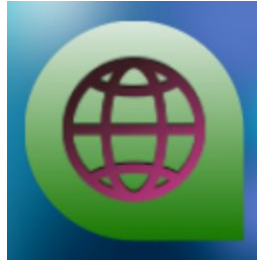


Event Storage and Retrieval



Project Proposal

Chkstong Yibbibí's Own

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Proposal Bullets

- What is exactly the function of your tool? That is, what will it do?
 - We will build a website that stores information about large events/conferences
 - Examples: ACL, Elgin Sausage Fest, or industry- conferences
 - Data sourced from Facebook Events, other websites, and/or database sources.
- Why would we need such a tool and who would you expect to use it and benefit from it?
 - A user-customizable recommender & search function for upcoming events
 - Currently, search engines aren't great for researching conferences etc.
 - We will display event info & recommendations/results in a regular format
 - The hope is for it to be used primarily by industry enthusiasts who are interested in hunting down, say, every computer science -related conference. Other features include searching by presenter (if you have a favorite), searching by city, or sorting by upcoming date.
 - The search functionality is intended to lure users to the site and give an initial step up over Google, the recommender is where the true magic happens, helping frequent event attendees efficiently locate and plan events they are interested in.
- Does this kind of tools already exist? If similar tools exist, how is your tool different from them? Would people care about the difference? How hard is it to build such a tool? What is the challenge?
 - The closest-match existing tool I was able to find is www.10times.com:
 - This website doesn't have a recommender
 - Doesn't allow sorting by presenter or theme
 - Tapers off for events farther in the future
 - Suggested events are not related to user, instead based on global trends
 - Search is kind of dysfunctional and misses a lot of relevant results
 - Good UI showing helpful event metadata (we likely can't match it here)
 - Our tool utilizes a recommender and suggestions panel
 - Goal: our tool's recommender will make it new and valuable to users
 - The greatest challenges:
 - Collecting a sizable, searchable event database
 - Building the website UI
 - Storing user data/recommendations
 - Search and Recommender -- but these aren't really a challenge
- How do you plan to build it? You should mention the data you will use and the core algorithm that you will implement.
 - Design strategy:
 - Still TBD:
 - Website from scratch vs. website builder
 - Our own domain vs. eventsearch.github.io
 - Website:
 - Scrolling panel of recommended upcoming events
 - Advanced search panel
 - Search:

- By: Date, Presenter, Location, Industry/Theme
 - Recommender:
 - User input from events they've identified as "interested in"
 - Users can also select industries or presenters they like
 - Data sources
 - Facebook API is fairly easy to use and most big, annual events have a Facebook Event page
 - We can scrape other websites that list upcoming events
 - Core algorithm: Recommenders
- What existing resources can you use?
 - (Possibly) Wordpress, BlueGriffon, Google Sites, or other site-builders
 - PHP, JS, HTML, CSS
 - Class slides and homeworks
 - Existing website templates from previous personal/academic work
 - (Hopefully we can do it ourselves..) Search bar plugin functionality
- How will you demonstrate the usefulness of your tool?
 - If search functionality is good, we will contrast vs. searching for events using Google, Facebook, and 10times.com
 - Compare recommendations for different users to show that the recommendations are genuine events those users would have interest in
 - Do a victory dance