**Volunteer Management System**

**For VIA Campus Horsens Student Council**

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# Definitions

In order to better understand this document, certain words must be defined in the scope of this project

**DSR**: Stands for De Studerende Råd, which translates from Danish as “The Students’ Council”. This is the short name that the organization is referred to as, and the one most familiar for everyone at VIA. As this project is focused on Campus Horsens, this term will refer specifically to said branch of the multiple organizations that share the name. Both “Student Council” and DSR are used interchangeably throughout

**Committee**: In order to work daily, DSR divides its volunteers into smaller teams called committees that take care of more specific aspects of the daily operations of the Student Council. This committees share resources and volunteers in many cases.

**Organizer**: Organizers or Volunteer Organizers are volunteers involved more deeply in DSR than most. They have taken a responsibility bigger than their peers and hold some sort of responsibility over the ongoing events/activities.

# Background Description

Student Councils in higher educational institutions are a crucial part of the Student Life and their work in Student Politics is of immeasurable importance for the student’s well-being, in VIA University College, DSR is held in high regard and treasured by most students. It is the former aspect of Student Councils that should be highlighted now. As a group of volunteer students, they work hard to manage funds, facilities, resources, and manpower in order to organize events and improve everyone’s experience while studying. However, these resources are very hard to manage, specially as they have to be tightly coordinated, as neglecting any of them will result in a severe disaster.

Funds, facilities, and resources, while they take time to organize are mostly static and once agreed upon little to no change will occur. This means that while they surely take some time to organize, once the work is done, not much else needs to happen.

This however is not true for manpower. Volunteers are a precious resource but are subject to many outside circumstances. Projects at school, changing schedules at work, health conditions and a myriad of other reasons might mean that volunteers need to be rearranged. Additionally, while not monetarily, volunteers are generally compensated for their efforts and whether the reward has been received must be kept track off.

Currently, the organizers rely on memory during the events and later on, relevant information is registered into a spreadsheet. Spreadsheets are quite an unreliable way to handle information, as they do not update automatically and require a lot of effort from the editor to make sure that the information is correct. It is prone to human error and imprecise, if only for the fact that it is hard to edit them on the spot when needed.

This all leads to desynchronized information, disconnect between committees and many other issues that consume vast amounts of time from the already limited volunteer organizer’s available time.

Currently, there exists many solutions in the market for handling this. However, it has been impossible to find a suitable open-source solution written in Java. With an open-sourced and extensively documented application, any Software Engineering student at VIA University college would be able to maintain the application long after the original students have graduated.

# Problem Statement

*Student Volunteers are wasting time managing volunteers through inaccurate systems and this makes organizing any sort of activity tedious and hard*

Sub-problems:

* The information is disconnected between different committees
* The information is not up to date for long periods of time
* Conditions rapidly change so current data is unreliable unless verified
* Rewards are not tracked and potentially waste resources
* Updating the information requires huge concentration from the editor

# Definition of purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve the current situation for volunteer organizers at DSR. Reduce the amount of time spent managing volunteers and connect the data from all committees for better collaboration

# Delimitation

The focus of this project is DSR, thus, this program will accommodate for the specific hierarchy that’s currently used and nothing else.

The system will not automatically hand out rewards

Volunteers will be unable to interact directly in any way. The system will only cater to organizers in the first iteration

# Methodology

# Technologies Used

In the elaboration of this project, the following technologies are included. In order to modify and maintain it, knowledge of these is essential. They have been classified into different categories depending on the level of understanding required to modify the project.

**Deep**

* Java
* PostgreSQL (Relational Database)

**Superficial**

* Apache Maven
* GitHub

These technologies have been chosen for aligning well with VIA SWE knowledge and stuck as closely as possible to it. This is essential so that future students at VIA can easily maintain the application and it can outlive the graduation of the creators. New technologies should only be added in future iterations if they are superficial and benefits outweigh the need to learn such technology or VIA changes its coursers, in which case, a make-over to keep it close to the study program is welcome.

# Appendices