate each requested event for it to be in the calendar. This would not scale very well to a system which would cover all Nordic countries.

Another problem with these systems in that they are two completely separate systems which store their data in different ways and in different databases. If every organization ran their own system then this would be impractical for anyone wanting to add events since they might have to add the same event multiple times in different systems. It would also make it harder for someone looking for events, since they would have to find a fitting organization and hope the event creator added the event to that system as well.

The last problem with the current system is that they are both tied to the framework of their website. NordVisa's system is a WordPress plugin and can only be used on a WordPress website. If someone is using a different framework, they can't implement the same system.

There are also other well known software systems used for handling events. Facebook events are commonly used for spreading the news of upcoming events and inform people about them. They are easy to share between you and the people you know and organizations can create and share them with their national or neighbouring organizations.

The positive aspects of using Facebook events are quite clear. It's a well established system used by a large percentage of the population. The downsides are however many. The organizations won't have full control over their data and would require both administrators

and visitors to have a Facebook account. Another existing alternative would be Google Calendar which suffer similar problems to Facebook.

3.4 Similarities to other domains

The domain is overall quite generic. We are dealing with location based events that should be easy for anyone to add and make it easy to find events near you. Then if the events are concerts, open lectures, or even a car meetup does not matter.

3.5 Problem and Scope

Problem

Information about events surrounding traditional folk ballads is not reaching the target audience.

Scope

Within scope

- System will be responsible for letting users create, manage and view events.
- An account management system will also have to be in place so only the one who created the event can manage it.
- System is also responsible for making the embedding of the calendar into any website as easy and automated as possible.

Outside scope

- Payment or any fees for events
- Booking of seats for event
- Membership management for organizations