**Executive Summary: Drupal 8 & VCE Velocity**

Write this last to get it right!

**Introduction to Virtual Charity Events**

Virtual Charity Events is dedicated to helping charity organizations, individuals, and corporations by providing assistance and management with online registration forms for charity events. They help to increase awareness of charity organizations’ causes and improve involvement to create a greater sense of community through helping to engage supporters. Individuals are then in turn participating in fun events while learning about different charity organizations and are able to participate in healthy activities. Corporations are also able to encourage and support a charitable lifestyle amongst their own employees and customers. All while publicly promoting and supporting philanthropic initiatives.

Virtual Charity Events is a non-profit organization that is run and owned by David Willard. Mr. Willard has expertise from years in corporate sales, marketing, and leadership. He had to opportunity to work with charity organizations including the United Way, local hospitals, school and church groups, and large universities in which he worked on awareness campaigns, funding initiatives, event organization, and management, as well as serving on their boards and in leadership positions. Virtual Charity Events is a combination of these with his passions for sports, healthy living, and helping others and was created after he left the corporate world.

At the beginning of the summer of 2020, Virtual Charity Events had an online presence on several social media platforms and had their own website. However, the online registration forms were being created and hosted on other third-party platforms like that of Red Podium. However, what many registrants and even organizations are not aware that there are fees involved in multiple steps of these third-party platforms. Some are much less than others however, these fees still can greatly decrease the funds that are being raised for that charity. Virtual Charity Events and Mr.Willard has been searching for a solution for this issue. The most obvious answer would be to create their own online registration platform, however, it can be very expensive to create and maintain. It would also require a specific skill set that Mr.Willard does not possess, like that of website design, and working directly with computer code. Therefore, He outsourced an internship to computer science students at Cairn University with the intent to have them create an online registration platform for Virtual Charity Events.

**Foundations**

As the internship began there was much background and foundational knowledge necessary to complete the goal at hand and generate a solution and further recommendations. The first foundation was Drupal. Drupal is an open software content management system (Buytaert, 2020). Open software means that this is software available for free to anyone who wishes to use it. A Content Management System is a software platform that allows its users to create, edit, and save information (Spilotro, 2018). It also allows for collaboration, reporting, and distribution of said content, all while maintaining a user-friendly interface between the website and the database (Spilotro, 2018).

Drupal, originally known to its creators as Dorp, was created in 2000. Dries Buytaert and Hans Snijder were university students who needed a reliable internet connection so they teamed up and combined resources (Drupal, 2018). However, they realized that they wanted to be able to communicate and talk to one another online as well. So they created a small news site with a web board so that their group of friends could post notes and share information. Upon graduating they decided to move their internal site online, originally operating under the domain drop.org (Drupal, 2018). Once drop.org was online the audience changed and attracted many new members who began talking and exploring new web technologies. Slowly dorp.org turned into a personal experimentation environment that was pushed forward by discussions from the wealth of ideas that were being exchanged (Drupal, 2018). All of which soon became the software running drop.org. In January of 2001 Dries decided to release the software behind drop.org making it open software (Drupal, 2018). He called this software “Drupal”. As of August 2020, Drupal version 9 (Drupal 9) has been published and released (Drupal, 2018).

The second foundation would be the needs of Virtual Charity Events. Not only the physical things that Mr.Willard would need to researching into and purchase for his company but also how this massive project should be scoped to meet the current and future needs and goals of the company. The physical needs that Virtual Charity Events would need to invest research and funds in would be that of a hosting company and a domain name. Web hosting is a service provided by a number of different companies. It allows organizations and individuals to post a website onto the internet without having to maintain or purchase any of the necessary equipment or manual labor. They are businesses that provide the technology and services necessary for a website to be viewed over the internet. Most hosting companies require that one owns the domain name for your site. A domain name is simply the website name or the address where Internet users can find and access your website. A domain name can be any combination of letters and numbers used in conjunction with extensions like that of .com, .org, and the many others that exist.

This project also needed some scope for us to assess the current needs of Virtual Charity Events in combination with Mr.Willard’s desires. Placing the project under the scope simply means to break up the deliverable features into smaller stages to ensure that the project can be completed. It helps to focus energy and effort into the correct features first so that we are able to work without being overwhelmed. Mr.Willard would like a drag-and-drop online registration platform where his customers can come and create registration pages for their specific events. The registrants would also be able to come to the platform to register for any event they desired. This entails many much smaller and complex details even though it sounds very straight forward. Therefore, we had to scope the project down into deliverables that we could achieve in our three month internship period. Thus, the foundations of our internship projects were set and we were ready with our solution and to begin our project.