**afterHours - A system integrating social networking and e-learning**

***Abstract-*** **afterhours is a concept for a social networking website which would cater specifically only to various educational institutions. The main aim would be to create an e-learning social networking website which contains functions and data management capabilities which could perform various activities required by educational institutions. Efficiency being its main aim, all its functions must be set up in a way that keeps the users wait time to a minimum. This concept consists of a collection of various modules which work together to allow the user to perform a lot of university related activities and serve the purpose of an institution centric social networking website.**

***Keywords-Social Networking, University Website, E-learning.***

1. Introduction

Within the last two decades social networking has taken the internet by storm and the number of social networking websites and applications has been increasing by a large amount. There are various forms of social networking from plain message passing to communicating through pictures with texts embedded into them. With the paradigm of social networking growing at this rate, its uses can also be modified and used in different areas. One such area with a lot of potential is that of e-learning.

The generic sense of the term e-learning would just point to websites with various subjects and lessons which a user can use to gain knowledge. afterHours is a concept which focuses on a portal specific to a university or a department in a university. Instead of just having a repository of information or data, this portal can be made into a social networking site functioning to an extent like a student-faculty forum.

1. Existing System

There are a number of educational institutions which employ an online portal for their activities. In most cases these portals function in a uni-directional fashion with the students on side only able to access the files (documents/notes) and not have any means of direct communication to their instructors/faculty. Few other institutions have a system where in the portal solely exists for storing and updating the course/ educational status of the users/ students. Few of these institutions make use of a common mailing system (eg. google groups) for communications and a cloud storage provider (eg. google drive) to share files. Other have their own in-house storage systems where-in they employ large data storage devices to store the files. Although these systems are functioning without any problems, there are a lot of efficiency issues and areas where a faster system can be used. Apart from that these systems make use of multiple applications/single systems to perform all their tasks. The various elements of social networking can be made use of to substitute all these system with a single integrated system. This would also mean that all the utilities and functions that are required will be available in a single place. This would prove to be a far more advantageous and simple.

1. Proposed System

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