VISION

Version	Date	Description	Author
Inception draft	17.11.2006	First draft. To be refined primarily during elaboration	Schnl1, Zumsr1

1   Introduction

We envision a flexible and easy to administrate application devoted to the management and the distribution of newsletters. The application shall support a large number of subscribers, many editors that manage the newsletters, and authors that write articles for the issues that compose the newsletters.

2   Business Opportunity

Many large companies or organizations have to publish newsletters for different reasons (social events, seminars, sport events, etc.) on a regular basis and distribute them to their collaborators. Putting all these information in the same newsletter overwhelms the collaborators. People are more and more familiar with the use of electronic media; hence newsletters should be delivered by email.

The collaborators need a simple procedure to register and subscribe to the various newsletters he/she are interested in. They are informed (via e-mail containing an URL or similar means) whenever a new issue of a newsletter is available.

3   Problem Statement

Such a system allows an interested collaborator to register. Once registered, a collaborator can subscribe to one or more newsletters. At any time a collaborator can change the newsletters he/she has subscribed.

The editor of a periodical regularly fetches the incoming articles, and selects the relevant articles for the next forthcoming issue, and compile the issue. The editor determines the periodicity of the publications of a newsletter. The new issues are automatically delivered by e-mail to the subscribers whenever the publication time is reached.

The articles that compose the issues are written by some authors. An author can spontaneously write or may be requested by editors to write an article about a given topic for a given newsletter. An article may have many authors.

4   Stakeholder Description

4.1   Authors (primary actor)

-   An author can spontaneously write an article about a given topic for a given newsletter.
-   Authors may be requested by editors to write an article

4.2   Editor (primary actor)

-   The editor of a periodical regularly fetches the incoming articles.
-   The editor selects the relevant articles for the next forthcoming issue, and compiles the issue.
-   The editor determines the periodicity of the publications of a newsletter.
-   The editor receives the articles by mail
-   The editor sends emails for each newsletter issue (one email per topic) to the collaborator.
-   The editor is able to request an author to write an article
-   There is only one Editor per System (acting as "administrator")

4.3 Editor (primary actor)

- The subscriber is able to register himself
- The subscriber is able to subscribe to multiple newsletters and change his subscriptions at any time.

4.4 Mailserver (supporting actor)

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5 Other Requirements and Constraints

- The application is a standalone (not "web-based") software product.
- The application is able to serve simultaneously many subscribers.
- Since every subscriber has an unique email address, a subscriber is identified by its email address.
- The system should run on Unix/GNU-Linux as well as on Windows.