LegalHackathon Live Program

MULTISITE LIVE PROGRAMMING AND COLLABORATION CONCEPT

Initial Concept:

It is desired and intended that all sites participating in the Legal Hackathon support mutual communication, coordination, cooperation and collaboration with each and every other participating site. To this end, the following method and mechanisms are recommended:

1. Each Site Maintain a Blog for this Hackathon and uses a few key agreed common guidelines to ensure interoperability and realtime collaboration capabilities. The Legal Hackathon blog site is the nexus of collaborative content and communication into, out of and through each site by use of RSS, linked Google Plus posts, Tweets and other agreed methods and mechanisms. In this way the blog serves as the "Network Syndicate Program Site" for each of the Multisite location.

a) It is not necessary to use common domain names and identical blogs/themes/configurations but it is highly recommended in order to ensure minimum confusion and chaos surrounding basic communication across and among the various sites.

b) To support this effort, the Computational Legal Science research team of the MIT Media Lab can host or assign a domain name that can be used to anchor the interaction and collaboration and can be configured with, for example, WordPress Multisite using subdomains, to simplify some commonality and rationalize administration workload across each blog. One of the following domains can be leveraged for this purpose to support the upcoming Hackathon:

* LegalHackathon.Net

* LegalHackathon.Com

* LegalHackathon.Us

* LegalHackathon.Org (the .org domain top landing page may be required to support future Legal Hackathons at the MIT Media Lab, but entire categories of content and blogs residing on subdomains can be independently donated, assigned or hosted for the benefit of larger communities).

Note: If a domain is sought for the upcoming hackathon only, then a DNS entry can be effected to wherever the host blog resides. However, the domain can be assigned permanently to support (and reward) continued and future use of this method for network programming syndication and distributed collaboration across distributed Hack locations and groups.

2. Each Site integrates it's Blog with Google Plus and Google Pages and Pre-Schedules Google Hangouts or YouTube Live Events so as to promote content and prepare participants to understand and engage and to pre-populate the embed code needed when the content stream goes live. The following draft common integration points are under development and offered for discussion, refinement and agreement:

a) Provision of WordPress blogs on Subdomains with common configurations and themes for each site. In this way each site has it's own blog, but many expected integration points can be structured and available to all other sites by design;

b) Designation of a single Google Account (ideally a Google Business account) for each site. This could be a personal gmail address or work related Google account but it is helpful for each site have one core account for purposes of connecting services and achieving an automated publishing flow and realtime syndication streams. [To be described: process for creating calendar of events in advance and protocols for integrating each Google Hangout and other event into a coherent Program fabric covering and connecting all participating Legal Hackathon Mutlisites].

c) Common call signs and multi-channel signaling for contributions to and incorporations by each Program generally, and each activity specifically (eg each Project, each panel discussion, etc).

[Note - It may be too ambitious to attempt to have the locus of transmission rotate from site to site, but it is not especially challenging to accomplish this capability and there is value to it. Use of common signaling is especially important to achieve reasonable hand-off from one site to another site during live feeds of Programming such as from Google Hangout broadcast from one location to a Google Hangout transmitted from another Program site and perhaps provisioned under a different Google identity and emanating from a different location. It is possible to stitch all this together with relatively little chaos by agreeing upon how the "Talking Stick" of live transmission is passed. This can be thought of as a way to ensure distributed and heterogenous nodes of the

broader Hackathon Program Network by providing a means for immediate lock on the current time/space coordinates of the heartbeat of the Hackathon. A method for doing this, adapted for this Legal Hackathon, is discussed below in the "HackBeat" function allocated to the Director for each site that is invited to provide Programming to an collective Hackathon Multisite content "Network Syndicate".]

