

Exposé for topic of final thesis (Media Computer Science Bachelor)

„Platform for trading exchange system“ (AT)

Preliminary Considerations

A Local Trading Exchange System (LETS) provides a framework for a community in which participants trade services without the use of money. In the most common form of organization, the trade does not take place directly in the sense of one participant engaging the services of another and returning a service to that same person, but rather based on a virtual currency. For a provided service, the respective provider gets a certain amount of this currency credited to their account. This credit can be used to call upon other participant's services.

Trading systems of this kind as alternatives to our prevalently money-driven economic system have existed for a long time and can still be found today in locally bound forms. However, most of these communities are facing severe drops in membership figures. A possible cause for this development is the fact that the forms of organization in such communities are fairly outdated and therefore lacking appeal for potential new members, especially younger people, to participate. Some communities have websites, but even those mostly appear like anachronistic „bulletin boards“ and don't make purposeful use of the benefits that come with the technical possibilities of our digital era.

Idea

Subject of the thesis will be the professional conception of a web platform for a transregional trading exchange community. As the exchange of services is of course strongly dependent on the local relevance of offers and requests, one of the essential requirements is the development of a system and its corresponding user interface in which users can easily find and filter relevant entries as well as entering their own offers. In this context, another possibly useful feature would be the option to display general skills or talents in one's own public user profile (e.g. „manual skills“), based on which other members can send out direct and specific requests (e.g. „assemble shelf“). The system will require well-conceived concepts to provide its members with easy-to-use channels to communicate and negotiate terms and „prices“, handling transactions and managing user accounts.

Some examples for well-established platforms in which I am an avid member myself and which provide very mature concepts with great usability on these matters are Airbnb (www.airbnb.com), a platform for offering and finding private accommodation worldwide and Tamyca (www.tamyca.de), a private car sharing platform in which car owners offer their cars to be rented by other people.

Extent

I suggest the following outline of what will be covered by the thesis:

Theoretical Part

- Overall conception, product-related (functionality, external processes, features etc.)
- Technical requirements (functional specifications, class diagrams, internal processes etc.)

Practical Part

- UI-Design, screen masks for the website (purely graphical, without actual implementation)
- Design and implementation of the corresponding iOS-App (Prototype)