ConfHub

Conference Management System

Team : SE-D5 2019

Team Details

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**ABSTRACT**

The Conference Management System is an online website that provides information regarding the conferences and journals happening all over the world. Additionally, it provided information regarding the courses offered by various universities. The details of the conferences, recommendations, subscription alerts, analytics, and technology news feeds will be made available to users through the website.

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

1. ConfHub → information of the conferences, journal publications happening across the globe and filtering of the conferences based on location, domain, and date. A hierarchy of domains is also available for easy access to conferences in preferred areas of interest.
2. University Courses → courses offered by various universities across the world
3. Analytics → based on H-index of the conferences
4. Subscription → users receive deadline alerts and information related to the event.
5. Tech News Feed → a short description of the current technology and redirection links.

**WHAT MAKES THE PRODUCT DIFFERENT?**

1. No manual entry of the conferences thereby reducing the human effort and automating the process.
2. Filtering based on various fields, i.e., date, location, and domain.
3. Our services through the website provide information about the courses offered by the universities. This is the first of its kind. Most of the conference aggregators available in the market do not provide this feature.
4. Features like subscription and recommendation of the conferences/events based on H-index of the conferences.
5. Tech news feed service to give information regarding the current tech and inventions. This too is a feature that sets us apart from other websites.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Upgraded technological capability is required from which the target group can make the best use of the services. Customers require a simple, user-friendly and time-efficient interface by which they can look for the right conference/journal.

On the application front, this project is a progressive web app with a responsive front-end. Apart from that, periodic scraping of multiple websites was done to provide the latest conferences to the users. Facilities like periodic scraping tasks (including cleaning and reformatting the data and storing into the database), fetching the conference information from the database and displaying it on user interface to the users with the facility of filtering, recommending based on the H-index of the conference, subscription, i.e., sending notifications alerts for subscribed conference deadlines and tech news feed.

The front-end communicates with the backend through REST calls. This method of splitting the work into microservices had two advantages. One, we could independently develop the modules and APIs and integrate them batch-wise without having to worry about communication formats. Two, since most of the modules run independently of each other, changing one will not compromise performance not user experience of the other modules. This gives a seamless user interface to the customers.

We have used Gitlab, a private repository counterpart of Github. This was used to perform version control on our source code. It became more important and easier to maintain given our team size and the sheer volume of code due to the extensive use of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

Overall, we will make use of existing open-source technologies (web framework, database, front-end framework, styling framework, scraping and XML parsing libraries, automated web browsing libraries) and used them to create a responsive and efficient web application.

**TECHNOLOGIES/SKILLS USED:**

* A scripting language, i.e., python
* Databases, i.e., SQLite
* Templates, i.e., HTML, CSS, JS, AJAX
* Knowledge of Flask
* Task Scheduler, i.e., Cronjob

**TIMELINE**

Right from project ideation to the final implemented product and future maintenance, the product underwent multiple changes. As the weekly deliverables for the various documents were met, the entire software development life cycle was clearly presented and understood by all of us. The feasibility study helped us narrow down to this project in terms of our interests, feasibility, and cost, human resources aspects. It also proved to be a good starting point for us to brainstorm and contribute ideas to the project. Next, while working on the Software Requirement Specification document, we could concretize previously albeit vague ideas into proper functional and non-functional requirements. Setting these goals definitely gave a direction to the project in terms of what was achievable and what was not. After this, we started our first phase of implementation, where our goal was to build a product with a considerable amount of features and have some part of the product ready. This was done keeping the Agile approach in mind, where it is always best to show something to a client instead of pushing the integration of the entire product to the end, increasing the risk of errors. Later, we started working on the design specification deliverable. Here, we worked on the intricacies of our project and focused on how the entire product will pan out by coming up with detailed architecture, design, and styling for our web application. Along with this, we continued developing the product and evaluated our model against different tests like unit testing. All in all, the product is a culmination of 4 months of work, meeting most of the requirements and goals that have been set through the process.