3. Each Site Designates one or More Participants to Fulfill the Following Roles and Functions [Note: Roles are allocated to Roles below, but functions can be delegated to more than one person provided a minimum agreed set of functions are covered such that programming can achieve sufficient coordination to enable rich experiences and catalyze creative collaborations]:

a) Producer (aka General or Publisher): The Producer of a Program is responsible for that Program generally and for specifically for decision about what the content and activities will be transmitted from, to or through that location and it's blog to other sites and the web at large. |- Intellectual Property -| The Producer is responsible to ensuring any agreed copyright and other releases, permissions, assignments or other measures are properly achieved. Minimally, any content broadcast on Google Hangout must comply with the Google terms and conditions relevant to the service and should ordinarily have corresponding written legal documentation reflecting compliance and – in the spirit of the hackiness of it all – perfecting open and free intellectual property terms such as found with Creative Commons licences and open source licenses.

b) Host (aka Pilot or Author): The Host of a Program or Segment of a Program is responsible for creating content such as being broadcast via Google Hangout or via a postproduced YouTube video, writing the content of a blog post or page or other document or publication or speaking on audio media or other media corresponding to the Program segment they are hosting. Optionally, there may be co-Hosts for a given segment or an entire Program, and there may be Guests or other Participants contributing to a segment. The Host is the person who is actually conducting the media creation.

c) Director (aka Navigator or Editor): The Director of a Program is responsible for maintaining and communicating its "HackBeat". The heartbeat of live programming is the schedule of what is happe ng now and what will happen when. For the LegalHackathon.com Sydicate, this is called the "HackBeat". RSS posts communicating the then current activity onsite, live transmission from the site and current best guess timing of future activities and transmissions. Maintaining the "RSS Schedule Stream" of up to date blog posts declaring current and planned activities on site. It is expected and delightful that activities often start earlier or later than initially expected and posted and the Director role simply ensure that onsite and multisite participants are aware in realtime of the flow and cadence of Hackathon time. Clear signaling about the pulse of activities

the essential function of the Director and enables the frictionless capability for coordination needed to support both planned and serendipitous collaboration among and across participants. By using the RSS Category "HackBeat" for all all programming posts (about future or current programming for the participating site) it is possible to automatically generate a discoverable point of reference needed to orchestrate a coherent fabric of events, activities and content across and among all participating Multisite locations. The RSS enabled category feed literally afford any given blog acting as a "Network Syndicate Program Site" to generate a live data stream and perfect archive needed to re-live the event later (eg to catch-up if one is late or to get some of the experience if one stumbles on the media after the end of the final session).

[Looking forward: When use of the HackBeat category and common time references are adopted uniformly, all the media artifacts from all participating sites can be expressed on a faceted semantic widget such as SIMILE Timeline or Exhibit and one can explore forward and backward on multiple time, topic or other axis and vector rails.

i) "OnBeat" – Signaling what activities and transmissions are occurring at any given time is the most important task of the Director. A participant in any Multisite should be able to glance at the front page of any participating Legal Hackathon site (ie, the "Network Syndicate Program Site" for each of the Multisite locations) and have a reasonably complete and accurate sense of:

* What key activities are happening at that moment,

* Who is conducting and in some cases who is participating in those activities;

* Where the activities are occurring physically (ie in which Multisite(s) or auxiliary locations); and

* How to be contribute, collaborate, participate, coordinate or otherwise communicate (ie pose a question or comment).

ii) "UpBeat" – Coordinating with participants that are "next up" to be part of live transmission to ensure they are in position and have their media or other resources ready to go live at the expected. Posts about future planned programming, including - as appropriate – posing questions, inviting questions, soliciting solutions, inviting collaboration or otherwise prompting engagement, are simply tagged as "UpBeat" and include a link to the "Page" corresponding to the relevant event or other activity. A Google Hangout, document or other media constituting the content for the event or other activity should be embedded in or linked from the program

iii) Other functions:

Stub: Director also scans content of incoming streams to pose questions to the Host or other participants who are currently live and may highlight such incoming communications to future and past Hosts as well, to support maintaining continuity of the threads of contribution and collaboration.

Stub: "GraphPulse" – https://help.github.com/articles/about-pulse

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Note: This approach is a customized profile of the method developed by the MIT Media Lab Computational Legal Science as a research project.