EDSN CALENDAR

Project Proposal

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Bits Please

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1. Intended Use of the System

The intended use for this system is to have any visitor of the site to have access to the community calendar and view the happenings, programs, seminars, or fundraisers going on in the city of Hartford, CT (and any other city/town that the organization may be working with). Furthermore, any user should also be able to post up their own community-relevant events to the calendar in accordance with the EDSN's mission of getting open education information out there. This Calendar will be created using Google's Calendar API, but it won't require special privileges to post events.

2. Overall functionality: what will the system do, how will the system help its users accomplish their tasks.

Each community site that EDSN provides should come with a community calendar. These calendars should not require an account to interact with, in order to provide optimal community outreach and ease of acquiring information. A typical user will have the ability to fill out an event form that consists of the event name, the time, the location, a description, and the relevant contact information. A user may also be able to post a picture along with their event. Each event will have the option to be shareable through email or social media. Upon completing the form, an administrator or other equivalent will screen the form's information to prevent abuse, and finally approve the publication of the event onto the calendar if everything is in order.

The system will help its users accomplish their tasks by presenting them with all the features listed above in a user friendly application. It will become a hub for all the people searching for local non-profit events and provide the tools to increase exposure, communicate with attendees, send reminders, and make changes.

3. Main components of the system: break down the system into logical or architectural components and provide the rationale for this breakdown.

Regarding the components of the system, logically the end product should consist of one definitive community Calendar, an event form/form creation button, and buttons/gadgets to view pictures/extra details pertaining to events on the calendar. Since there should only be one true calendar for the community to follow, there wouldn't be any more than that, but through the Google API any Google account user could import events into their own personal calendar at will. The event form would have various fields but the most important and required entries would be the event name, time, and location. Letting anybody submit event forms undoubtedly opens up the system to abuse, but this should be manageable so long as a web admin views them before submitting. Google Calendar's gadgets can be used to provide accompanying pictures to an event, but this is not a required entry in order to submit an event.

Architecturally, this system relies on several components. The intended user would use their web browser to reach the page where the community calendar resides. The page would be put up by a web server selected by the organization. The calendar itself would be created via the Google Calendar API and embedded into the page via JavaScript or other languages. In this way, anybody with a browser will be able to see the calendar with no issues. While Google Calendar does store all information into the Google Cloud, a database could be used on the organization's server side to store information and directly update the calendar.