

CS3410: Software Engineering Lab

Thesis and Technical Report Management System

Problem Specification

Aravind S CS11B033
S Akshayaram CS11B057
R Srinivasan CS11B059
S K Ramnanadan CS11B061
Adit Krishnan CS11B063

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We give the specifications of a software system that manages thesis and technical reports presented by students and faculty of an University department and offers various services like authentication, efficient retrieval, notifications, and peer reviewing.

1 User Authentication

Users are identified into two groups: faculty members and students. Every user of the system is authenticated with a unique user ID and password. The login credentials of the users can be integrated with the current LDAP system. Users logged in as faculty members have the privilege of adding comments or making corrections in the reports and thesis of students. Student users can only view the reports and comment on it but cannot make any corrections.

2 Thesis and Technical Report submission

Both students and faculty members are allowed to submit technical reports but only students are allowed to submit thesis. The software system manages reports by faculty and the students differently.

2.1 Faculty Member Reports

Any report which is submitted by a faculty member is first uploaded in peer review mode. In this mode, a faculty member can request other faculty members (who are chosen by the concerned faculty) to view the report and offer comments/corrections. Notifications regarding this request will be sent to the chosen faculty members. Once the comments and corrections are offered and the relevant changes are made, the document is stored in public view mode which allows all the users of the system to access the document.

2.2 Student Reports and Thesis

A report submitted by a student is first uploaded in faculty review mode. In this mode, the reports are first reviewed by the faculty advisor of the student, the project/course guide and the Head of the Department. Once a student uploads the report, notifications are sent to the concerned faculty members. The faculty members review the report and offer comments and corrections. Once, the student is done with the corrections, the faculty members take a look at the corrected copy and if satisfied change the document to public view mode which allows all the users of the system to access the document.

3 Commenting and Correcting Reports

A report in peer review mode or faculty review mode can be corrected by faculty members reviewing the report. Any corrections or comments offered by the faculty members are highlighted in the document and a notification is sent to the concerned user.

4 Retrieval of Reports and Thesis

Reports are archived in a suitable format and can be efficiently searched based on the following parameters.

- *Author* Reports can be searched based on a particular author who can either be a student or faculty member and all the reports submitted by the user are retrieved and displayed.
- *Year* If a user searches based on year of submission, then all the reports submitted in a particular year are retrieved and displayed.
- *Title* A report with the searched title is retrieved and displayed.
- *Keywords* Each report has a set of key words associated with it which is provided by the author. A report can also be searched based on the keywords.

5 Additional Information

Each submission can be updated with additional information on whether it was published in a journal or presented in a conference and details regarding the journal and the conference.