

Vipassanā - Insight Awareness (VIA)

Vipassanā - Insight Awareness (VIA) is a centre for spiritual events originally with a base in the Buddhist principles of meditation as an insight with awareness of what is happening as it happens. Today events at VIA also includes spiritual practices not directly linked to any religion like dream interpretations, healing, astrology, reincarnation, Karma, alternative health care and similar.

Vipassanā - Insight Awareness is in need of some kind of system to keep track of events, members and work done by its council. The chairman of the board Mr. Bob Innerpeace and secretary Mr. Bob Just invited us for a meeting to get an understanding of their requirements for this future system.

The Interview

Mr. Bob Just: "Welcome to the meeting. I would like to introduce Lama Bob, the chairman for Vipassanā - Insight Awareness and myself Bob Just. I am the secretary – and I prefer to be called Just Bob".

Lama Bob: "Namaste"

"Thanks for inviting us Bob and thank you ... Lama Bob"

Mr. Bob Just: Could you please call me 'Just Bob' not to confuse names. Not Bob but 'Just Bob'"

"...ok ... Just Bob. What kind of work do you do right now in Vappi... Vippus... in your centre?"

Just Bob: "Vi-pas-sa-nā - Insight Awareness. It is ok to call us VIA. We organize spiritual events, send out newsletters and sometimes articles to our members, and we balance expenses and income because we are a non-profit centre."

"Sounds good. What kinds of events are you organizing?"

Just Bob: "We organize spiritual events of almost any kind. Approximately every two weeks there is either a lecture, a seminar or a workshop held at our centre. Next week there is a lecture about reincarnation called 'Inbetween lives'. The lecturer is one of our frequent sponsors and because of that he gives the lecture with no charge and we include his ad in our newsletter - without charging him of course"

"What is the difference between a lecture, a seminar and a workshop?"

Just Bob: "A lecture is typically a speech about one subject and includes questions from the audience at the end. A seminar often includes more subjects or speeches and may be longer than a lecture. Workshops are somewhat like a seminar, but typically 1-2 days with a combination of speeches, time for more involvements from the audience, and for meditation. In most workshops breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included - vegan of course. In addition, we offer spiritual trips like pilgrim journeys or retreats - typically 1-2 weeks. Most of these trips are not organized by us but just pre-reserved to get a discount if you are a VIA member. We then delegate the information to external trip organizers who contact the participant directly to handle payments and additional information."

"How do you keep track of your lecturers?"

Just Bob: "This is where you come in because today it is not easy to remember who to contact when we plan future events, who we have already contacted about an event, and who we have promised advertisements free of charge. For instance, we have received many wishes for an event about astrology and we do not have a written list of good astrologists. It would be nice to have a system where we can search for a lecturer for a given category"

“Do you offer free advertisements for all your lecturers?”

Just Bob: “Approximately three out of four give a lecture for free because for them this is already an advertisement. They will free of charge get an advertisement in the newsletter, if they want that. The rest of the lecturers request a fee for the lecture.

“The lecturers you offer free advertisements, are they what you call sponsors?”

Just Bob: “I haven’t thought of it like that, but yes, maybe they are also sponsors. The sponsors are the ones giving a money contribution or paying for advertisements. I like your way of seeing it in a broader term because in principle they have paid for the advertisement by doing some work”

“What about your members – do they get a discount for all events?”

Just Bob: “Yes. The price for an event varies and the discount too. We have considered having a fixed percentage for all types of events, but this may not work for all journeys because here price and discount is out of our hands. Maybe for all events not including journeys.”

“You said something about how your members wished for a lecture in a given category – about astrology. How did you get this kind of information?”

Lama Bob: “You have a wide-awake mind”.

Just Bob: “The lecture ‘Astrology: Find peace with your own challenges’ was sold out and we received very good oral feedback after the lecture. It may be a good idea to have better access to the popularity of a given event, to see if it is sold out, the number of participating members and non-members, and some kind of feedback – because we may reuse this in the newsletter, and of course have a better way to know who to contact for future events”.

“About the newsletter, you send it by email to members, it includes advertisements. Should the system automatically send emails to members?”

Just Bob: “No, not automatically, but if we can get a list of emails it would be nice. Maybe also easy access to feedback from events, to sponsors, and our event calendar”.

“By event calendar do you mean the future events?”

Just Bob: “Exactly. We would generally like to plan at least 6 months ahead, but especially for journeys it would be nice to be able to plan ahead even longer than that. When we plan an event we write down the information, but not always finalize it, because dates may change and sometimes for workshops or seminars a lecturer is replaced by another.”

“What kind of information do you store for an event?”

Just Bob: “Hmm, type – if it’s a lecture, workshop, seminar or journey, a title, a date and time, a duration, name or names of lecturer or lecturers, and a category. At least this is what I remember now”.

“Let me try to understand. You create an event in two steps?”

Just Bob: “You could say that. The important thing is that we do not publish it in the newsletter until it is finalized.”

