Mini Project Synopsis

On

ARISTIDE Conference Management System <www.aristidecm.com>

For the partial fulfilment of the degree of

Bachelor of Engineering in

Computer Science and Engineering (Evening Shift)

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ABSTRACT:

The system is aimed at facilitating the management of delegate registration, paper submission and paper review for any conference or journal. Its objective is to bridge the gap between research enthusiasts, journals & publications via feature-rich conference management system.

The web portal will designed to be interactive to both researchers and the reviewers. It will also act as a hub for people to interact in real-time with researchers in the field they like.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the website is to provide a user-friendly interface that is not only easy to navigate, but at the same time provides in depth and sufficient information about various conferences and journals. The website access will be authenticated, and the site provides a secure environment for all users.

Two potential groups of users exist:
- Budding researchers, who want to view or write research based papers.
- Veteran researchers, who will be reviewing and verifying the papers to be published according to their respective fields of expertise.

Benefits of using the site include:
- An easy to use and effective portal for paper submission, review and registration process for conferences, workshops and journals
- It is a hosted and supported service, i.e., there is no software to install and support staff can help authors, reviewers and chairs with any problems. Users interact with the site using standard web browsers.
- Email notifications to members, reviewers and authors
- Conference specific submission system

Major features of the website include the following subsections:
- **Registration and payment.**
  Our conference registration module handles the creation of the registration forms, the collection of online payments (where required), and email communications with the delegates. Although the system keeps track of all transactions, payments are collected directly into the organisers' merchant account. COMS has no access to the funds or bank details of the delegates.

- **Abstract submission**
  Organisers can configure the submission form to include any number of items. A simple text editor or, alternatively, a rich editor allowing styling and the inclusion of tables and pictures can be used to collect abstract texts. Extended abstracts and full-papers can be uploaded in any specified format.

- **Reviews**
  Organisers can configure up to nine numerical criteria for the evaluation of submissions by the reviewers. Textual appraisals and feedback for the submitters can also be collected. They can use blind reviews. Assigning the reviews to referees can be done manually by the Chair. Reviewers can perform the reviews online from their account. Organisers can track their progress and send them reminders by email.

- **Abstract selection**
  Abstract selection can be performed automatically or manually. The automatic option selects submissions on the value of the marks given by the reviewers and can be followed by a manual selection. Accepted abstracts can be assigned to sessions and ordered.

- **Participant selection**
  Participants can be selected independently of the abstract selection process. Alternatively, their selection can be synchronised with the selection of abstracts.

- **Emails**
  The email module can be configured to send automatic emails, bulk emails and email alerts to organisers. Filters are supplied to allow the targeting of groups of users when sending bulk emails. Prefilled templates are supplied for the bulk and automatic mails. These can be edited and personalised by means of placeholders.

- **Book of abstracts**
  Submitted abstracts can be styled and exported to HTML or PDF. Uploaded files, as well as the PDF files generated from the submissions can be downloaded from the FTP server.

2. PROBLEM DOMAIN

One of the latest news from the International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA) are the statistics of organized meetings for the year 2005. These rankings cover meetings organised by international associations with more than 50 participants and take place on a regular basis and which rotate between a minimum of three countries. For the year 2005 the ICCA Data researchers have identified 5,315 events, a rise of511 over 2004. These statistics correspond with the list of 455 forthcoming conferences for the time-frame the May 3rd 2006 to December 19th 2007

For the technical (scientific) part of the conference the use of web-based management system is indispensable to handle the huge amount of submissions. The process of assigning reviewers to submitted papers, for example, is one of the hardest and most time consuming tasks. Usually it is carried out by one single person, the program committee chair, who tries to select three to five reviewers for each paper. For a small conference with less than 50 submissions and up to 20 reviewers the manual assignment can be quite challenging, but for a conference with more than a thousand submissions and some hundreds of reviewers the task is more or less impossible to carry out.

At the present moment there are some COMS available but they only provide very basic facilities and are not efficient enough to handle the quantity in which conferences are now coming up.

3. SOLUTION DOMAIN

Our system is aimed at easing the work load of handling the amount of rapidly growing conferences and submissions. It optimizes the controlling research based events and presents them in an easily understandable form for the viewer.

The web service is easily accessible and available for any new enthusiasts to reach out with his work from a large pool of journals and conferences.

Some benefits of using the site include:
- An easy to use and effective portal for paper submission, review and registration process for conferences, workshops and journals
- It is a hosted and supported service, i.e., there is no software to install and support staff can help authors, reviewers and chairs with any problems. Users interact with the site using standard web browsers.
- Email notifications to members, reviewers and authors
- Conference specific submission system

Some features which are available to solve the problems mentioned in problem domain:

- **Abstract submission**

  Organisers can configure the submission form to include any number of items. A simple text editor or, alternatively, a rich editor allowing styling and the inclusion of tables and pictures can be used to collect abstract texts. Extended abstracts and full-papers can be uploaded in any specified format.

- **Reviews**

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- **Book of abstracts**

  Submitted abstracts can be styled and exported to HTML or PDF. Uploaded files, as well as the PDF files generated from the submissions can be downloaded from the FTP server.

- **Conferences and Journals Database**

  The web service will maintain a database containing a current database of the conferences and journals currently available or are upcoming in near future so that the author can easily choose to prepare or submit his paper

4. SYSTEM DOMAIN

Platform Specification:

Software Implementation Software:
- Windows Operating System.
- Dreamweaver
- Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, Internet Explorer
- XAMPP Server

Hardware specification

Hardware:
- Pentium III processor
- Minimum 512 MB RAM
- 500kbps (broadband, such as: DSL, cable modem, T1 or faster)
- Screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater
- Adobe Flash

5. APPLICATION DOMAIN

- The system main objective is to make the process of publishing papers in different conference and journal easier
- It facilitates the user by providing access to the proceedings of various conferences.
- It is a user-friendly site with minimum requirements so as to make it accessible on any platform.
- A feedback segment is maintained to provide different changes according to the user.
- Website is aimed towards students wanting to do research work in their fields of interest by connecting them with people having similar interests.

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The outcomes expected are as follows:
- A perfect system that can work for any conference format in a real time.
- An effective documentation that provides the user a guide that takes care all the software related queries and doubts.
- A very intuitive User Environment and excellent user experience. A little or no input required once the software is setup.
- A networking platform for the like-minded researchers.
- Conference and journals information from the research world.
- Timely and up to date information of the different conferences.
- Subscribe option to the users helping them to get updated to upcoming conferences.

The basic problem of an effective and efficient conference management system is solved.

7. CONCLUSION

Hence, the ARISTIDE Conference Management System will be a feasible industry standard management system and would solve all the problems that users face in existing systems. It will address the issues of being user-friendly, data privacy & would be effective in controlling and storing information for different conferences and journals.

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