

# Information system Alumni

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**Abstract.** Information system for communication with graduates represents only one of many ways how can university stay in touch with its graduates. In addition to communication between university and graduate the information system allows communication between graduates, their personal presentation for public. System also collects actual information about working experiences of graduates, which can be used to improve faculty credits and teaching processes. Presented information system includes all this points with focus on security, usability and comfortable user interface.

## 1 Introduction

Communication between graduates and university can be an advantage for both sides. In this article we would shortly introduce web based software system called ALUMNI developed on Team project. Our faculty has ambitions to present graduates to public society. The faculty also wants to stay in touch with graduates using web application, providing a channel for profesional and social communication between graduates each other and faculty. The focus of ALUMNI project is to design and implement a system that would accomplish this needs.

Every graduate of FIIT STU studied at this faculty for at least three years or eventually more. During this period graduates tied up a lot of social contact with classmates as well as with teachers. These contacts are typically cut off after graduating or the only rarely continue. Generally speaking, after the student leaves the university, he lost most of the contacts. This trend of breaking all contacts is not wanted by the faculty. The

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faculty sees the graduates as potential business partners with possibility to cooperate after study. Graduates are very good source of information and critics that could help improve the quality of faculty. The best way to gain required information are feedback forms.

## 2 Business goals

*Present basic information about graduates to the public.* It means providing the creation and maintenance of the graduates database a presenting basic information about individuals to the public on the web without access restrictions. We suppose brief information about a graduate, when he studied and graduated, his specialization, topic of his bachelor and diploma project, possibly the abstracts. The presentation could also involve graphical expression of employment and skills of the graduates from different views, if we could get necessary informations.

*Provide gathering of actual informations about graduates in practice to the faculty.* It means to get actual informations about contact, job, career development, application/professional focus, areas of a graduate activity and personal interests, etc. This informations are provided by graduates. This informations have personal character, it means getting them require interest in contact on the both sides and this data should be under protection with well-organized authorized access.

*Enable communication to graduates.* It should be easy and safe way to communicate in informatics community protected by well-designed access rights for groups of authorized participants. It should be used for informal information exchange in community of colleagues, coevals, experts from practice, which are provided to the community. Except for providing contact the system can inform graduates about professional activities of the community, provide a place for them - a forum, eventually some other activities.

## 3 System ALUMNI

Alumni is web based application that can be accessed using common web browser. The basic user interface is shown on Figure 1.

The most important functions are: The most important functions are:

- Actualities
- Mail communication
- Personal presentation
- Statistical module

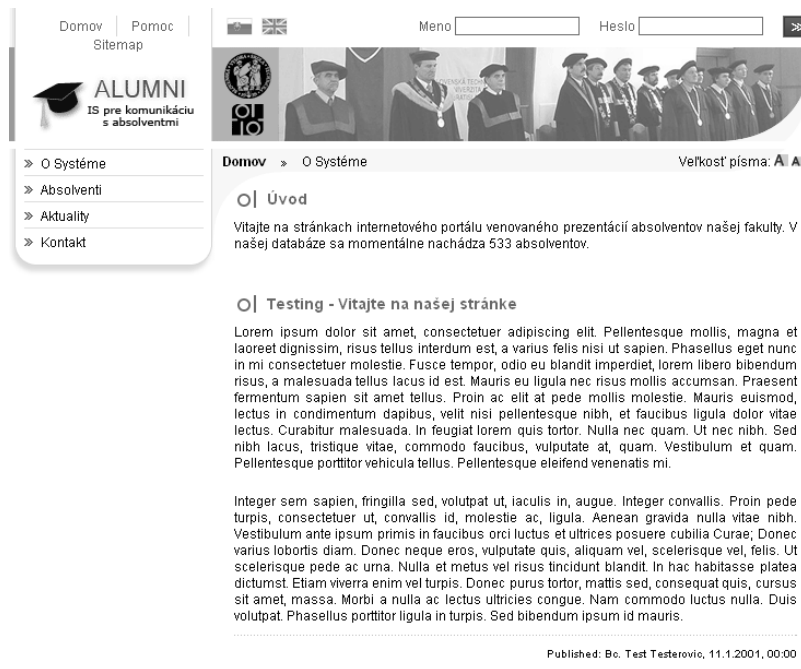


Fig. 1. Basic user interface.

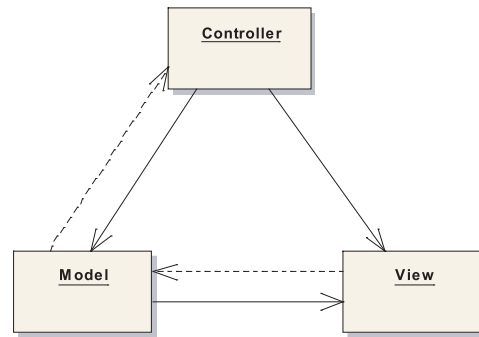
## 4 Architecture

The best accessibility for graduates and public viewers is the main requirement for design architecture. Architecture type client-server based on web technologies fulfills this requirement. Whole interaction between system runs on internet browser, which is common part of operating system and doesn't depend of application part of server. Business logic and functionality is implemented right on server and it depends on actual implementation.

Logic system on the side of server is divided into several modules, which provide whole functionality of system. All modules are created on PHP framework CakePHP, which is rapid development kit. This framework makes our job with system much more easier, because it has already included solutions for basic problems in web application development as authentication, database access, presentation and more other.

CakePHP fully supports MVC (Model-View-Controller) model [1]. This model divided system into three functional parts Model, View, Controller. Relations between these parts are shown on Figure 2.

*Model.* Represents the part, which takes care of collecting and storing data. This means database or controlling scripts, which executes actions on this database. Data



**Fig. 2.** Model-View-Controller.

gather in the part Model are provided to the part View.

*View.* This part takes care of data presentation to user. This mean user interface. View part in web systems represents HTML output, which will display in internet browser as an internet web page. View part represents presentation part of the system, which can include also presentation logic.

*Controller.* Part controller takes care of administration executed actions by user of by system. These actions are transmitted as changes in View part or in Model part. Under change in View part we mean for example page changes. Under change in Model part it's for example saving new information to the database. Controller can include also business logic.

## 5 Conclusion

Information system is available for general public through web interface. Not registered visitor can look over the list of graduates according to year of ending or field of study. He can also look through graduates profiles. Level of profile details show to public is limited. By default public visitor can only see name, surname of graduate, year of end and field of study. The faculty effort is to propagate their graduates. Therefore graduates can also add some information about themselves into the system during the study such as working experiences, knowledge. Graduates can allow displaying this information in their profiles for public visitors. Inserted information can be used as an input for generating graduate's curriculum vitae in pdf format, which is provided automatically. It is graduates competence, which information will be displayed in their profiles and will be shown to general public. Public also includes searching pages with their crawlers. This can graduate use for building his virtual web identity on internet.

Problem with graduate's feedback towards to faculty our system Alumni solved with inquiry module. In this module faculty can define questions with answers, which will

active graduates respond. Its faculty choice, which way they will choose. This module should be used for collecting data about graduates, which are not included in graduates profiles and they have high information value for faculty.

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## References

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