“You also send articles to members?”

Lama Bob: “You really listen. I have a very good feeling about this”.

Just Bob: “Me too. It seems like you are up for the challenge”.

Lama Bob: “Life is not complicated, the hardest part is to reflect on it in what you do”.

"Let me try to summarize. The system should handle events, storing and searching for finalized events in a time period for your newsletter, finding non-finalized events to finalize them, searching for sponsors for newsletters, searching for lecturers in a given category in order to create new events, finding events or lecturers specifying a category for potential new events and store members including their email addresses. Have we forgotten anything?"

Lama Bob: "Probably, yes".

Just Bob: "Right now, our list of members include name, address, phone, email, date for membership and the payment year – if they have paid for this year then we write 2017. It could be nice to be able to list members that haven't paid the membership fee in order to send reminder mails. I don't know if it is possible – it is not the most important part, but if you have time, you could consider how we can send mails to members about a new event based on their previous preferences – category or specific lecturer, I don't know".

"Sure, we will look into this if we have enough time. I have a pretty good idea what we should do".

Just Bob: "...and don't forget about sponsors and advertisements.

"What about a website about the centre?"

Just Bob: "No Website. But there is one more thing you could do for us – to give our two office computers access to a small part of the same program".

"No problem, what kind of access do you have in mind?"

Just Bob: "The two office computers should only have access to the member part of the program. We only need to search for members who haven't paid the membership fee".

Lama Bob: "I have a few requests".

"Yes?"

Lama Bob: "A cousin of mine is an ICT engineer like you. He is on a three-year retreat in Tibet right now. He wants to manage and update your system, and he gave me a list of his wishes. Are you ready to listen?"

"Yes, I am ready, let me hear".

Lama Bob: "I am reading out loud. Number one it says: 'Implement the system in Java' – whatever this means. Number 2: 'Make the system maintainable' – and he continues: 'designed so that it is easy to modify later'. Number 3 is: 'Persistence: Use files for secondary storage only, i.e. with a loose coupling to the java model because the persistence may later be changed to database instead of files'. The last point and I read out load again: 'Functionality is more important than a good looking user interface because the UI may be changed later'. I don't know what he means, but maybe you do."

"Yes, it makes good sense to us. It shouldn't be a problem meeting your cousin's wishes".

Lama Bob: "I have full confidence that you are focused".

"I think we have all that we need for now to start making your system. Thank you for your time, Lama Bob and Just Bob."

Just Bob: "And we thank you. Maybe we could have a meeting later when you have started to formulate what you plan to do".

"Thank you".

Lama Bob: "Namaste".

The assignment:

- Use the architecture in *Vipassanā - Insight Awareness* as foundation to show that you know how to implement a client server system using sockets or RMI and with design patterns.
 - Choose at least four design patterns to implement
 - Implement (only) the part of the system that includes the design patterns chosen
 - Make a complete test of the design patterns chosen
- Use SCRUM and Unified Process to solve the assignment (Note: this is to practice SEP2 and will not be tested in the SDJ2 exam)
 - Make a Product Backlog (note that the customer in this case want a client/server system and design patterns and do not care about the system)
 - Develop in sprints (include sprint backlogs)
 - Track your velocity using a burn down chart
- Delimitations:
 - DON'T make the entire system
 - DON'T make a complete project report
 - DON'T make a GUI (use e.g. a console menu)
 - DON'T make persistence (use e.g. hardcoded test values)
- What, when, how and where to deliver?
 - **Deadline 0 (class 2Y): Friday 20 April 23:59**
Deadline 0 (class 2Z): Monday 23 April 23:59
Deadline 0 (class 2X): Friday 13 April 23:59
 - Send a mail to your SDJ2 teacher containing group members including name of SCRUM master and name of Product Owner
 - **Deadline I (class 2Y): As soon as possible and before/after each sprint**
 - Upload product backlog to your group folder and during the period each sprint backlog as soon as is has been created
 - **Deadline II (class 2Y): Friday 4 May 11:59 (noon)**
Deadline II (class 2Z): Friday 4 May 11:59 (noon)
Deadline II (class 2X): Friday 4 May 11:59 (noon)
 - Upload in Studynet in PDF format:
 - An abstract to introduce the assignment
 - Documentation of the implementation of each design pattern
 - Documentation of the client/server system
 - Documentation of your use of SCRUM and UP (SEP2 practice)
 - **Deadline III (class 2Y): Monday 7 May (from 12:45)**
Deadline III (class 2Z): Monday 7 May (from 9:00)
Deadline III (class 2X): Monday 7 May (from 8:20)
 - Oral presentation
 - Overview of the design patterns implemented
 - Details about a selected design pattern including testing
 - The client/server part of the course assignment
 - If time permits, how you used SCRUM and UP
 - Time frame 10 minutes per group
 - Compulsory attendance

Supervisors will be your teachers in SDJ2.

Have fun, Martin, Joseph and Steffen