**Club Events at the Hertie School: Project Proposal**

**Team**

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**Synopsis**

Hertie has an active social and academic community, with dozens of student clubs and regular compelling events. Currently, events are communicated to the student body through email. This requires students to read through long lists of information in multiple locations to identify events they would enjoy. It can be difficult for busy students (and faculty) to keep track of! Our project will allow Hertie community members to identify upcoming club events of significance by entering their interests. It will return suggestions of forthcoming club events based on user input, with additional information about the event so the user can make an informed decision on how best to spend their time.

**Benefits**

Our project would have a) a positive impact on end users and b) on the Hertie community.

a) Our proposed solution would help users navigate through the unintuitive jungle of information about various exciting events and clubs offered by the Hertie School. Currently, users have to click through emails to get information about when and who is leading the event. This list of events is not sorted, and there is no way to filter the events by interest, date, type of event, or organizing club. Those who do not read the newsletter at the right time (or miss the important part) will not be informed about the event. Our solution will allow users to filter by some event characteristics, such as the date and organizing club, which will help users keep track of future events or search through past events organized by a particular club.

b) Our project would positively impact the Hertie community, as we believe that a user-centric solution to finding events would lead to more students attending events and clubs at Hertie. As events and networking are an integral part of the student experience, we believe our project can increase networking potential among students and facilitate access to extracurricular opportunities.

**Modules**

1. Create a GitHub repository.
2. Create a database of club activities
   1. Request raw data from the Hertie Student Life team (Excel or CSV format)
   2. Create a shell email account to receive information from the Student Life team
   3. Upload the information to the shell email's drive
   4. Create scripts to retrieve data from mail using *PyDrive* library and other valuable libraries
   5. Merge data into the database
3. Process and clean database
   1. Process and clean data
   2. Generate variables using *Spacy* and other essential libraries to extract dates, club names, activities, etc.
   3. Create a script to update variables based on the latest data, setting them to update the information weekly.
4. Create search feature
   1. Create a function that allows the user to search events by date and club that organizes it.
   2. Create an interface for user
      1. Allow users to search by criteria from 3.1
      2. The system returns upcoming events based on selected criteria
      3. Create a help function for users to see a list of searchable clubs, event types, and locations
5. Error testing
   1. Create an error testing and reporting system throughout code
   2. Enforce value formats for search criteria (e.g., date format on event date search)
   3. Inform the user if no events meet criteria
   4. Inform users if the entry is invalid, and allow them to search again
6. Potential extensions

* Make the tool searchable by themes(such as human rights, LGBT, cooking classes, etc.), location, event type, and the existing features of date and club.
* Personalization by the user with recorded preferences
* Output in calendar format rather than a list
* Mapping the interest of the user to understand which features are more valuable through an online survey and incorporate it into the solution

**Minimum Viable Product**

Our MVP (Minimum Viable Product) would consist of a command-line application that allows the user to input a date, or organizing club, and receive the events happening on that date or events happening from the selected club as the output.

**Timeline**

| **Date** | **Deliverable** |
| --- | --- |
| October 31, 2022 | * Establish communication with Student Life regarding database procurement. Find an alternative dataset if they disagree with sharing the database with us for privacy concerns (Module 2). * Set up a GitHub repository (Module 1). |
| November 14, 2022 | * Develop code for the MVP (Module 4.1). * Clean database (Modules 2 and 3) * Discuss the feasibility of extensions (Modules 4.2, 5, and 6). |
| November 21, 2022 | * Check for all functionalities of the MVP and troubleshoot. * Finalize code for possible extensions. |
| November 28, 2022, | Final presentation |

**Related Work**

As this is a project to communicate events specifically at Hertie, there is little existing work in this space outside the Hertie community. At Hertie, there are several tools used to organize event information.

* *MyStudies Calendar* - on MyStudies, students can click on “My Timetable” to see a calendar view of various events, such as their lecture schedule, room bookings, and public events.
* *Club Blast Email* - The Hertie Student Life team sends a weekly “Club Blast” email with info on upcoming club events. Club leaders must add information on their event to a Google Form for it to be disseminated in the email.
* *Upcoming Events Email* - The Hertie School Events team sends a weekly “Upcoming Events” email with info on events scheduled for the next two weeks.